

# Causeway



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG  
**2020 - 2021**  
Quarter 2





# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG

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## MISSION

The Junior League of St. Petersburg 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.

## VISION

Training women to transform our community.

## IMPACT

The Junior League of St. Petersburg, Inc. has been a driving force in St. Petersburg since 1931. Our community focus area is School Success and Health, which includes healthcare, nutrition, and literacy. We impact these areas through our community projects, financial support, and hundreds of volunteer hours, in an effort to fulfill our mission of improving the community through effective action and leadership.

## COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

## VALUES

- Volunteer: The vehicle in which we train and transform our members
- Empower: Training our members to be leaders
- Educate: Promoting our mission through community and league involvement
- Advocate: Together with our partners, support and promote those in need
- Serve: Build better communities



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



## Word of 2020: Pivot? Unprecedented? Flexibility?

As this calendar year comes to a close, I am immensely grateful for the work our Members have done so far this League Year. Our Development Council has powered through truly unprecedented fundraising times and put on successful virtual auctions, social media ask campaigns, the Little Black Dress Initiative, a virtual 5K, and more. We have been awarded grants and secured sponsorships, despite having no in-person fundraisers. Our Finance Council has kept our budget on track, organized all of our many incoming donations, and worked with our Members on payment plans during this challenging time. Our Community Council has provided more food than ever before – truly answering the call of our community. They continue to pivot, partner, and expand in so many ways. Our Membership Council has worked tirelessly to ensure Members remain connected and engaged, even when physically apart. And our Communications Council are some serious unsung heroes – behind the scenes keeping us all informed of all the opportunities we have and the things we are accomplishing.

Check out President Elect Lauren Feaster's update on all the amazing things our ad hocs are doing, as well. The long and short of it is, our Members are incredible. You all are supporting our League and our Mission through these times, which allows us to support our community when it needs us most.

I am hopeful that as a new year begins, we can meet together in person, celebrating our accomplishments of the League year, and celebrating the 90 years of accomplishments and legacy that make the foundation we are able to stand upon today.

I ask that you take some time today to reflect on your experience as a Member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg; reflect on our history and our legacy, and consider how you can recommit to the League. Is it with a renewed commitment to your placement? Or by serving as an active member of an ad hoc committee? Signing up for an extra community shift? Through a contribution to our Annual Giving Campaign or Endowment Fund? Or maybe by serving as an Sustainer Advisor to a Board or Management Team member? The beauty of the League is that there is truly something for everyone – I hope that the great work of our League so far this year reminds you of why you joined the League and inspires you to continue passionately serving alongside us.

Yours in service,

Megan L. Roach





# EVP REPORT

## SECOND QUARTER REFLECTIONS

This season continues to bring unforeseen physical, mental, emotional and financial challenges. The novel coronavirus has impacted every single person on this planet. It is a force to be reckoned with, but so is the Junior League of St. Petersburg.

The Junior League of St. Petersburg continues to step up and serve. This edition of The Causeway highlights the laser focus our councils have on not only meeting, but exceeding our annual plan goals. Our previous edition detailed our reimagined Care Fair event, which changed from a day long affair to a multiple day distribution model. Following our publication, this committee and our members distributed over **1,100 back packs** filled with essential school supplies for home and distance-learning students along with medical screening vouchers, snack packs and hygiene supplies to ensure a safe return to school.

Our Kids in the Kitchen Committee continues work with local organizations like The Boys and Girls Club to distribute food supplies to school-aged children. As of October 2020, the JLSP has provided over **9,700 food supplies** to underserved children in our community, far surpassing our annual goal of 2,000 food supplies. From donations, to at-home snack pack volunteer shifts, every level of our membership has contributed to this milestone. I have truly enjoyed seeing how our members have turned this effort into a family volunteer shift on social media!

The Literacy Committee has provided **over 4,000 books** to our community during our 2020 league year. We have partnered with five schools to continue to help provide children access to reading material. The Literacy Committee continues to work with our Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc to ensure the books we distribute reflect every creed and color in our community. The team is also working with Erin Dunlop, our At-Large Director to create surveys and gather data so we can better understand the impact of our efforts in the classroom.

From a floral arrangement class to a virtual 5k to a legislation panel, we've held several engaging online events to educate and engage our members. We regularly survey our members to ensure we are providing trainings that give them the tools they need to honor our focus of school success through health, literacy and nutrition. As we cautiously begin to resume our in-person events, we will continue to gauge our member's comfort level and needs through effective communication and data.

Tough times don't last, tough people do. We've got this.

Alexis E. Carlon



# Celebrating 90 Years of Legacy



## 90 YEARS OF SERVICE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG

#90for90 started as a challenge to our committee members to complete "mini projects". These projects were to spread the spirit of the League across the community quickly, effectively, and with intention. These mini projects rippled through our committee and out into our community from classrooms, to Clothes To Kids, and one even made it into a local publication! The response to these projects was so positive that we wanted to bring the opportunity of doing these "mini projects" to you!

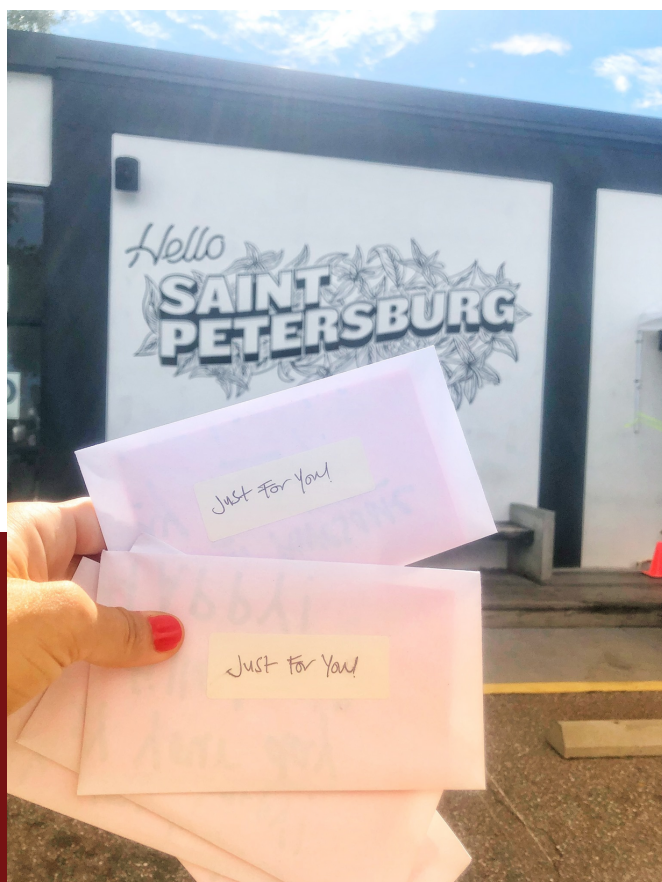
Each month, for the next six months, we will challenge you with 15 new "mini projects". This will culminate to 90 opportunities to celebrate our 90th!

Your challenge is to complete one or all of them from the list each month.

- Pick a challenge from the list
- Take a picture for each one you complete
- Post it to social media with the hash tag #90for90
- Challenge three friends (League Members or not) to do the same challenge or another challenge from the list

As you complete these challenges make sure to use the hash tag #90for90 so we can recognize you and your voluntarism!

Provisional Lauren Hubbard celebrated by sharing notes of gratitude with strangers across the community.





# Celebrating 90 Years of Legacy



## 90 YEARS OF SERVICE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Your list for November:

1. Write a letter of thanks to a Mom
2. Donate supplies to a diaper bank
3. Call a family member and listen intentionally to the conversation
4. Donate books to a little library
5. Serve at a food bank
6. Find a family to donate Thanksgiving Dinner to
7. Return your grocery cart and someone else's
8. Write a letter to a veteran and include a drawing from a little one you love
9. Bake something for a neighbor
10. Donate blood
11. Adopt A Soldier in time for the holidays
12. Create bird feeders out of pinecones with your family
13. Create a volunteer advent calendar for December
14. Donate blankets to CASA
15. November 23rd is National Family Volunteer Day! Bring some gloves and a trash bag along to the beach or a park and have a family (or friend) beach clean up day

We hope these "mini projects" bring joy to you as you complete one or all!

In addition to our #90for90 challenge, we know all great parties need goody bags! The goody bags we are creating will be going to every child in 90 classrooms in local elementary schools. We wanted to recognize some of the cornerstones of our League with the contents of these bags, so we will be including: a bookmark to color with a box of crayons from Kids Create, a brand new book from Literacy, and a meal in a bag from Kids in the Kitchen.

If you are interested in donating towards the cost of the goody bags or interested in other ways to get involved, please email Aria Garling at [CAB@jlstpete.org](mailto:CAB@jlstpete.org).



# History of the JLSP: "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let down your hair!"

Many of us grew up reading the stories of the Brothers Grimm and enjoyed the enchanted worlds their words created in our minds. All children enjoy listening to a good story – it broadens their minds and unleashes their creative spirit.

