

CELEBRATING
95 YEARS

1931-2026

JUNIOR LEAGUE
ST. PETERSBURG



CAUSEWAY

WINTER & SPRING 2026



WE ARE THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG

OUR MISSION

The Junior League of St. Petersburg is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

OUR VISION

Training Women to Transform our Community.

OUR VALUES

We are volunteers that empower, educate, advocate, and serve our community.

HEADQUARTERS

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- July 21:** General Membership Meeting
- July 25:** Back-to-School Care Fair
- September 15:** General Membership Meeting
- September 24:** 95th Anniversary Cocktail Party
- November 17:** General Membership Meeting
- December 9:** Sustainer Holiday Brunch
- March 12:** 95th Anniversary Luncheon

2025-2026 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Thank you to our outgoing leadership team for their dedication and service to JLSP!
We are grateful for their leadership, commitment, and the lasting impact they have made.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaimie Kane | President
Marie Hartney | President Elect
Brit Johnson | Executive Vice President
Melissa Anderson | Treasurer
Christine Gould | Recording Secretary
Amanda Walker | Community Adv. Director
Katie Mosbach | DEIB Director
Klarika Caplano | Nominating Director
Emily St. Clair | Strategic Fund Director
Steph Horne | Sustainer Director
Colleen McIntosh | At Large Director
Gentry Blackwood | President's Advisor

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Brit Johnson | Executive Vice President
Sarah Murphy | Executive Vice President Elect
Erin Nolen | Corresponding Secretary
Jackie Barroso | Communications Vice President
Liz Shuman | Community Vice President
Marisa Schuldinger | Development Vice President
Erin Gladysz | Finance Vice President
Jaclyn Humble | Membership Vice President
Gauri Sunkersett | Nominating Vice President
Emily Strider | Training Vice President
Donna Mainguth | EVP's Advisor

2025-2026 COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



COMMUNICATIONS

CAUSEWAY

Nikolina Kosanovik | Chair

DIGITAL & WEB

Laura Crowdis | Chair

MERCHANDISE

Alex Landry | Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Heather Barrow | Chair

Andi Menaul | Chair

SOCIAL MEDIA

Sarah Farrell | Chair

Chloe Kamps | Chair

DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS

Jessica Bissey | Chair

Erin Emig | Chair

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Somerlyn Oxendine | Chair

COMMUNITY

CARE FAIR

Gabrielle Donaldson | Chair

Maria Nedvidek | Chair

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sonya Nazzal | Chair

Samantha Wapner | Chair

KIDS CREATE

Caitlyn Cerny | Chair

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Erin Howell | Chair

Juli Morgan | Chair

LIBRARY PUPPETS

Danielle Sanchez | Chair

Rachael DeVicente | Chair

LITERACY

Jessica Lombardo | Chair

FINANCE

Sarah Kennedy | Admin

MEMBERSHIP

DEIB

Nikki Nelson-Palmer | Chair

INTERNAL EVENTS

Erica Butts | Chair

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Ellen Southerland | Chair

TRAINING

PROVISIONAL

Julia Kapusta | Chair

Kiersten Keely | Chair

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Katie Logan Wilson | Chair

TRAINING

Alex Sirimarco | Chair

Kelsey Yates | Chair

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF IMPACT



DEAR JLSP MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS,

Happy Spring — and my sincere thanks to every one of you. As we bring another remarkable League year to a close, I am filled with deep gratitude and pride. This year has been marked by meaningful achievements, collective resilience, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. Time and again, you have demonstrated the strength, compassion, and leadership that distinguish this organization and propel it forward.

It is with great appreciation that I reflect on **several accomplishments** that exemplify both our work and our shared impact:

- 1 Fundraising and Financial Stewardship:** Our spring fundraising efforts were a resounding success. The Golf Tournament and Casino Night generated essential resources while bringing our members and community partners together. A special thank-you to our Title Sponsor, Crown Automotive / Hawkins Family Foundation, for their generous support. Through these efforts and the incredible work of our finance team, we're well positioned to invest in our mission, grow our Enabling Grants program, and build for the future.
- 2 Honoring Our Legacy, Embracing Our Future:** This year, we were privileged to begin celebrating our 95th Anniversary — a milestone celebrating nearly a century of service, leadership, and enduring impact. Marking our 95th year on March 4, 2026, invites both reflection and renewed purpose. As we honor the women who came before us, we also look ahead with intention, seeking new opportunities to serve, expanding our partnerships, and fostering an inclusive and dynamic membership prepared to lead into the future.



Attending the annual Queen of Hearts Ball to honor women volunteers and local charities.



Repping JLSP for our Do-Good Organization nomination at the Good 'Burger Awards.



Taking a break from League life to celebrate Christmas with my favorite person.

3 Programs, Volunteer Service, and Community Impact: This year, our programs brought both purpose and connection to life.