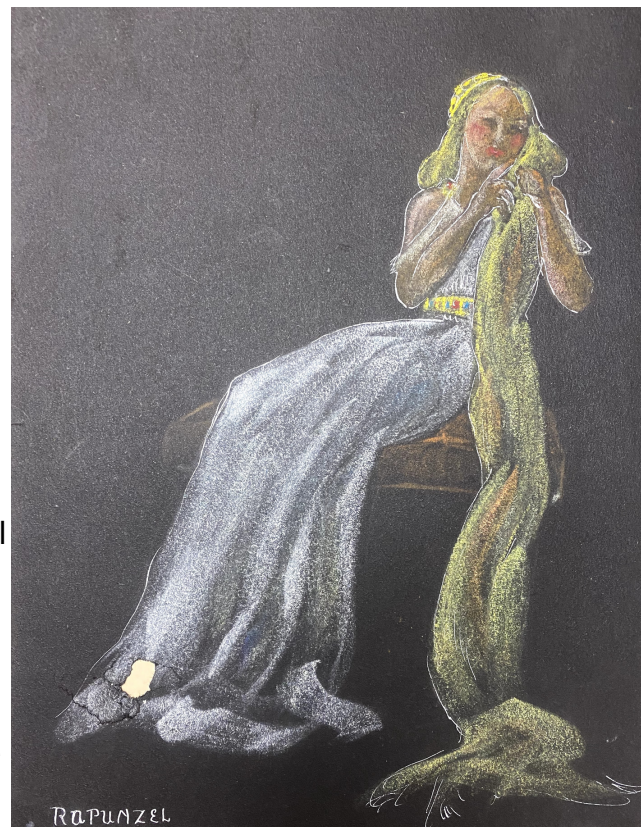
Members of the Junior League of St. Petersburg have always enjoyed providing stories to children in our community. Today, we do so through our Library Puppets and Literacy committees. Back in 1938, League members did it a different way.

In the 1930's, the League hosted two children's plays each season and gave free tickets to the hundreds of children of the city who had no other opportunity to witness entertainment of this type, as well as children from the Masonic home and the American Legion Crippled Children's Hospital. League members' children and their friends also attended. The local PTA for the outlying schools cooperated with the League by furnishing transportation to the plays for the children.

On November 18, 1938, the Junior League of St. Petersburg hosted its children's play "Rapunzel" at the Senior High School. The play was adapted from Grimm's original story by Mrs. Charles M. Gray, a League member. An article from the St. Petersburg Times on October 30, 1938 stated "always designed to please children, the League's plays open a field of imagination for patients from the Crippled Children's hospital, children from the Masonic home and hundreds of young school students who flock in to see members enact the most popular characters in story-book land."

League members crafted costumes and stage props and rehearsed for weeks. In addition to the on stage scenery and costumes, original art work representing the play was created – and the original is still at JLSP Headquarters in our archives. The amount of time and talent on display for this production demonstrates that Junior League members always go above and beyond for the children in our community.

Production leadership included: Mrs. Tom Bayless (Children's Theater Chairman); Mrs. H. Preston Beatty (Chairman of Costumes); Mrs. Sam Johnson (Chairman of Art Department); Mrs. J. Shirley Gracy (Casting Director); Mrs. Charles M. Gray (Production Manager); Mrs. Niel W. Upham (Business Manager); Mrs. Frances Ewing (Property Chairman); Mrs. Sam Cary (Publicity Chairman); Mrs. Joe G. Fickling (Scenery Chairman); Miss Marion Brown (Stage Manager); and Lola Menzeli Solomonoff (Ballet Direction).



Original Rapunzel Artwork



# History of the JLSP: Rapunzel (cont.)

Cast members included: Ethel Thompson (Rapunzel); Mrs. Shirley Gracy (Prince); Mrs. Richard Cotton (King); Dorothy Brown (King's Magician); Frances Ewing (King's Messenger); Mrs. C. C. Fleet (Gretchen, a peasant); Mrs. Roy Dew (Hans, the miller); Mrs. J. Howard Gould (Old Witch); Mrs. W. W. Salzer (first peasant); Mrs. Jay Willson (second peasant); Mrs. George Coit (third peasant); Mrs. Gordon Kent (Titania, the Fairy Queen); Marion Bedell (first nobleman); Mrs. J. Keyes Aton (second nobleman); Mrs. Carroll Runyon (first attendant); Mrs. Harvey Sumner (second attendant); Betty Rutland ("Dust Cloud"); and Betty Ann Anderson ("Dew Drop").



The national association of Junior Leagues was so impressed with Mrs. Gray's work, in June 1939 it was announced that they had accepted the play from her and would be sending it to Junior Leagues throughout the country. Best of all, each time a Junior League would present the play, Mrs. Gray would receive a royalty payment.

Eighty-two years later, the Junior League of St. Petersburg is still delighting children through theatrical productions. It is nice to see the continuity of our service to the community, and the adaptations and changes we've made throughout the decades.



Production image from  
JLSP archives



# 90TH ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Our Mission as members of the Junior League of St. Petersburg gives us each a purpose and an opportunity to be part of something bigger than ourselves. For 90 years we have volunteered, serving to meet the needs of our community and being the catalyst for change. It's time to celebrate. Let's honor and celebrate the JLSP's 90 years of volunteer service in our community with 90 hours of service.

#90for90Challenge is an opportunity for each of us to commit to 90 hours of volunteer service during the 2020-2021 League year. Record your hours in the Member Portal beginning May 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

A #90for90Challenge page is set up on the website. A commemorative pin will be awarded to everyone who meets the challenge. We are honoring the spirit of volunteerism and the contributions of our volunteers both to the Junior League and other non-profit organizations. This is a challenge of gratitude and celebration of all of you. Your commitment is valued and you're appreciated beyond words.

Help us share what being a volunteer means to you. Send your thoughts or a favorite quote about volunteerism to share with the League to Donna Mainguth, [dmdavanzo@hotmail.com](mailto:dmdavanzo@hotmail.com).

SAVE THE

*Date*

90TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
LUNCHEON

Join us on March 6, 2021 as we celebrate 90 years  
of service to the St. Petersburg community!

Details coming soon!





# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Fellow Members of the Junior League of St. Petersburg,

The close of another calendar year is upon us. It is hard to believe that 2020, in all its strange and unprecedented (*are we tired of hearing that word yet?*) “glory,” has finally come to an end. It has undoubtedly been as unusual of a year for you and your family as it has been for the League.

Through immense challenges, the Members of our League have managed to continue to serve our community in record numbers this League year. Thanks to the generosity of our Members and community supporters, we have been able to give 12,600 food supplies to hungry children, 2,700 books to young minds, and 1,100 backpacks filled with school supplies to eager learners.

As you know, the League continues to focus on the advancement of School Success through literacy and through health and nutrition. We are creating real change in St. Petersburg by expanding social activism-focused projects that directly benefit the community we live in. Working in tandem with our passion for creating change in St. Pete, your contribution helps keep the fire of progress burning. That is why *every* donation matters to the Junior League of St. Petersburg. When you donate to JLSP, you’re helping us empower YOU to create positive, lasting societal change in OUR community.

As the needs in our community continue to grow, the generous donations from the Spring and Summer are running out. **You can help us reverse this trend and end this year strong, prepared to face whatever lies ahead.** In an effort to maximize your ability to give, we want to let you know about a few key provisions of the new CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act.

The new law temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) from retirement accounts for the 2020 tax year. This may come as a relief to those of you who would have had to withdraw a greater percentage of income. If you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA or name the League as a beneficiary. The new law also allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize. For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law **allows for cash contributions to be deducted up to 100%** of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.<sup>1</sup>

Enclosed with this letter is information on our new giving levels, as well as some examples of how your contribution facilitates the work of the League. As we celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Junior League of St. Petersburg this year, let us reflect on the thousands of women who have come before us and paved the way, making immeasurable impacts in our community. Your contribution to the Annual Giving Campaign allows us to continue paving the way for positive change and meaningful impact.

Please consider what your Annual Giving donation can do to ensure that we continue to educate and train women to transform our community.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Roach", written over a horizontal line.

Megan L. Roach, *President, 2020-2021*

[President@jlstpete.org](mailto:President@jlstpete.org)



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**ST. PETERSBURG**

## 2020-2021 Endowment Fund Campaign

*Thank you to the donors who have contributed to the Endowment Fund Campaign.*

Total Contributions \$29,175

\*as of 9/23/2020

### 90TH ANNIVERSARY CIRCLES

As we renew our League's commitment to ensuring the sustainability of our League and leaving a lasting legacy, we invite you to join us in contributing to our Endowment Fund and leave your Legacy on the League as part of our 90th Anniversary Circle.

Make your contribution now or over time.

When JLSP raises \$30,000 toward the Endowment Fund, The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay will match it with \$10,000!

### Endowment Fund Campaign Donors

#### Sustaining Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Alexis Carlon with Duke Energy\*

The Honorable Tommy & Elise  
Minkoff\*

#### Anniversary Circle (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Jillian Doyle

Lauren & David Feaster\*

Jane Cline Ferguson\*

(In memory of Jane Mahaffey)

Cathleen Gramling

Stephanie Guckenberger\*

Georgia Mattern\*

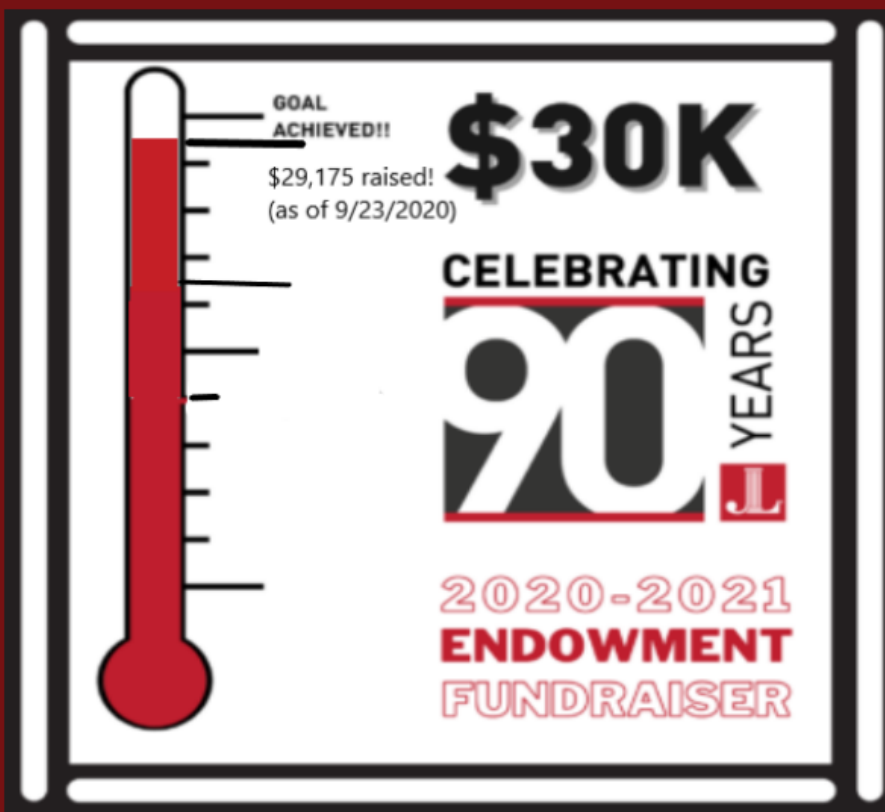
Heather O'Neill

Frances Walker Risser

Megan Roach\*

Ann Vickstrom

Amee Wojciechowski  
with Anderson McQueen\*





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**ST. PETERSBURG**

## Endowment Gifts

(\$1 - \$999)

Maggie Adams\*  
Brittney "Paige" Baker\*  
Catherine Ball  
Marion Ballard\*  
Shirley Bassett\*  
(In memory of sister, Betty Heisler Frank)  
Murray Beairsto\*  
(In honor of Mary Evertz)  
LeeAnn Beltz-Backer \*  
(In memory of Evelyn Wilty)  
Linda Berset\*  
Mardi Bessolo\*  
Hon. Robert Blackmon\*  
Gentry Adams Blackwood  
Margaret Bowman\*  
Sandra Bozeman\*  
Brett Funeral Home, Mr. &  
Mrs. Terrence Brett  
Laura Burdick  
Klarika Caplano\*  
Stephanie Chill  
Jacqueline Cotman  
Judith Cuniff\*  
Rachael Russell DeVicente\*  
Chloe Firebaugh\*  
(In Honor of 90th Anniversary)  
Gigi Fleming\*  
Danielle Flynn  
CarrieAnn Frese\*  
Erin Gladysz\*

Ashley Gonnelli  
Gaby Gramling\*  
Brittany Greco  
Hannah Dewar Gross\*  
Marie Hartney\*  
(In memory of aunt, Virginia Lazzara)  
Jan Herzik  
Veronica Hickey\*  
Hodge, David  
(In Honor of Kelsey Nolan)  
Mollie Holden  
Carol Holland\*  
(In memory of  
Mailande Holland Barton)  
Summer Jensen\*  
(In Memory of Maxine Gamm)  
Lisa Johni\*  
(In Honor of Carol Russell)  
Brynne Johnson\*  
Aimee Jopling\*  
Joan Karins  
Haviland Kebler\*  
Ruth D. Kent  
Melissa Kidwell\*  
(In memory of Helen Siviter)  
Lauren Krauser\*  
Lauri Lee  
Kristen Lefkimiotis\*  
Candy Lenderman  
Jaime Patterson Liston  
Erin Whittemore Lohmiller\*  
Anne M. Long

Alicia McShea\*  
Hon. Cathy McKyton  
Sarah Morrow  
Samantha Nevins\*  
Hon. Tyler Payne\*  
Heather Perkins\*  
Rebecca Raj Swofford\*  
Maria Rawls  
Mary Reed\*  
Morgan Reid\*  
Michelle Carter Reynolds  
Carol Russell\*  
(In honor of Sarah Lonquist)  
Abby Saba\*  
Virginia Sexton\*  
Lesa Shouse\*  
Elithia Stanfield\*  
Corrie Stover  
Tirrah and John Switzer  
Jackie Vanderbleek\*  
Stephanie Vranich\*  
(In honor of Heather Perkins)  
Sara Wallace  
Kathy Whittemore\*  
Andrea Winning  
Anonymous  
(In Honor of Laura Burdick)  
Anonymous  
Anonymous

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*Founders' Circle

# PROVISIONAL CLASS

## MELISSA ANDERSON



Melissa Anderson is a Pinellas County native and proud alumnus of the University of South Florida, with a BA in Accounting and BS in Management and Marketing, and over 15 years of experience in operational management.

As the volunteer coordinator for the 2019 Care Fair partner of Community Health Centers of Pinellas (CHCP), she developed a passion to join the Junior League of St. Petersburg to further provide care to the community, build relationships, and develop additional personal skills. Currently, Melissa is serving on the Ad-Hoc 90th Anniversary Committee and the 90th Anniversary Evening Celebration and Endowment and Annual Giving subcommittees. She is looking forward to growing within the League and creating life-long relationships.

Melissa is the Senior Accountant for CHCP. She currently leads within the organizations financial team and manages multiple company initiatives while cultivating relationships with community partners. Melissa is passionate about providing guidance for personal finance and leads classes to help and educate others through their journeys of financial growth. Melissa currently resides in Largo with her golden retriever, Sophie. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family.

## COURTNEY BOLDUC

Courtney Bolduc has resided in St. Petersburg since 2019 after relocating from South Florida. She grew up in New Smyrna Beach, FL. After a weekend visit to the St. Petersburg area, she knew this would be the perfect place to settle down and call home. Courtney joined the 2020 Provisional class quickly after moving in order to learn more about the community and get involved.

Courtney holds a Bachelor's degree in Sports and Exercise Science from the University of Central Florida and a Doctorate of Chiropractic degree from Los Angeles Chiropractic College. She has a passion for pediatric and prenatal care and enjoys working with families to achieve their wellness goals, with neurologically specific chiropractic care. Currently, she practices at Blossom Family Chiropractic in Downtown St. Pete.

Courtney is excited to be a part of the League and work with like-minded women to bring positive change to the community.







## LAURA BURDICK

Laura Burdick has been a resident of the Tampa Bay area since 2018. She grew up in Highlands Ranch, Colorado until she got tired of the cold and snow and moved to Florida.

She attended the University of Florida and graduated with her bachelor's degree in Business Administration-Marketing. She currently works as Human Resources Administrator at a Management Consulting firm in St. Petersburg.

She joined the Junior League to meet like-minded women and to get involved in the community. She is a member of the 90th Anniversary ad hoc committee and looking forward to her provisional year.

Laura enjoys listening to true crime podcasts, enjoying the Florida sunshine, reading, traveling, and attempting to train her 4-month-old miniature poodle, Ollie.

## BLAKE CARGILL

Blake Cargill has been a resident of St. Petersburg since 2018. Blake was born and raised in Jupiter, Florida and attended the Florida State University. After starting her career in Tallahassee, Blake decided to move to St. Petersburg for new experiences. She joined the League to expand her reach in the community and meet inspiring women.

Her first few months in the League have been spent on Zoom calls and socially distant activities to get to know other members. She is excited to participate in their provisional class project and help the local community while benefiting the Junior League's main initiatives.

Blake is developing her career in human resources and works for a digital marketing/technology company in downtown St. Petersburg. She enjoys helping the people of her company and driving employee engagement across all levels of their business. Her passion for community involvement is what led her to the League and she hopes to expand her reach.

Blake resides in the quaint neighborhood of Old Northeast with her German Shepard Lab mix, Jackson.







## CHELSEA CHAPMAN

Chelsea Chapman is the Vice President of Great Florida Insurance- St. Petersburg, a graduate of University of South Florida with a B.S. in Management, and a natural leader in the workplace.

Having 15 years' experience in the commercial insurance industry, Chelsea has had the opportunity to focus on all positions of a retail agency and tirelessly shares her knowledge educating and encouraging many enthusiastic young women that have trained under her.

Chelsea joined the Junior League to meet like-minded, driven women to further develop her leadership skills. 2020 is her provisional year in the St. Petersburg Chapter. She looks forward to continuing to serve the Community and develop friendships with the other women in the Junior League.

As a native Floridian residing in Clearwater, Chelsea enjoys the sunshine and water activities in her free time, but her heart lies in the mountains of Blue Ridge, GA where she shares a family cabin. She enjoys being in nature, riding all-terrain vehicles, and traveling with her two pups; Daisy (12) and Bonnie (1).

## HAYLEY CISNEROS

Hayley Cisneros has been a resident of the Tampa Bay area since 2016. She recently made the move across the bridge to St. Petersburg at the end of 2019. A Florida native, Hayley was born and raised in Hollywood, FL and then attended Florida State University, where she graduated with her bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science in 2016. She has since been in the insurance industry and currently works as a Product Management Analyst at Progressive Home Insurance company.

Hayley is thrilled to be a part of the 2020 Provisional Class and eager to connect with like-minded women and serve her community.

Hayley resides in St. Petersburg with her boyfriend and their dog, Roxy.



## NICOLE CODY



Nicole Cody has been a resident of St. Pete since May 2019. A native Floridian, Nicole was born and raised in Tampa before moving to St. Petersburg. A few months after moving to St. Pete, Nicole joined the Junior League to become more involved in the community and meet other like-minded women within the area.

By joining the Junior League, Nicole hopes to continue to grow as a leader and become more involved around the community through the various volunteering and networking opportunities the Junior League offers. Upon becoming an Active member of the Junior League, Nicole hopes to join the Community Outreach committee to increase volunteering opportunities within the area.

Nicole is a senior associate auditor at the CPA firm Spoor Bunch Franz in St. Petersburg, specializing in the affordable housing, construction and condo industries. Nicole graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and attended the University of South Florida. Since obtaining her Certified Public Accountant license in July 2019, Nicole has become a member of the AICPA and FICPA. Nicole also completed the FICPA Emerging Leaders program in December 2019.

In her spare time, Nicole enjoys traveling, reading, exercising, going to the beach and spending time with family and friends.

## AMAYA DEVICENTE PAYNE

Amaya DeVicente Payne is a fifth-generation native of St. Petersburg and recently returned after living in Lexington, KY for a few years while her husband attended law school. While in Kentucky, she worked for the University of Kentucky's Education Abroad & Exchanges department as the public relations coordinator. Since returning to St. Petersburg, Amaya was eager to join the Junior League and give back to the community that raised her and meet other like-minded women while doing so.