Our **Galentine's Clusters** offered moments of fellowship and joy. In the midst of these clusters was our **Annual Past President & Past EVP Coffee**, hosted at the gracious home of Mrs. Carol Russell. This moment stood out to me as an enchanting memory I will cherish.



We continued to serve local families with dignity and care through our ongoing partnerships with **Clothes to Kids** and **Kids in the Kitchen**. Thank you to each member who contributed your time, talent, and leadership, and special thanks to **Elise Minkoff** (PCHA) for her instrumental work in securing additional storage and workspace.



We were proud to relaunch our **Library Puppets** program at the reopening of the President Barack Obama Main Library with a presentation of **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, advancing early literacy and community engagement.



At the 51st **Annual Mainsail Art Festival**, our fish print activity once again delighted attendees and upheld a cherished League tradition — made possible by the dedication of our volunteers.



Through our **Enabling Grants** program, we awarded funding to four wonderful community partners at our April GMM, furthering our reach and strengthening the organizations that serve alongside us. See page 25 for more details.

4 Gratitude and Recognition: To our volunteers, Executive Team, Board of Directors, Management Team, committee chairs, staff, and community partners: thank you. Your dedication is the foundation of all we accomplish.

5 A Call to Continued Leadership: As we close this chapter, I invite each member to reflect on what first inspired you to join this organization, and to consider how you will continue to shape its future. Whether through leadership, mentorship, service, or advocacy, your voice and participation are vital. In the months ahead, we will share many opportunities for engagement. As we enter this historic 95th year, your ideas, energy, and leadership will be essential in defining what comes next.

In closing, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your President. I remain continually inspired by the strength and dedication of this membership. Together, we have made a lasting impact in our community — and I am confident that our best work still lies ahead.

With gratitude,

Jaimie Kane

President, 2025–2027



A LETTER FROM THE OUTGOING EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

DEAR FELLOW JUNIOR LEAGUERS,

As I reflect on my year serving as Executive Vice President, I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity to lead, for the incredible women who served alongside me, and for the meaningful progress our League has made together through our investment in developing women leaders and creating lasting community impact.

This year was rooted in a simple but powerful goal: to continue building a stronger, more connected, and more sustainable organization. Many of the accomplishments I'm most proud of reflect our intentional work to advance the priorities outlined in the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, and that impact can be seen across our membership experience, leadership development programs, fundraising efforts, and community engagement.

LEAGUE LONGEVITY: Creating Sustainable Practices for Continued Success

To ensure the long-term strength of our organization, we continued to diversify our revenue streams and expand our reach. Through grants, peer-to-peer fundraising, merchandise sales, and three fundraising events, we generated more than \$112,000 in net revenue, excluding Annual Giving donations and membership dues. These efforts strengthen our ability to invest in our mission while positioning the League for continued success in the years ahead.

COLLABORATION: Creating an Inclusive Culture of Engagement

Some of the most meaningful growth happens when women have opportunities to learn from one another, support one another, and simply spend time together. This year, we piloted a mentorship program that paired experienced League leaders with members seeking guidance and growth opportunities. We also expanded engagement through DEIB "Field Trips," which fostered learning and awareness of the diverse communities that make our city unique, and launched the Sunshine City Bucket List interest group, giving members new ways to connect and explore St. Petersburg.

TRAINING: Delivering Innovative Experiences for Growth

Through the *She Learns, She Leads* GMM training series, members gained practical tools and insights to strengthen their leadership in their personal, professional, and League lives. Building on that success, *LEAD JLSP* will launch in the 2026-2027 League year as an exciting leadership program for newer members designed to cultivate future League leaders through a structured five-part series focused on topics such as community, self-awareness, relationship building, communication, and personal branding.

While I'm proud of the progress we've made toward our strategic goals and the everyday work that powers our League, what I will remember most are the women behind it all and the moments of support, laughter, and friendship we shared along the way.

This year's Management Team was everything I could have hoped for and more. This group of servant leaders showed up with humility, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to our members and our community. They led with purpose, supported one another through every challenge, and consistently put the mission ahead of personal recognition. The work we accomplished this year is a direct reflection of their talent, generosity, and heart. Serving alongside each of them has been one of the greatest privileges of my League journey.

And to my EVP Advisor, Donna Mainguth, thank you for your guidance, your encouragement, and the countless ways you showed up for me throughout this year. Your calm perspective, steady voice of reason, and unwavering support were gifts I relied on more than you know, and I am so grateful for the friendship that grew from this experience.

Leadership is often measured by goals achieved and initiatives completed, but I believe its greatest impact is found in the relationships we build along the way. Our theme this year was *Sunshine Starts Here*, and I've been reminded time and again that the light of JLSP comes from the women who show up, lead, serve, and support one another every day.

Thank you for one unforgettable year and for allowing me the privilege of serving alongside you. It has meant more to me than I can fully put into words.

Yours in Service,

Brit Johnson

Brit Johnson
Executive Vice President, 2025-2026



Grateful for a year of partnership, trust, and tons of fun & laughs with Jaimie Kane and Sarah Murphy, AKA the Exec Dream Team.



A well-deserved end-of-year celebration with the talented, dedicated, and inspiring women of the '25-'26 Management Team.



Thankful for the constant guidance, encouragement, and friendship of Donna Mainguth, Marie Hartney, and Sarah Morrow this year.

A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



DEAR MEMBERS,

As I step into the role of Executive Vice President for the 2026–2027 League year, I do so with a deep sense of pride and purpose. The Junior League of St. Petersburg has played a meaningful role in my journey, offering opportunities to grow as a leader, build lasting connections, and make a real difference in the community we all call home.

Having called St. Petersburg home for the past eight years, this city holds a special place in my heart. It has given me so much, and through the Junior League, I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to a community that means so much to me.

Our mission—to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact—comes to life through the dedication of our members and the work we do across Saint Petersburg. Whether addressing food insecurity, supporting literacy, or providing essential resources to families, our efforts create lasting change.

From thousands of snack packs distributed to children in need to the books and school supplies that help set students up for success—and the many other ways we serve across our League—our impact is both meaningful and far-reaching. This work would not be possible without the commitment of our members and the support of our community and partners.

As we look ahead to the coming League year, I am looking forward to what lies ahead. I am especially excited to work alongside our incoming Board of Directors, Management Team, and Executive Team as we continue to strengthen our programs and expand our impact. Together, guided by our theme—Anchored in Purpose, Advancing Together—we will build on our strong foundation and move forward with intention, collaboration, and a shared commitment to serving our community.

With appreciation,

Sarah Murphy
Executive Vice President
2026–2027





MEET THE 2026-2027 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

With a shared commitment to service and leadership, this talented group of women will lead JLSP through another year of growth, connection, and community impact in St. Pete.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaimie Kane | President
Marie Hartney | President Elect
Sarah Murphy | Executive Vice President
Erin Gladysz | Treasurer
Hailey Beauchesne | Recording Secretary
Kristen Lefkimiotis | Community Adv. Director
Katie Mosbach | DEIB Director
Gauri Sunkersett | Nominating Director
Emily St. Clair | Strategic Fund Director
Steph Horne | Sustainer Director

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Jaclyn Humble | Executive Vice President Elect
Erin Nolen | Corresponding Secretary
Alex Sirimarco | Communications Vice President
Sonya Nazzal | Community Vice President
Nikki Nelson-Palmer | Development Vice President
Christine Gould | Finance Vice President
Emily VanOosting Bollman | Membership Vice President
Blake Rogers | Nominating Vice President
Taylor Cox | Training Vice President

CELEBRATING
95
YEARS

1931-2026

JUNIOR LEAGUE
ST. PETERSBURG

IN OUR 95TH ERA



PARTYING LIKE IT'S OUR **95TH ANNIVERSARY!**

In 1931, the Junior League of St. Petersburg was founded on a simple but powerful idea: women coming together to serve their community. And at our March General Membership Meeting, we marked that milestone in true JLSP fashion... with a grand celebration!

The meeting was transformed into a celebration of our past, present, and future, organized into timed stations that members rotated through throughout the evening. Community service was woven right into the festivities: hundreds of snack packs were filled for the Boys & Girls Club and 625 books were stamped & prepared with custom bookmarks to be distributed across Pinellas County Housing Authority communities. A history station offered a chance to browse archived League articles and photos, while the Library Puppets station brought the program's history to life with a very special guest—The Very Hungry Caterpillar! Members also shopped the JLSP merch pop-up shop, struck a pose at the photo booth, and took home handmade JLSP charm bracelets as a keepsake.

AND MORE IS ON THE WAY!

The 95th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee is working to keep the party going over the coming year. Over the coming year, the committee will be leading initiatives across three focus areas designed to honor 95 years of service while looking ahead to what comes next:



EDUCATION



**COMMUNITY
IMPACT**



FUNDRAISING





LEGACY IN ACTION: **PAST PRESIDENTS & EVP COFFEE**

The Annual Past Presidents' and Executive Vice Presidents' Coffee was held on Friday, February 20, graciously hosted in the home of Past President Carol Russell (1995-1996).

This special gathering offered a meaningful opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and reflect on the leadership, resilience, and vision that have carried the Junior League of St. Petersburg forward for 95 years. During the program, President Jaimie Kane and Executive Vice President Brit Johnson shared a "State of the League" address, highlighting progress on the Strategic Plan, including expanded training and member development initiatives and a continued focus on diversified fundraising. Treasurer Melissa Anderson also provided an informative overview of the League's current financial position.

Over a beautiful brunch, League leaders past and present came together to celebrate the impact of those who have come before us—while being reminded that today's work continues to build on that strong foundation for the future.