Amaya received her Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts degrees from USF St. Petersburg campus. She previously worked for a local creative communications and design agency in Downtown St. Petersburg and currently works for the USF Taneja College of Pharmacy.

Amaya resides in St. Petersburg with her husband, Mat, and their golden retriever. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time outdoors and with her friends and family. She is the youngest of five children and has been blessed with eleven nieces and nephews – all of which live locally! Amaya is looking forward to her provisional year in JLSP and many years to come!





## ALYSSA DORING



Alyssa Doring joined the JLSP Provisional Member class in 2020. She recently completed five years of active duty service in the US Navy Nurse Corps and relocated to St. Petersburg in late 2019 upon transitioning to the US Navy Reserves. During her service, she was stationed just outside of Washington DC and in Pensacola. During her short time in Pensacola, Alyssa witnessed the camaraderie and fulfillment that her friends experienced serving the local community with the Pensacola Junior League. She is excited to find similar opportunities here in St. Petersburg.

Alyssa graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's in nursing in 2014, and from the University of Michigan-Flint with a doctorate of nursing practice in 2019. She has a wide variety of nursing experience including critical care, pediatrics, primary and urgent care. Currently, she is working as a family nurse practitioner at TGH Urgent Care where she is able to serve the entire Tampa Bay community at 11 regional clinics spanning from St. Petersburg to Sun City to Wesley Chapel.

Alyssa recently purchased a home in St. Petersburg and plans to set down roots here. She is excited for the opportunity to learn more about the community and its needs, while working with strong female leaders to meet those needs.

## KENDRA DRAVECKY

Kendra Dravecky is a new member of the 2020 Provisional Class. She has been a resident of St. Petersburg for two years. Before moving to Florida, Kendra lived in Denver, Colorado for ten years. Kendra joined the League to become more involved in the local community and get to know like-minded women.

Kendra's professional experience includes 12 years of working as an ICU/ ER nurse. In 2019 she transitioned into working for a large medical device company, doing clinical education. She is also involved in a worldwide Faith and Fitness ministry called FAITHRXD where Kendra serves as the local St. Petersburg chapter director.

Kendra resides in St. Pete with her husband Vince, their 2 dogs and one very spoiled cat. In their free time, they love to go boating, scuba diving and paddle boarding.





## LAUREN HUBBARD

Lauren Elizabeth Hubbard, age 33, joined the Junior League of St. Petersburg in May 2020. As a Provisional Member, and first year participant, Lauren has taken great interest by joining the Junior League Ad Hoc Committees to gain a greater sense of the mission work hosted and executed by the Junior League.

Lauren holds her bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida (St. Petersburg Campus) in Political Science, and is currently working on her master's degree from USFSP with a focus on Environment and Sustainability in Tampa Bay. Lauren enjoys volunteering while serving the community and neighbors in need.



We have loved meeting all of our new Provisional members at our October house party meetings!

From Left: Stephanie Guckenberger, Alyssa Doring, Blake Cargill, Sarah Terry, Gentry Blackwood, Alicia McShea and Morgan Reid.



## ALEXANDRA LANDRY

Alex is a native to the Tampa Bay Area. She has called St. Petersburg home since 2007. She graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Marketing. She worked for Marriott at the Vinoy Renaissance for over 10 years. During that time, she pursued a variety of different segments of hospitality from food and beverage management to luxury event planning and hotel sales. In the midst of Covid-19 she reinvented her career and is now working with a financial firm in downtown St. Pete assisting their sales team.

The Junior League interest her as an outlet to put her event experience to use in a way that betters the community. She also looks forward to building friendships with the other league members. In addition to the Junior League she has been a member of Working Women of Tampa Bay and Women in Tourism.

She and her family live in West St. Pete. She has two children a daughter, Addison will be 4 years old in December and a son Jacob who turned 1 in August.

## DANIELA LEAVITT

Daniela N. Leavitt has lived in the Tampa Bay area for the majority of her life. Shortly after moving back to Pinellas County, she joined the League to become more involved in the local community and to get to know more like-minded women.

Daniela is an experienced criminal trial lawyer with a vast understanding of the nuances of litigation. Prior to becoming an attorney, Daniela graduated summa cum laude from Stetson University with a Bachelor's degree in International Business, minoring in Spanish and Business Law. Despite her keen business acumen, Daniela stayed true to her passion and chose to enroll in the No. 1 ranked law school for Trial Advocacy. While attending Stetson University College of Law, she became a member of the nationally recognized Stetson Law Advocacy Board and also interned at the State Attorney's Office in Pinellas County as a Certified Legal Intern prior to graduating cum laude with her Juris Doctor.

Daniela is a criminal defense attorney with the law firm of Roger D. Futerman & Associates with more than 11 years of litigation experience. She currently resides in Clearwater with her fiancé, Scott Tolliver, her dog Tucker, and her cat, Alvin.







## KATHLEEN MCCARTHY

Kathleen (Katie) McCarthy has been a resident of St. Petersburg since 2018 and is currently a Provisional member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg. Katie is a native Floridian residing in the South Florida area prior to relocating to the Tampa Bay area. Katie joined the League to become more involved in the local community and get to know like-minded and motivated women.

Katie is a licensed Attorney in the State of Florida and has been practicing law throughout the state for the last decade. She is a Civil Litigation Associate with Simon, Reed, & Salazar P.A. in Tampa, Florida. Katie is on the Board of Directors for the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and is an active member of the Saint Petersburg Bar Association.

Katie resides on Coquina Key with her partner, Tina. Katie became a Registered Yoga Teacher with the Yoga Alliance in 2020 and is enjoying teaching Yoga classes and hosting workshops in St. Petersburg.

## INESSA MILLER

Inessa Miller has been a resident of St. Petersburg since 2012 and became a Provisional member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg in 2020. She joined the League to become more involved in the local community, increase diverse representation within the League, and to learn and grow alongside like-minded women in the community.

Before moving to St. Petersburg Florida, Inessa lived in Lakeland, Florida where she was an educator for 10 years and volunteered at local after school programs.

Since joining the League, Inessa has been a part of JLSP social distance gatherings, happy hours, Zoom calls and the Diversity & Inclusion team. She hopes that the year will continue to bring more enriched learning opportunities, member engagement, and will help expand her reach into the communities around her.

Inessa's professional experience includes working as an elementary teacher, special education teacher, and ABA analyst for schools in Saint Louis, Missouri and in Polk, Sarasota, and Hillsborough counties. She is now a Director of Operations for CFP Home Construction| Design & Build and also works part time decorating and staging homes. Her experience in education has helped her develop a passion for educating others, managing, developing and implementing operational plans, and ensuring that procedures are carried out properly with efficiency and effectiveness.

Inessa currently resides in Old Northeast with her husband Josh, dog Ginjer, and brother-in-law Dave. She likes to garden, ride her bike down to the bay, and walk her yorkie along the tessellated hexblock sidewalks.



A portrait of Jessica Nori Johnson, a woman with long dark hair, smiling, wearing a black blazer over a red patterned top. The background is a light-colored brick wall.

## JESSICA NORI JOHNSON

Jessica Nori Johnson has been a resident of St. Petersburg/Clearwater since 2017. Before moving to the area, she lived in Orlando while working for Disney Sports on the Event Management team. She received both her Master of Business Administration and Master of Sports Business Management from the University of Central Florida's DeVos Sport Business Management Program. She also has a Bachelor of Science from Florida State University, where she was a softball student-athlete.

Jessica joined the League to become more involved in the local community, get to know like-minded women and continue her professional development. As a Provisional, she is involved with the 90th Anniversary ad hoc committee and helping plan the Luncheon. Jessica chose this ad hoc because it's an opportunity to submerge herself in the history of the League and put her events background to use. In addition to the JLSP, Jessica is also involved with the Women in Sports and Events (WISE) - Tampa Bay chapter and serves on the Events Committee.

Jessica currently resides in Clearwater with her husband Brandon. Outside of work, she enjoys going to Orangetheory, reading/learning new things (lifelong learner over here!), outdoor activities and volunteering with her husband. She is also in the process of getting her small business, Nori Event Co., up and running by the end of 2020!

## ROSE RHOADES

Rose Rhoades has been a resident of St. Petersburg since 2012. Rose Joined the Junior League to become more involved in the local community and get to know like-minded women. This year, she would like to participate in ad hoc committees and get to know the members of Junior League and their involvement in the St. Petersburg community.

Before moving to St. Petersburg, Rose lived in South Florida where she attended Florida International University. Rose earned a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and a Master of Public Health specializing in Health Policy and Management. Rose currently works as a Patient Access Manager at Largo Medical Center and is a committee chair for the American Heart Association.

Rose resides on Coquina Key with her Husband Evan and their 2 dogs, Lilly and Stella.







## KATIE ROCKMAN

Katie Rockman has been a resident of St. Petersburg since June of 2020. Before moving to St. Petersburg, Katie lived in South Tampa for 8 years while she attended the University of Tampa and the start of her post grad life. Katie grew up in Brandon, FL so the Tampa Bay area has always been home to her.

Katie is the Assistant Director of Development for the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and enjoys spreading the mission of the Crisis Center to everyone she meets. She has been with the Crisis Center for 2½ years and was recently promoted to this new role. Katie has a passion for non-profit work and loves learning of other non-profits in the area and the individuals who work there.

Since becoming a provisional member, Katie is most excited to learn more about the different committees of the League and which one she will ultimately join. She has enjoyed the meetings so far and is ready to finally meet all of the members in person soon!

Katie resides just outside Historic Kenwood with her fiancé Matt and hopefully a pet in the not so distant future!

## LAUREN CHRIST RUBENSTEIN

Lauren Christ Rubenstein is a St. Petersburg native, and a third generation JLSP member! After graduating with her B.S. in Telecommunications Management from the University of Florida, Lauren returned to St. Petersburg to serve as the Marketing Director for the North American Trailer Dealers Association. In 2011, Lauren enrolled at Stetson University College of Law, where she graduated as Valedictorian in December 2013.