MEMBER MILESTONES: YEARS OF SERVICE

Thank you for your service! We appreciate our members and their commitment to the League!

5 YEARS

Laurel Ackerman
Jackie Barroso
Sarah Bernstein
Whitney Carey
Laura Crowdis
Aixa Gafurovic
Emily Heim
Erin Howell
Jaimie Kane
Emily Knighton
Emily Lehman
Maria Nedvidek
Nicole Rankin
Brianna Ray
Emily St. Clair
Kelsey Yates

10 YEARS

Deborah Baldwin
Lauren Bendix
Rebecca Launius
Megan Michalski
Katie Mosbach
Kendyl Tash
Blair Tetenbaum

15 YEARS

Megan Allums
Kelly Moore

20 YEARS

Corinne Flanagan
Ashlyn Lazenby
Deidre Turner

25 YEARS

Jean Catanese
Chloe Firebaugh
Katherine Franckle
Lauri Lee
Tracey Manzi
Linda Punzak
Maria Rawls
Shane Smith
Christine Taylor
Audry Wedding

30 YEARS

Catherine Ball
Gaby Gramling

40 YEARS

Murray Beairsto
Mary Jane Dann
Mary Margaret Overbey

50 YEARS

Margaret Bowman
Kally Harvard
Anne Nelson
Sherry Oliver
Shawn Ulrich
Joan Walker

60 YEARS

Joan Karins
Carol Piper
Nancy Stang

70 YEARS

Charlotte Bacon
Mary Ann Carroll
Sara Wallace
Betty Willis

*Note: Milestones are calculated by the member join date as captured in the AJLI database.
If you find an error in these milestones, please contact hq@jlstpete.org.*



THE MAGIC RETURNS... **LIBRARY PUPPETS IS BACK ON STAGE!**



The beloved Library Puppets program is officially back at the President Barack Obama Main Library, bringing stories to life once again for children and families across our community! As the program approaches its 85th year, the return of this cherished tradition is a meaningful reminder of JLSP's long-standing commitment to literacy, education, and childhood joy.



Founded in 1942 during a time of gas rationing and limited transportation, the program brought the puppet shows directly to local schools, creating moments of joy and comfort for children while many families were separated by war. What began as a creative outreach effort soon found a permanent home at the Main Library, where generations of children have experienced the magic of storytelling through puppetry.

Today, that tradition continues with free, interactive performances designed for toddlers and school-aged children. The current show, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, has delighted audiences and welcomed up to 120 attendees at each performance! The program also includes school field trips, providing even more children with opportunities to engage with literacy in a fun and memorable way.



Library Puppets would not be possible without the dedication of our longtime volunteers Danielle Sanchez, Rachael Russell DeVicente, Carol Russell, Kelly Moore, and Sasha Segundo, whose creativity and enthusiasm bring each performance to life. Special thanks also to Mr. Paul, our wonderful Puppet Liaison at the Library, for his continued support and partnership!

After a summer break, Library Puppets will return this fall with performances on select Monday mornings. Visit the Library's online calendar for show dates and times — we can't wait to welcome a new season of young audiences and their families!





CREATING CRAFTY KIDS AT MAINSAIL ART FESTIVAL

BY **CAITLYN CERNY** | KIDS CREATE CHAIR

For the 51st year, the Junior League of St. Petersburg showed up, set up, and brought out the inner artist in hundreds of children at the Mainsail Art Festival. Over the span of two days (Saturday and Sunday), the Kids Create craft tent welcomed an estimated 100-200 young artists daily, with 15-20 dedicated volunteers each day making it all run smoothly.

The creativity was real: kids crafted fish prints (200+ swimming with the fishies!), built caterpillars using cupcake liners (100+ and counting!), and planted seeds (150+!) that we hope are thriving in homes across the community. Saturday delivered gorgeous weather, and while Sunday brought the wind, it did nothing to dampen the smiles, the energy, or the fun we had giving back and continuing this amazing tradition.



2026 ENABLING GRANT RECIPIENTS

THE KIND MOUSE received \$1,000 to address food insecurity by providing meals and support to children and families in Pinellas County.

LEADERSHIP ST. PETE CLASS OF 2026 received \$1,000 to revitalize the children's play areas at the Lealman & Asian Neighborhood Family Center.

GREAT EXPLORATIONS received \$1,000 to support the Terrific Tots early learning program with new books, educational toys, and craft supplies.

SENIORS IN SERVICE received \$1,000 to support the Reading in Motion program, which improves literacy and emotional intelligence for students.



THANK YOU, EXPERT MESSENGER!

The Junior League of St. Petersburg extends its heartfelt gratitude to Expert Messenger for six years of dedicated partnership. Through storage and transportation services, volunteer support, and financial contributions, their team played an integral role in the growth of our Care Fair, Literacy, and Kids in the Kitchen programs.

Their generosity helped us expand our reach and deepen our impact, benefiting thousands of local children and families throughout our community. We are incredibly thankful for their commitment and the lasting difference they have made.

Looking ahead, JLSP is excited to share that Care Fair has a new storage home at the Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) in Largo.

A special thank you to Past Presidents Elise Minkoff, Chief Operations & Programs Officer of PCHA, and Chloe Firebaugh, Chair of the PCHA Board of Commissioners, for facilitating this new partnership.





2025 – 2026 LEAGUE YEAR **FINANCE UPDATE**

BY **MELISSA ANDERSON** | TREASURER

The Junior League of St. Petersburg closed the 2025–2026 League year in a strong and stable financial position. Throughout the year, the League experienced successful fundraising efforts and strong community support, while also intentionally reducing operating expenses in alignment with our Strategic Plan. In addition, strategic management of our reserves allowed us to take advantage of higher interest-earning opportunities. Together, these efforts ensured the League could meet its financial obligations while continuing to invest in impactful programs and initiatives.

This year, the League saw meaningful support across multiple revenue streams, including events, grants, annual giving, and community-driven fundraising efforts. We were awarded a total of \$16,500 in grant funding from partners including Smith & Associates, Juvenile Welfare Board, Wawa, Morgan Stanley, St. Petersburg Police Forfeiture, and Aldi. Our crowdfunding efforts generated nearly \$17,500, supported by campaigns such as Target Circle, Find the Good Peer-to-Peer campaign, and Minted. In addition, our event fundraising efforts had an exceptional year, generating approximately \$100,000, and annual giving, including unused financial obligation funds, contributed over \$15,000 in support of the League’s mission.



OVER \$100,000

Raised through major events
– our strongest year yet!



\$17,500

Generated through various
crowdfunding campaigns



OVER \$16,500

In grants awarded by our
community partners.

Because of this financial strength, the League was able to increase funding to key programs, including Kids in the Kitchen and Enabling Grants. This additional investment allowed us to expand our reach, enhance program delivery, and support larger, more impactful initiatives with our community partners. Continued support of programs like Care Fair, Library Puppets, and Kids Create also ensured we remained actively engaged in serving the community throughout the year.

Overall, this year’s financial success reflects the dedication of our members, the generosity of our supporters, and our shared commitment to making a meaningful impact in the community. We are proud of what we accomplished together and look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.



IN FULL BLOOM: **SPRING SUSTAINER UPDATE**

BY **STEPH HORNE** | SUSTAINER DIRECTOR



Dearest Readers,

As spring unfurls its petals, we take a moment to look back at the delightful tapestry woven through the late fall, holiday, and winter months at the Junior League of St. Petersburg. These past seasons have offered us a wealth of opportunities to gather, celebrate, and reconnect, illuminating the true essence of our league.

Our journey began with the cherished Sustainer Holiday Brunch, a splendid affair co-hosted by Gentry Adams, Kristin Connell & along with Carol Russell as our host at SPYC. Special thanks to Candy Scherer for her beautiful centerpiece decorations. With tables adorned and spirits high, members gathered to celebrate the spirit of the season while honoring the unwavering commitment of our Sustainers. It was a time of reflection and gratitude as we appreciated one another's contributions, underscoring our shared mission to uplift the community.

The festivities continued with the enchanting Bridge the Bay event, a joyful collaboration between the Junior League of St. Petersburg and the Junior League of Tampa. This gathering featured a delightful lunch at Cognac, followed by a captivating tour of the Museum of Fine Arts. Here, the rich flavors of the restaurant mingled with inspiring artistic expressions, creating an atmosphere ripe for connection and collaboration. Amidst laughter and lively conversation, we laid the groundwork for future initiatives, fostering bonds with our neighbors that will undoubtedly flourish in the seasons to come.



Next, we embarked on an intriguing journey with the Bridge the Bay Straz Tour, another facet of our collaborative efforts with the Junior League of Tampa. This remarkable opportunity allowed us to explore the renowned Straz Center for the Performing Arts. As we strolled through its majestic halls, we were reminded of the powerful role that culture and the arts play in enhancing our community. The experience reignited our passion for service, highlighting how creativity can inspire greater impact within our ranks.

As winter settled in, we welcomed the thrill of competition with our Golf Tournament, where members gathered on the greens, swinging clubs and enjoying each other's company. Big thank you to Holly Walker for organizing our foursome, and a bar cart, recruiting numerous sponsors & auction baskets! This lively day was a testament to our collective spirit, demonstrating how fun and philanthropy can beautifully intertwine. Hot on the heels of our golf outing, we took part in the exhilarating Casino Night, an evening that combined entertainment with our ongoing mission of community support. The delightful clatter of chips, the sought after Sustainer Bar Cart auction item (!) and the sparkle of excitement served as a reminder of all we can achieve together.