Lauren is a partner at Denhardt and Rubenstein. She focuses on many different areas of law, including municipal law, land-use, probate, and civil litigation. She is the Assistant Town Attorney for Redington Shores and the Assistant City Attorney for Pinellas Park. She serves as a Special Magistrate for the City of Seminole and North Redington Beach. She is also the current President-Elect of the St. Petersburg Bar Association.

Outside of the office, she loves spending time with her family and friends. She enjoys playing golf, cheering for her beloved Gators, and taking part in local art and cultural activities. She is looking forward to serving her community and making new friends as a member of this year's Junior League Provisional Class!

Lauren currently resides in Crescent Heights with her husband, Richard, stepdaughters, Reace and Rylann, one-year old son, Tripp, and their labradoodle, Maggie.



A professional headshot of Lauren Tami, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a bright blue, sleeveless dress with a matching belt. The background is a plain, light gray.

## LAUREN TAMI

Lauren Tami moved to the St. Petersburg area in the fall of 2018 and has been wanting to join Junior League since 2015. She is thankful she got her chance to become a Provisional member this year and looks forward to becoming involved in her local community and meeting some truly amazing women.

Before moving to St. Pete, Lauren lived in Sydney, Australia and worked teaching children how to swim in mermaid tails. Since moving back to Florida, where she grew up in Orlando, she continues to do mermaid work in more event-based terms. She also works in marketing at a financial advising company, tutors in Algebra II, and is a Realtor.

Lauren resides in the North St. Pete area with her cat, Kermit. She loves meeting new friends, being active, going to bed at a reasonable hour, and catching the sunrise every morning. Lauren is really looking forward to everything Junior League has to offer, and being able to give what she has to the organization and community.

A portrait of Nikki Trojanowski, a woman with dark, curly hair, smiling. She has a yellow flower tucked behind her ear and is wearing a white top with dark horizontal stripes. The background is a lush green outdoor setting.

## NIKKI TROJANOWSKI

Nikki Trojanowski has been a resident of St. Petersburg since 2008. Before moving to Florida, Nikki lived in San Antonio, TX where she attended Trinity University and received a bachelor's in business administration (2005) and a master's in accounting (2006).

Nikki started her career in public accounting with KPMG. After KPMG, Nikki spent another 5 years at BayCare Health System before moving to Humana in 2015. At Humana, she is currently a Program Manager for Remote Monitoring services. In this role, Nikki oversees the Personal Emergency Response System program which ensures the vulnerable senior population is safe at home because they are provided with a fall safety pendant (ever heard of "I've fallen and I can't get up"!)

Past volunteer experiences include serving as the Co-Chair for the St Petersburg Woman's Club-Evening Program, Board Member of the foster organization A Door of Hope, Board Member of her Neighborhood Association, and volunteer with several church ministries.

Nikki resides in Northeast St Pete with her 2 sons Gavin (9) and Gunner (7).



## JENNIFER WALSH

Jennifer Walsh is a local to Pinellas county. Jennifer joined the Junior League to further expand her involvement within the St. Petersburg community.

Jennifer is currently the Director of Development for The Dysautonomia Project and has been there for two and a half years. In addition to the Junior League of St. Petersburg, Jennifer is a member of Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and is a member of the New in the Profession committee. She aspires to complete her CFRE certification testing in the Spring of 2021 and graduate with her MS in Nonprofit Administration in December of 2021.

Jennifer currently resides in Seminole – a golden retriever puppy will be joining her in February of 2021. She enjoys paddle-boarding, kayaking and golfing with her friends in addition to spending time with family.

## PROVISIONALS NOT PICTURED

Elizabeth Bersinger  
Rebecca Brown  
Lindsay Drake  
Megan Dunn  
Briana Hammonds  
Amonrut Jaimoon  
Sara Lee  
Sarah Murphy  
Sara Powell  
Jessica Purcell  
Michelle Reynolds  
Alexandra Smith  
Cassandra Smith  
Sara Anne Sullivan Terry  
Ashley Ward-Singleton  
Allison West  
Ashley White  
Emily Winburn  
Isabella Yachkouri

# SUSTAINERS

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Dear Sustainers,

Times they are a changin'. So much of the landscape of Junior League life has changed in the last many months. The Actives have been able to pivot, adapt, and thrive during this time and the Sustainers have been there to assist.

To all of the Sustainers who have helped in this process by mentoring, donating to the JLSP Endowment, advising, serving on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, other committees, helping out Annual Giving, and working on the planning of our 90th Anniversary Celebration.....I say with all my heart thank you!

But we are not done! Please contact headquarters to sign-up for eblasts if you are not getting them. We have several Facebook pages that you might want to cozy up to for current information on events and fundraisers:

JLSP Sustainers Private Group - @JuniorLeagueofStPeteSustainer

JLSP Private Group - @JuniorLeagueofStPetersburg

JLSP Public Group -@JLSP1931JLSP

Past Presidents' Private Group - @PresidentsoftheJLSP

Given where we are in the publishing of the Causeway, please lend your support to all the volunteer opportunities with the League. Now is the time to update your log-in information and get behind the scene and look at the League's Member Calendar. Go to [jlstpete.org](http://jlstpete.org) and click on "Members" on the top right of the page. Please support the JLSP 90th Anniversary in their upcoming events!

Please feel free to contact me directly with ideas, comments, and insights, I would love to hear from my Sustainer "Sisters"!

Yours in Volunteer Service

Elise Minkoff

Sustainer Director 2020-2021

727-422-3301

[eminkoff20@aol.com](mailto:eminkoff20@aol.com) | [sustainerdirector@jlstpete.org](mailto:sustainerdirector@jlstpete.org)



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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At the end of every league year, the Junior League of St. Petersburg recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond with awards; The Spirit of the League Award, The Mailande Holland Barton Award, The Virginia Lazzara Award, and Tomorrow's Leader. Traditionally, these awards are presented at our Annual Dinner, which was canceled due to COVID-19. In September, we hosted our first in-person general membership meeting of the year and took advantage of our time together to honor the 2019-2020 league year recipients.



*Jackie Vanderbleek and Kelsey Nolan*

## **SPRIT OF THE LEAGUE AWARD: JACKIE VANDERBLEEK**

This award was established to recognize an active member who, throughout the year, has embodied the Junior League of St. Petersburg's mission through her outstanding service to the League and demonstrated leadership, dedication, voluntarism, and exemplary League achievements.

Jackie Vanderbleek went above and beyond during this league year. She was Chair of Kids in the Kitchen (KITK) Committee and created a new partnership with The Boys and Girls Club where her committee and volunteers went monthly and served over 45 children each visit. They created fun lesson plans that taught the children healthy eating habits, made a snack, and often had food items to bring home with them. In addition, KITK also started attending Clothes to Kids twice a month to give the children who were not shopping an activity with a snack to take home. This was a huge hit with Clothes to Kids and it was nice to expand our partnership with them! Jackie came up with creative ideas based on the time of the for what snacks would be made. The kids always loved the creative snack activities!

Jackie was instrumental in establishing a plan in the middle of March when organizations started shutting down due to COVID-19. She was concerned if the schools shut down the children would not have food to eat. Jackie proactively sent emails to The Boys and Girls Club, Kind Mouse and Clothes to Kids to see how the Junior League of St. Petersburg could help in the event schools suspended classes. She immediately heard back from the Kind Mouse and they stated they could use help the following week packing nibbles to distribute as they were having volunteers back out left and right. She worked to get a plan in place on how we could make this happen. She promptly wrote a motion to host a shift at the Kind Mouse the following Tuesday for twelve volunteers. The motion was approved, and a shift was posted, which quickly filled up!

In addition to establishing a physical volunteer shift, Jackie wrote a heartfelt message on Facebook sharing statistics of the children in our community who have little to no access to food. She utilized the Amazon Wishlist that Community Outreach had created from a previous Kind Mouse shift and made it public to ask for donation. Food supplies and monetary donations to the JLSP came flooding in! It was amazing to see how one post shared by many could get such an amazing response from the community during a time of uncertainty!

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The day of the shift, Jackie brought all the food items she received. The Kind Mouse weighed the donations and it totaled to 242 pounds of food! She and league members helped stuff 594 nibble bags which equates to 1,782 meals! She continued to work with the Kind Mouse throughout her time as KITK chair to schedule food donation drop offs as JLSP received them.

Jackie also continued to work with The Boys and Girls Club, using monetary donations to create 350 snack packs to provide to the club every other Friday. In addition, Jackie partnered with the Literacy committee to help coordinate a donation of 300 books to the Boys and Girls Club.

Jackie's commitment to JLSP is remarkable. Not only does she manage a crazy work schedule of over 40+ hours a week, she is always present at all Community Council meetings, general membership meetings and league events. She is reliable, optimistic, loyal, honest and responsible. She has a positive mindset and has spent the past year influencing members in the league and the community. No one is more deserving of the 2019-2020 Spirit of the League Award than Jackie Vanderbleek.

## THE MAILANDE HOLLAND BARTON AWARD: TIRRAH SWITZER

Tirrah has been an active member of the league for many years. She has a heart for giving back to this community and beyond. Her dedication to community efforts stretches beyond the local community and for several years she's focused her work on global efforts to reduce the effects of poverty by traveling to communities in Cambodia, Ghana, Malawi and the Dominican Republic.

Through Habitat for Humanity, Tirrah became involved in Hammers and Heels, a women's group whose mission is to empower women to help families build strength, stability and independence. Tirrah also volunteers for Big Brothers, Big Sisters, creating an unbreakable bond with her mentees. She also serves in the Junior League of St. Petersburg as a Provisional Advisor. In this role, Tirrah has led by example and created incredible relationships with her group of Provisional members. She always goes above and beyond for the JLSP and is always the first to reach out or provide a contact when needed for an event, even bringing in her own network to create fund development training for Provisional members.