A heartfelt round of applause is due to our hosts, co-chairs, and volunteers, whose tireless efforts transformed each event into a joyful celebration. Your dedication created an environment of warmth and inclusion, allowing every member to feel a sense of belonging, regardless of distance or circumstance. Special thanks also go to our snowbirds and non-residents & Past Presidents Murray Beirsto and Georgia Mattern whose virtual presence ensured our league remained a vibrant community.

As we turn our gaze toward the future, let us carry forward the momentum built during these joyous gatherings, with fresh initiatives already taking shape. Together, we shall continue to nurture relationships, celebrate our milestones, and empower our community through service.

Thank you, dear members, for your steadfast dedication and passion. Together, we shall embrace the promise of spring and all the opportunities that await us.

Warmly,

Steph Horne

Sustainer Director, 2025-2027

CONNECTING | SERVING | LEARNING



Attendees of the Sustainer Holiday Brunch supported Clothes to Kids with clothing and sneaker donations.



DEIB Field Trip at The Florida Holocaust Museum for a Docent tour led by JLSP member Alexis Carlon.



3,400+ period products were donated to Tampa Period Pantry.



Annual Sustainer collection drive benefited Kids in the Kitchen.



Sunshine City Bucket List group visited Sunken Gardens in March.



JLSP volunteers made and delivered 3,855 snack packs to Boys & Girls Clubs during the 2025-2026 League year.



In April, Book Club kicked off summer reading with "One Golden Summer" by Carley Fortune.



Volunteers distributed books at the MLK Jr. Parade in January.



Funding from the SPDD will support JLSP's Care Fair.



Volunteers prepared baskets and supplies for the Golf Tournament.

congratulations!

STAR AMONG STARS

The Star Among Stars Awards honor League members who have gone above and beyond in service to JLSP. Nominated by fellow members, recipients are celebrated at our GMMs.



Nikki Nelson-Palmer
June 2025



**Gabrielle Donaldson
& Maria Nedvidek**
July 2025



Sonya Nazzal
September 2025



Blake Rogers
October 2025



Taylor Cox
November 2025



Marisa Schuldinger
December 2025



Nikolina Kosanovic
February 2026



All JLSP Sustainers
March 2026

QUEEN OF HEARTS

We are proud to celebrate these JLSP members on being named to the Queen of Hearts 2026 Royal Court. On February 21, they were honored alongside other outstanding women for their commitment to service and their contributions to the community.



Dimity Carlson
2026 Queen



Alex Sirimarco
2026 Princess

annual league awards

VIRGINIA H. LAZZARA AWARD

MARGARET BOWMAN

Virginia H. Lazzara was a member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg until her untimely death in 1985. Virginia worked tirelessly in our League and in our community. Since 1987, this award named in her honor has recognized an out-of-League volunteer and those who have been our greatest mentors: our Sustainers. We're thrilled to honor Margaret Bowman's accomplishments as both a League member and a valuable community servicewoman.

Margaret Bowman, Sustainer Emeritus, has persistently supported both our League and the broader community through her ongoing involvement. Her dedication is evident in the many ways she has contributed over the years, ensuring that the League remains a vibrant and impactful organization.

She played a pivotal role in organizing the Follies fundraiser for several years, which became a remarkable community event that greatly benefited the Junior League. In one particularly notable year, Margaret led the effort to hire a director from New York, elevating the event's profile and success.

During her tenure as President, Margaret founded CAB, which is now known as CAC. She also initiated the tradition of the Past President's Coffee, an event that not only fostered connections within the League but also served as a model for similar gatherings adopted by other Leagues across the country.

Margaret is an active member of The Stuart Society and is currently serving her second term as President of The Orchestra Guild of St. Petersburg. In this role, she has been instrumental in revitalizing the organization and reaffirming its relevance within the local community.

Margaret Bowman truly embodies the spirit of Virginia Lazzara by applying the skills and experience she gained in the Junior League to her ongoing service in the community. Her leadership and commitment continue to inspire those around her.



annual league awards

SPIRIT OF THE LEAGUE AWARD

MARISA SCHULDINGER

The Spirit of the League award is presented annually to recognize an Active member who has embodied our mission through outstanding service and leadership. The award recipient demonstrates exceptional dedication, a strong spirit of voluntarism, and exemplary contributions to JLSP. We are thrilled to honor Marisa Schuldinger as this year's outstanding award recipient.

Last year, Marisa stepped forward to fill an opening in the Development Vice President role during the slating process - a huge act of service made even more impressive by the fact that she had no prior experience serving within the Development Council. Marisa embraced the challenge with confidence, curiosity, and an eagerness to serve where the League needed her most.

Throughout the year, Marisa successfully supported and guided committee leaders across several fund development initiatives. She dedicated countless hours to planning, problem-solving, and follow-through, all while maintaining a consistently positive attitude and a solutions-oriented mindset.

She rallied and delegated effectively to her team and communicated proactively with the Executive Vice President to ensure alignment, transparency, and trust. Under Marisa's leadership, committee members felt both supported and empowered, knowing



their ideas, time, and contributions were valued, respected, and meaningful.

Marisa embodies leadership and service in its truest form. She serves not for recognition, but out of a deep commitment to strengthening both the Junior League and the women within it, modeling the kind of leadership that inspires others to step forward and serve. She did not simply fill a role this year... she elevated it, leaving the Development Council and the League as a whole stronger, more connected, and better positioned for future success.

Marisa's willingness to step up, tireless work ethic, and deep belief in our mission makes her exceptionally deserving of the Spirit of the League Award.

annual league awards

MAILANDE HOLLAND BARTON AWARD **ALEXIS CARLON**

The Mailande Holland Barton Award was established to honor the extraordinary volunteer spirit of our founder. Award recipients must exemplify a generous giving of self — both through JLSP and within our broader community. It is presented only in years when a truly exceptional woman is nominated, and this year, we're proud to recognize Alexis Carlon.

Alexis Carlon, an Active Platinum member since 2015, has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication to the League. Her unwavering commitment to volunteering and leadership reflects the values established by our founder.

During the 2018–2019 League year, Alexis spearheaded a significant transformation of our Annual Tea, evolving it into a New York City Fashion Show. This bold initiative was a major change for our Development Council and proved to be a resounding success for the League.

Throughout her tenure, Alexis has taken on numerous leadership roles, including serving as Development Vice President, Executive Vice President-Elect, and Executive Vice President. Her involvement extends to service on the Nominating Committee, and most recently contributed as a Mentor in JLSP's pilot Mentorship Program.



Alexis's commitment goes beyond the League, as she generously volunteers and leads within the wider community. She's served as a board member with Girls on the Run of Greater Tampa Bay, applying her fundraising expertise, and as a board member with Pinellas County Gator Club. Her volunteer efforts include time with Ronald McDonald House and Pinellas County Toys for Tots. Since 2023, Alexis has also acted as a Docent at The Florida Holocaust Museum.

Through all her efforts, Alexis continues to selflessly serve both the League and the community, embodying the principles and ideals that our founder, Mailande Holland Barton, championed.

annual league awards

TOMORROW'S LEADER

CRISTINA GARCIA

Each year, the Tomorrow's Leader Award is presented to a Provisional member who stands out for her resourcefulness, community involvement, and dedication that goes above and beyond what is expected. For 2026, we are proud to honor Christina Garcia.

Christina consistently goes above and beyond the provisional requirements by volunteering for more shifts than required and actively participating in League events. She has made a genuine effort to build relationships with fellow members and regularly attends our group social events, helping to foster a strong sense of community within our provisional class. She even generously hosted her Provisional Groups's holiday party, creating a welcoming space for members to connect.

Despite balancing a demanding career at the hospital, Christina has remained deeply committed to the League and has contributed meaningfully to our class project. Her reliability, positivity, and willingness to show up and support others demonstrate the qualities of an emerging leader within the Junior League.



ANNE ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

ZULIANY GONZALEZ

We're proud to award recent Largo High School graduate Zuliany Gonzalez the 2026 Anne Register Anderson Scholarship!

Anne Register Anderson, JLSP President in 1997, is honored through this scholarship, established by her family to support a Pinellas County public high school senior in or formerly in the foster care system who demonstrates resilience, achievement, and determination for the future.

Madeline Anderson, daughter-in-law of the late Anne Anderson, attended the Largo High School Awards Ceremony on behalf of the JLSP to present this year's scholarship.



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG'S



CASINO NIGHT

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR!



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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG'S

Golf Tournament

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 | BARDMOOR

PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING!

Closest to the Pin

Golfers put their accuracy to the test, competing for bragging rights and a prize package featuring a bottle of liquor and a 3-day, 2-night hotel stay for two.

Bottle Putt Contest

Participants took aim at mini bottles set 4-5 feet away, adding a free and lighthearted activity to the course. For \$10, golfers tested their skills on longer putts for the chance to win premium bottles and prizes.

Tee Up for JLSP

This popular activity challenged golfers to land and stop their ball on the green for a chance to win a sleeve of Titleist golf balls.

Golf Cannon

For \$25, golfers sent their ball soaring down the fairway on the 18th hole with a little extra help.

Golf Bingo Cards

From the first tee to the final putt, participants celebrated and tracked everything from great shots to unexpected moments.

Our 2026 Golf Tournament was a tremendous success, bringing together nearly 100 golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters for a day of fun, connection, and impact. Held at Bardmoor Golf & Tennis Club, the event featured a full day of activities, including registration, opening remarks, a shotgun start, and an awards reception complete with cocktails, prize drawings, and celebrations of the day's top performers.