The JLSP is truly lucky to count this incredible lady as one of our members and biggest supporters. Congratulations to this year's Mailande Holland Barton Award, Tirrah Switzer.



*Melissa Kidwell and Tirrah Switzer*

## 2019 TOMORROW'S LEADER AWARD: HILLEARY GRAMLING, FORMER MEMBER



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## THE VIRGINIA LAZZARA AWARD: ANN VICKSTROM

A Letter from our Sustainer Director and Former President, Elise Minkoff

Dear Ann,

The rest of Junior League now knows what many of us in Pinellas already know, you are a volunteer with a true heart of gold! There can be no higher honor than to be the recipient of the Virginia Lazzara Award. Congratulations my dear, dear friend.

From your early days on the Community Council, to countless Care Fair Shifts, helping with Kids Create, to serving as a most kind, gentle, and thoughtful President, you have always been about service to others. With graciousness and humility you have bless this League with leadership and a keen ability to reach each and every member where they are at. This is no "art," and it certainly is no "skill," it is simply who you ARE.

This all takes a special person, one who demonstrates the true qualities of servant leadership. I have watched you enter a room and meet NO strangers and leave with new friends. Your wheel house was always communicating with the members. You have held hands with grieving members, provided meals to new mothers, supported those who had children going off to serve, and provided positive thoughts and prayers for those undergoing unspeakable hardships. This is a servant leader.

In other words, Ann, you walked in our shoes, you felt our joys and pains, and for that we are eternally grateful and blessed as League members.

Now at this moment, you are feeling like you don't really belong here.....cause Sister I know you!

You belong here, in this moment, where our friendship began so many years ago.

So, on behalf of the fund raising "posse," the Queen of Hearts, and The Stuart Society, congratulations and much love on this well-deserved honor,

Elise



*Melissa Kidwell and Ann Vickstrom*

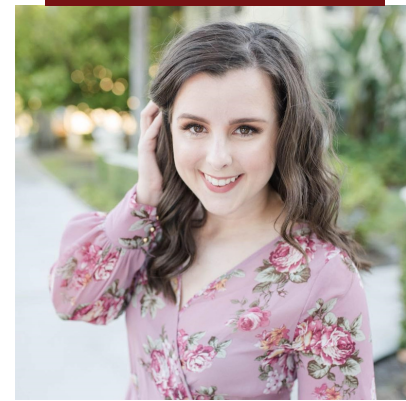
# STAR AMONG STARS

This year the executive team comprised of Megan Roach, Alexis Carlon, Lauren Feaster and Alicia McShea decided to start a new tradition. Each month we will be recognizing a woman in our league that has stood out that month, or has shown her leadership brightly. We have named this the Star Among Stars award! Of course, every member of our league is a star but these women deserve a little extra recognition and love from our members. We have a little bit of catching up to do from the last few months!

We are going all the way back to May for our first award.

May Recipient, Jackie Vanderbleek: Jackie stepped up to the plate when COVID-19 first began and immediately came up with a strategic plan to make sure that JLSP was still meeting the needs of the kids in our community by providing them with snack packs and take home meals. From March until May, under her leadership, the Kids in the Kitchen committee donated over 800 meals and snack packs, setting the new chair, Kelsey, up for great success to continue with our efforts. In May she began a new position as Community VP. In this role, she has lead and guided her team as they have had to jump over hurdle after hurdle and think outside the box to ensure we still meet the needs of our community! Please join us as we congratulate this STAR!

*Jackie Vanderbleek*



*Kelsey Nolan*

June Recipient, Kelsey Nolan: Kelsey has already gone above and beyond this year. Not only is she the chair of the Kids in the Kitchen committee, but she is also the chair of our Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc! Through her leadership as the Kids in the Kitchen chair, she has continued the work Jackie began, and has organized the collection of food supplies for snack packs for the Boys and Girls Club and organized all of the volunteers assembling the snack packs. Since May, we have delivered over 5,900 meals and have donated 8,000 food supplies for the kids in our community-far exceeding our goal for the year in the first quarter of our League Year! As the chair of our Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc, she has not only done an excellent job of leading and guiding her team, but she personally, has led multiple D&I trainings for our membership at every level-at GMMS, the Board table and the Management table. Please join us as we congratulate this STAR!

July Recipient, Kristen Lefkimitotis: As Care Fair Chair, Kristen had fearlessly jumped every hurdle thrown her way (which was a lot). She and her team had to truly think outside of the box as they revamped and reorganized Care Fair. Under her leadership they not only pulled off the event, but they did it so seamlessly and with such efficiency that you would have never known that wasn't the original or even the second or even the third plan!! This year we were still able to set the kids in our community up for school success by giving out 1,100 backpacks full of school supplies, snack packs, and certificates for health and dental screenings! Care Fair was a huge success this year thanks to her leadership. Please help us congratulate this STAR!

*Kristin Lefkimitotis*





# STAR AMONG STARS CONTINUED



*Lesa Shouse*

July Recipient, Lesa Shouse: For over a year, this woman has spearheaded the ad hoc for our new website!! She has spent countless and thankless hours in trainings and in meetings with AJLI to learn the new Member Essentials Plus platform. Then she has spent even more countless and thankless hours helping to build our website out and making sure all of the information about our league is on our website. If you have been to our new site, you know how amazing it is! The work still isn't over as she continues to add to it and tweak it to Make sure it is always up to date for our members! This is no simple task or undertaking but she has taken it on and in full stride and we are so thankful for her! Help us congratulate this STAR, Lesa Shouse!!

August Recipients, Brittany Collins and Emily Segui: Immediately after cancelling Gala and working under pressure to put together our league's first ever online auction, the Event Committee chairs were asked to pivot from planning our annual Cocktails & Couture fashion show to a Covid friendly alternative that would bring in equally as much for the league's projects and programs. The committee spent countless hours brainstorming, researching vendors, drafting proposals and seeking input and approval to execute our first ever 90th Anniversary Virtual 5k, fall auction, and virtual Kendra Scott giveback event. In addition to navigating fundraising and sponsorship asks in the face of a pandemic, **Emily** and Brittany have led their committee with exemplary professionalism and servant leadership to coordinate logistics for a brand new event and fundraiser that has already exceeded budget goals and expectations.

Faced with numerous obstacles, Emily and Brittany have remained dedicated to the league and determined to facilitate a successful fundraiser in support of our projects and programs. I am so humbled and proud to be serving alongside these ladies and could not be more impressed with what they've accomplished in such a short period of time. No one is more deserving of the September award than Brittany and Emily!



*Brittany Collins*



*Emily Segui*

We are so thankful for each and every one of our "Star Among Stars" and for the hard work they continually put into our league to ensure its success! It's because of members like them and members like you that we are able to serve our community in a meaningful way!

As a side note-if you have a committee member that has been a STAR, please send your nominations to Alexis Carlon, [evp@jlstpete.org](mailto:evp@jlstpete.org)!

# LEGISLATIVE PANEL

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Senator Brandes, Senator Rouson, Representative Webb, Representative Diamond, Representative Latvala: What do all of these wonderful people have in common? They are not only loyal servants to the City of St. Petersburg, but they are also supporters and advocates of the Junior League of St. Petersburg. We are so lucky here in St. Pete to have such supportive Senators and Representatives that are willing to educate us and empower us to use our voice.

The Training & Education Committee pulled together an interactive virtual Legislative Panel with these influential leaders in our community to educate us on how they choose the candidates that they vote for, what challenges they are expecting to face as a result of COVID-19 and how the JLSP can do a better job of educating them of the great things we are doing in the community and where we see the biggest needs. Thank you all for such an amazing turnout and you also might recognize our beautiful and talented moderators, Megan Roach and Whitney Green.

A few key takeaways? Watch what people do, not just what they say. Use this time as an opportunity to re-evaluate priorities and what we can change moving forward. When talking with Legislatures, make sure you are clear about what your goal is and use examples of what's working well. Think about problems in a different way. It's ok if you don't have all the answers, use your voice!

Most importantly, don't forget to vote. Voting is a privilege.





# AUGUST CLUSTERS

This year's August Clusters looked a little different than in years past, but the Junior League Provisionals, Actives and Sustainers had just as much fun! The Programming Committee hosted seven events – four in-person and three virtual event options to ensure all Members were comfortable and had a change to participate.

The Programming Committee kicked off August Clusters with Yoga at St. Petersburg's newest studio Downtown, SunState Yoga. The studio also offered discounted rates for Junior League Members interested in purchasing classes or packages.

The next event was a Virtual Trivia Night hosted by a professional trivia company. League members gathered on Zoom for a competitive game of Trivia. The winning team even got some Junior League swag as a prize!

The third event was a socially distanced meet up at Northshore Park in Downtown St. Petersburg. League members gathered with their picnic gear and relaxed with snacks and drinks. There were even some Junior League dogs present as well!

The fourth event was a Virtual Floral Fiesta Masterclass hosted by Alice's Table on Zoom. The floral arrangements were shipped to each participant's house directly from a farm in South America. The Alice's Table hosts did an amazing job facilitating the conversation, sharing the floral details and helping the participants put together a beautiful floral arrangement. Everyone's arrangements turned out great!

The fifth event of the month was an Energy Blast spin class at Central Cycle. This class was a party - high energy, dance moves and up-beat music included!

The next event was a Wine Tasting at Bacchus Wine Bistro where members sampled four different wines and shared a charcuterie tray. Members had raving reviews and were very excited to see each other in person!

The seventh event offered was a virtual happy hour on Zoom. Members sat back and shared stories with their drink of choice in the comfort of their own homes!

These seven August Cluster events were just what the League Members were looking for! The events allowed Members to re-connect with each other socially and giveback to the St. Petersburg community.



# COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## LITERACY COMMITTEE

By: Alysse Griffin, Chair and Kelsey Krauss, Chair Elect

The JLSP is committed to promoting literacy and early reading readiness among our youngest readers in St. Petersburg.