This year's tournament featured several **exciting activities**, including Golf Bingo, Bottle Putt Contest, Golf Cannon, and Tee Up for JLSP. Golfers also enjoyed opportunity drawings, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle, creating additional ways to engage and support. Beyond the competition on the course, the tournament served as an opportunity to connect with community partners and showcase the meaningful work of the Junior League of St. Petersburg.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, golfers, and donors, the event generated **nearly \$27,000 in net proceeds** to support JLSP's community and leadership development programs.

Congratulations to our tournament winners! First place was awarded to Mark Guckenberger, James Tierney, Dan Rashba, and Michael Bailey. Second place honors went to Jack Crawford, Jocelyn Bruch, Ethan Smith, and Caroline Smith, while the coveted Most Honest Team award was earned by Rachael Phillips, Jared Smith, and Oliver Shastri.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored, and supported this event. Your generosity and enthusiasm continue to strengthen our League's ability to develop women leaders and create lasting impact throughout the St. Petersburg community.



Thank You, Sponsors!

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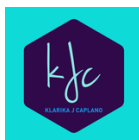
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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG'S

CASINO NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 | FLORIDARAMA



On March 21, JLSP welcomed members, guests, and supporters for an evening of fundraising, fellowship, and fun. From the moment attendees walked through “Python Alley” entry hall, the energy was undeniable and the stage was set for a memorable night.

Building on the momentum of last year’s event, Casino Night once again showcased the power of bringing people together in support of a meaningful cause.

FloridaRAMA's immersive and interactive exhibits and vibrant artwork transformed the event into an interactive experience, giving guests plenty to explore between games and creating picture-perfect backdrops. Guests embraced the occasion, arriving in cocktail attire and adding plenty of glamour and personality to the evening. The night kicked off with an exclusive **VIP Cocktail Hour**, where sponsors, VIP ticket holders, and League leaders enjoyed early access to the venue, cocktails, and light bites before the main event began. As the doors opened to all attendees, the energy quickly built as **more than 200 attendees** mingled, explored the exhibits, and placed their bets.

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed a buffet dinner, decadent desserts, and plenty of opportunities to win big.

The ever-popular **Gift Card Wall, Opportunity Drawings, Silent Auction, and 50/50 Raffle** generated excitement all night long, with bidding becoming especially competitive as the evening drew to a close. A special appearance by an **Elvis Presley impersonator** kept the crowd entertained and provided countless photo opportunities,

Behind the scenes, **dozens of volunteers** worked throughout the evening to welcome guests, manage fundraising activities, and ensure every detail ran smoothly. Their dedication helped create a seamless experience for attendees and contributed to the event’s overall success.

Casino Night would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, volunteers, donors, and attendees. Their support helped make the event one of our most successful fundraisers of the year, generating **over \$50,500 in net proceeds** to support the Junior League’s mission and community programs.

Thank you to all who attended, volunteered, donated, and sponsored this event. Your enthusiasm and support continue to help the Junior League of St. Petersburg develop women leaders and create lasting impact throughout our community.



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG'S
CASINO NIGHT

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CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

CHEERS TO **LOVE, FAMILY, AND NEW ADVENTURES!**



1 **Collyne Tyer** was recently promoted to Clinical Manager with Ivim Health and welcomed new family member Flash!

2 **Alex Sirimarco & Bobby MacDonald** married on April 4, 2026 at Sunken Gardens.

3 **Haviland & C. Powers Dorsett III** welcomed baby Catesby Gray Dorset on March 25, 2026.

4 **Gauri Sunkersett** was promoted to Senior Medical Director at AbbVie Pharmaceuticals. This recognition reflects her leadership in securing FDA approval for a groundbreaking cancer treatment for lymphoma.

5 **Emily Strider & Gareth Hanley** welcomed baby Isaac For Hanley on December 1, 2025.

6 **Laurel Marois Ackerman** was awarded the Emerging Professional Award in March at the 2026 Annual Conference for the National Association of Disability Representatives—a national organization that represents claimants for social security disability benefits.

7 **Gentry Blackwood & family** are expecting sweet little Lucy Susan on July 5! Big sister Eliza cannot wait to meet her (and Gentry and Rob are thrilled as well). They're so thankful for this new chapter!

8 **Jackie Barroso** welcomed new family member Cane, a sweet and tiny Jack Russell Terrier.

9 **Kopa James Kane** celebrated his 3rd birthday with parents Jaimie and Bob Kane in April.

10 **Liz Shuman & Chase Belisle** married on February 21, 2026 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in St. Petersburg.

11 **Brianna Ray & Shannon Wilson** graduated from Leadership St. Pete Class of 2026 in June.

12 **Maria Sweezy** relocated to New York City as is so grateful for everything she gained from her JLSP experience over the last 5 years.

Junior League of St. Petersburg

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 **JUNIOR LEAGUE**
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 Back-to-School

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FAIR**

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SATURDAY, JULY 25
8:00AM TO 12:00PM

HELP US FILL THE BACKPACKS!



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OUR SCHOOL SUPPLY
WISH LIST ON AMAZON!