This year, our League received a generous grant from the Pinellas Community Foundation that will help us reach our literacy goals. Currently, the Literacy Committee is partnered with five local elementary schools in Pinellas County. Our goal is to provide these elementary schools with books and reading strategies to send home with their readers to grow a love of reading and foster early literacy success.

The Literacy Committee and JLSP members have been working hard to put together the books we have purchased for schools. The books provided to the schools by the league are being distributed in different ways at different schools.

At Westgate Elementary, readers have the opportunity to book shop each month! Students go into the school bookstore and choose their favorite titles to take home to read. At Woodlawn Elementary, the books distributed were used to start up Book Clubs across the school. At the end of the book club, students take their books home and are able to enjoy reading it at home! Bear Creek Elementary is able to continue their Literacy events at school because of the league's books distribution of titles of all ranges of books!

**We have donated 4,713 books to early readers in Pinellas County so far this League Year.** We are so excited to continue to provide more titles to our readers across the area!

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax. All you need is a book." -Dr. Seuss

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By: Natalie Melillo and Katie Ragsdale, Co-Chairs

While we were unable to partner with Woodlawn Elementary in hosting their traditional Back To School Bash this year, we were still able to make a difference in students' lives! Community Outreach provided donations this year for their new format of a drive-thru event, where students were able to obtain school supplies and community resources in a safe environment. With the help of the Care Fair committee, Community Outreach donated 300 two-packs of hand sanitizers (600 mini bottles), 288 composition notebooks, and 100 pencils. Although not all students are physically in school, the need for school supplies remains the same and Woodlawn was very grateful for our assistance.

This year has been especially challenging for the Community Outreach committee, as many of our partners have not allowed in-person volunteering. We are continuously checking in with our valued partners while keeping the communication open to see how we can help them during this taxing time.

We thank everyone for their understanding and support during these past several months as we've all been navigating through our "new normal." We are very much looking forward to opening more volunteer shifts to the membership as soon as we are able to do so!



*Students at Woodlawn Elementary*



# COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

By: Kelsey Nolan, Kids in the Kitchen Chair

The Kids in the Kitchen Committee (KITK) has continued to work hard to provide food resources to the community in a safe and creative way through different projects. Starting on March 15th, the snack pack program consistently donated meal packs once every other week until children went back to school. Now the program is dedicated to providing packs once a month. At the end of the summer, the Kids in the Kitchen partnered with the Kids Create committee to provide snack packs with a bookmark craft that included encouraging words for the year ahead and crayons to decorate.

Earlier this year we started a Summer Breakfast Pilot Program. The Boys and Girls Club of Pinellas shared with us that some of their summer campers start the day without breakfast. This is likely because during the summer months they only have access to the club's lunch and snack program but no longer have school breakfast provided. We saw an opportunity to serve and Lexie Stolen, a member of the Kids in the Kitchen committee, worked hard to pilot the Summer Breakfast Program. She ensured that the program was COVID-safe and that the kids had healthy options including fruit, cereals, granola bars, milk and dairy-free milk alternatives. Part of why the League is such an incredible organization to be part of is because of members, like Lexie, who work to serve others with dignity while providing thoughtful resolutions. The program included 405 breakfast meals and was held during the last week of the summer camp program. We learned a lot from this experience, received awesome feedback from the club, and intend to look for funding as we map out what this could look like in the future.

In September, The Sunshine Association of Treasure Island supported KITK by sponsoring a round of snack packs and also donating volunteer time to create and deliver snack packs to The Boys and Girls Club of Pinellas. So far, with the help of our community, dedicated volunteers and league support we've been able to **donate 4,225 packs since March 2020, which is equal to 8,450 meals**. It costs \$800 to sponsor a round and the continued success of this program will rely on donations and support from our community. If you, or an organization you are part of, are interested in helping us please reach out to us at [KITK@JLSTPETE.ORG](mailto:KITK@JLSTPETE.ORG)



*The Sunshine Association of Treasure Island volunteers assembling snack packs*

# CARE FAIR

By: Kristen Lefkimiotis, Care Fair Co-Chair



*Care Fair Volunteers*



*Care Fair Committee and JLSP Volunteers*

The Junior League of St. Petersburg has been planning and hosting an annual Back to School Care Fair since the Spring of 1996. Through this event, we are able to partner with local organizations with the goal of providing school supplies, medical and dental exams, and other services to set up each child and their respective families for a year of success. The event has always been free to participants due to the generous donations of our community members and partners.

While the year of 2020 has proven to have some obvious obstacles in daily life, what can often go unseen are the challenges faced by young school-age children and their families due to increased financial stressors secondary to COVID-19. It was more important than ever to provide these services to our community to help prepare for a fruitful school year—whether in person or virtual. We pivoted from our original in-person Care Fair and were able to deliver **close to 1,200 backpacks** to students across the Pinellas County filled with school supplies, culturally-relevant books, pamphlets for families of various services the community has to offer, and vouchers for a free medical and dental exam at the family's convenience. In addition, we are very mindful that one in five children in Pinellas County are food insecure. As such, we partnered with our own JLSP committees such as Kids in The Kitchen to include snack packs in each backpack.

One of the greatest joys in life is being able to put a smile on a child's face. Once these backpacks were assembled by our volunteer JLSP members; additional members hand delivered them to six different schools that served to further distribute the backpacks to individual children in coordination with when they were handing out free lunches and meals as part of a Pinellas County program. We were able to witness the joy a child experiences when they are handed a brand new backpack, filled with essential school and health supplies. This act can sometimes be taken for granted, but for a financially insecure family, activities such as the Care Fair, help them focus on paying their bills and feeding their families, all while providing the necessary tools for their children.

We are so grateful that we are able to host this incredible event every year. It not only requires a degree of creativity to adjust to the changing times, however the most critical component is the financial support and community partnerships we have built through the years.



# CARE FAIR (CONT.)



*Backpacks included essential school and health supplies*

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2020 CARE FAIR SPONSORS:

- Comegy's Insurance
- Expert Messenger
- Anderson Group
- RE/MAX METRO
- PHC
- Scripps
- Raymond James
- Johni Law
- Greenbench Dental

# SUFFRAGETTES SERIES

By: Whitney Green, Public Affairs Chair

## CELEBRATING SUFFRAGE

The Public Affairs Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc continues to celebrate the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment via its Suffragette Series, which highlights a few of the many women from marginalized communities who championed the cause of suffrage and fought long after the Amendment's passage to secure its promise for all women.

While the Junior League of St. Petersburg does not endorse political candidates, we heartily encourage all members to honor the legacies of these brave women by exercising your right to vote. Make sure you have a plan for your voice to be heard. Voting information, including ballot drop off locations, registration status, and polling locations can be found at the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections website at <https://www.votePinellas.com/>



### FEATURED ARTICLES

Gertrude Simmons Bonnin  
Amelia Boynton Robinson



# Gertrude Simmons Bonnin (Zitkála-Šá)

Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, also known as Zitkála-Šá (Red Bird), was born on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in 1876 in Dakota Territory. At age eight, she was sent to a Quaker missionary boarding school where she was forced to give up cultural practices like her native language and clothing. Zitkála-Šá later described the experience as spiritually repressive because it disconnected her from her heritage. Zitkála-Šá continued her education at Earlham College and became an accomplished violinist and writer.

She and her husband Raymond T. Bonnin worked for the Indian Service on a Utah reservation, and lobbied with the Society of American Indians for the right to full American citizenship for Native Americans. Zitkála-Šá later became a vocal activist in Washington, D.C., where she edited American Indian Magazine. Even after the 19th Amendment was passed, Native American women and men continued to be excluded from voting because indigenous persons were not granted American citizenship at birth and instead had to pursue citizenship through naturalization and other legal processes. Zitkála-Šá joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1921 and passionately advocated for full enfranchisement of Native Americans via passage of the Indian Citizenship Act.

The Act was passed in 1924, granting citizenship to Native persons born in the United States. Unfortunately, because voting was largely governed by state law, several states continued to deny Native Americans the right to vote until 1948. Zitkála-Šá continued to advocate for reforms until her death in 1938.

## Amelia Boynton Robinson

2020 also marks the 55th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting. Amelia Boynton Robinson was a leader in the fight for its passage. Boynton Robinson's mother was a suffragist, and by the time she was nine years old, in 1920, she had joined her mother on horse and buggy to hand out voting information to women.



Boynton Robinson registered to vote in Alabama in 1932, which was difficult and dangerous for Black citizens to do at the time. In 1964, Boynton Robinson became the first African American woman to run for Congress, in order to promote Black voter enfranchisement. She worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and was brutally beaten during the 1965 civil rights march in Selma, dubbed "Bloody Sunday." Months later, President Johnson invited her to witness the signing of the Voting Rights Act. She lived to attend President Obama's State of the Union in 2015, and accompanied him to the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday at 103 years old.

# DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

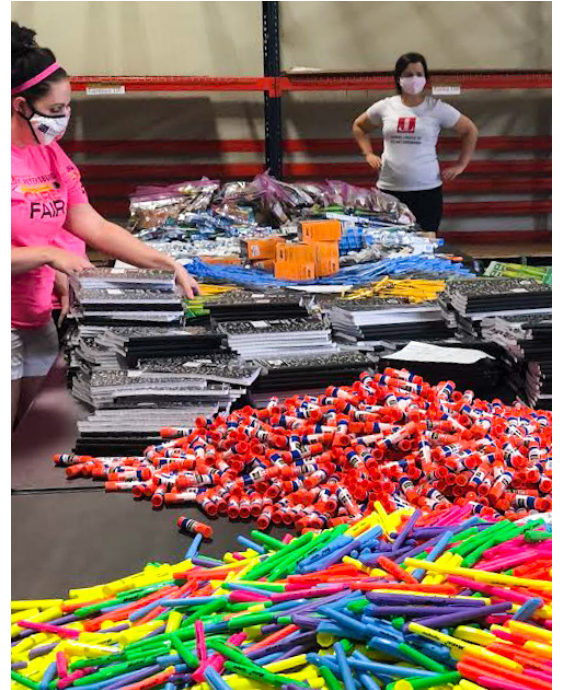
## FUND DEVELOPMENT

Over the first half of the 2020-2021 league year, the Fund Development committee has submitted a total of six grant applications, with another six applications currently in progress. While the majority of applications are still pending decision, JLSP was notified by the City of St. Petersburg that we were approved for **over \$6,200** of funding from the MBSK Youth Development grant to be used towards 2021 Care Fair.

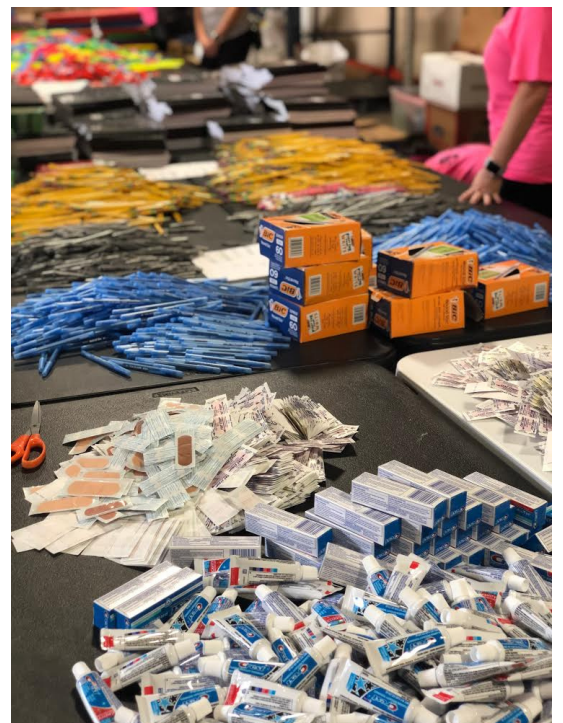
The purpose of the Youth Program Development Grant is to provide support and build the capacity of non-profit organizations engaged in projects/programs that seek to improve the lives of at-risk children and youth within the municipal boundaries of the City of St. Petersburg.

The grant is designed to offer funding to non-profit organizations, in good standing, which have developed specific projects/programs to address children entering school ready to learn, reading at grade level by third grade, and participating in enrichment that address the health and well-being of the child, all of which closely align with the JLSP's mission.

The Fund Development Committee is very excited to have the opportunity to partner with the City of St. Petersburg and is hopeful to receive positive news on a number of pending applications in the near future. In the meantime, the Fund Development Committee is beginning to ramp up for the Annual Giving Campaign and is also working with businesses throughout the community to facilitate several league giveback events throughout the second half of the league year.



*JLSP has been approved for over \$6,200 of funding from the MBSK Youth Development grant to be used towards 2021 Care Fair*





# LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE

In October, the Junior League of St. Petersburg tied the bow on another successful Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) campaign, raising \$15,971 – nearly \$1,000 over our goal of \$15,000. The campaign, designed to raise awareness and fundraising to fight food insecurity in St. Petersburg, ran from Monday, October 12 through Friday, October 16. We had over 60 members serve as LBDI Champions – educating their networks and collecting monetary donations through social media to be used for projects and services which directly address the heart of the League's community outreach focus: school success through literacy and health and nutrition, all of which are affected by childhood poverty.

LBDI 2020 wrapped up on World Food Day (October 16, 2020), reminding us that we are just one piece of a much larger puzzle. Collective action across 150 countries is what makes the day one of the most celebrated days of the United Nations calendar. World Food Day 2020 was marked during a very exceptional time as many countries are dealing with the widespread effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Child hunger is a global issue, and the JLSP is proud to spark change and address it in our own community, working towards statewide, national, and even international change for the better.



*League Member Seeta Banfield*



*Provisional Member Lauren Hubbard*

# LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE



*Director At Large Morgan Reid; President Elect Lauren Feaster; EVP Elect Alicia McShea*

This year, the Junior League of St. Petersburg teamed up with LBDI partners, 9Round Fitness Roosevelt Blvd and Crazy4Tennis, who supported the campaign throughout the week with a donation and special offers to JLSP members and donors alike. From 30-minute full body kickboxing circuit workouts to an online boutique for the tennis enthusiast, the JLSP is thankful for our partners support of LBDI 2020. The League also held the campaign on a new fundraising platform, GiveSmart, that was first seen for the 5K event earlier this Fall. The platform provided a seamless experience for administrators, Champions, and donors.

The LBDI Committee extends a sincere thank you to our partners, Champions, and everyone on the Management Team and beyond who helped make this year's campaign a success!



*President Megan Roach*



*Provisional Laura Burdick*

**Thank you to our  
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# EVENTS COMMITTEE

After having to cancel the annual Cocktails & Couture fashion show due to COVID 19 impacts, the Events committee was tasked with reimagining a fall fundraiser that would be equally as successful in raising funds for the JLSP's projects and programs. With unprecedented circumstances, the committee planned and executed a virtual 5k to keep everyone safe while also reinforcing our mission of health and nutrition. The 90th Anniversary Virtual 5k took place the week of September 21st through 25th and well exceeded expectations. Participants selected their own route, ran or walked a 5k, and shared photos on social media using #IRunForJLSP!

With a total of 112 participants, the event brought in nearly \$10,000 in registrations and sponsorships. Along with the 5k, the committee worked hard to obtain donations and organize a virtual auction in lieu of the silent auction that typically takes place at the fall fundraising event. The committee secured over 40 auction items which raised an additional \$4,000. On the weekend of October 3rd through 4th, the Events committee also partnered with Kendra Scott for a giveback event as a part of the Virtual 5k & Auction. Between the online code, and the in-person shopping event, the event raised almost \$400 for our community programs. Thank you to Kendra Scott and the Hyde Park Village location for their continued support of our league!



*Above: Emily Lafortune and Gabby Lolley  
at Kendra Scott*





# EVENTS COMMITTEE

Although the fall fundraiser looked much different than in years passed, the virtual 5k, auction, and giveback raised nearly \$12,500 for the League's projects and programs, including Care Fair, Library Puppets, and the Kids in the Kitchen Pack-A-Snack expansion which has already provided **over 7,700 snack packs** to food-insecure children since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic. The 36,000 food-insecure children in Pinellas County are especially vulnerable during times of community crisis, where resources as well as employment opportunities are even more limited. Thanks to the Event committee's hard work and dedication, we not only met but well exceeded our goals to continue providing much needed support to our community during this difficult time.



*Above: Jackie Vanderbleek*

*Right (starting from top): Girls on the Run Coach Kristen, Halle Machitar, and members of The Events Committee*



**JLSP VIRTUAL 5K  
KICKOFF EVENT AT**

**📍 3 DAUGHTERS BREWING**



# ANNUAL PLAN UPDATES

By: Alicia McShea, Executive Vice President Elect

Each year the Management Team creates the Annual Plan designing goals that serve to further the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is created by the Board of Directors every five years and provides guidance for setting goals at each level of membership. The purpose of the Annual Plan is to provide enough direction so that each Council and Committees can develop objectives that will align to support the JLSP's goals.

This year the first goal is to continue to enhance member engagement by sending membership surveys quarterly. A survey was recently sent in our eBlast and can also be found on the home page of the member portal. Please make sure to take two minutes to complete the survey!

The next two goals are to provide 2,000 food supplies and 2,000 books to underserved children here in St. Pete. Even though our volunteer shifts look different this year, it has not stopped us from continuing to provide. To date we have given out 4,000 books and 3,600 packs of food which equates to 7,200 meals (2 meals per each pack). The Kids in the Kitchen and Literacy committees are not stopping anytime soon and continue to think of ways to still provide when we physically cannot be present. Stay tuned for future volunteer opportunities with these awesome committees!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**ST. PETERSBURG**

To celebrate our 90th anniversary, we've launched our Commemorative Fund! For a donation to the League, members can recognize each other's personal milestones in our newsletters and Causeway! Please reach out to At-Large Director, Morgan Reid for more information: [atlargedirector@jlstpete.org](mailto:atlargedirector@jlstpete.org)

## COMMEMORATIVE FUND



### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF **ST. PETERSBURG**

Congratulations, Alexis Carlon  
on Being Named  
Top 40 Under 40!

We are so proud of you!  
- The 2020-21 Board of Directors

Gentry Blackwood, we are  
so thrilled about your  
recent pregnancy -  
congratuations! We can't  
wait to meet the little one.  
- Alicia McShea

Congratulations, Ann Vickstrom,  
Tirrah Switzer, Jackie Vanderbleek  
and Hilleary Gramling for being the  
2019-2020 JLSP Award Recipients!

- The Junior League of St.  
Petersburg

Visit

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to commemorate someone today!



# COMMEMORATIVE FUND



## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF **ST. PETERSBURG**

Congratulations to Chloe Firebaugh on your graduation from Leadership St. Pete!

- Megan Roach

Congratulations to Alexis Carlon on Tampa Bay Business Journal 40 under 40!

You're a rockstar! - Megan Roach

Congratulations to Ashley Ward Singleton on being nominated for two 6th Judicial Circuit openings! - Megan Roach

Congratulations to Jackie Vanderbleek on the Spirit of the League award!

- Megan Roach

I'd like to recognize Gigi's long term service to the JLSP. She served as our Office Manager for 11 years and will be greatly missed. I wish her the best of luck in her

new career path.

- Chloe Firebaugh

Congratulations to Ann Vickstrom on the most well-deserved Virginia Lazzara Award!

- Megan Roach

Thank you to Gigi Fleming for your dedication and service to the League and best wishes in your new adventure!

- Megan Roach

Congratulations Natasha Williams and welcome, baby Stella!

- Megan Roach

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# THANK YOU 2020-2021 SPONSORS

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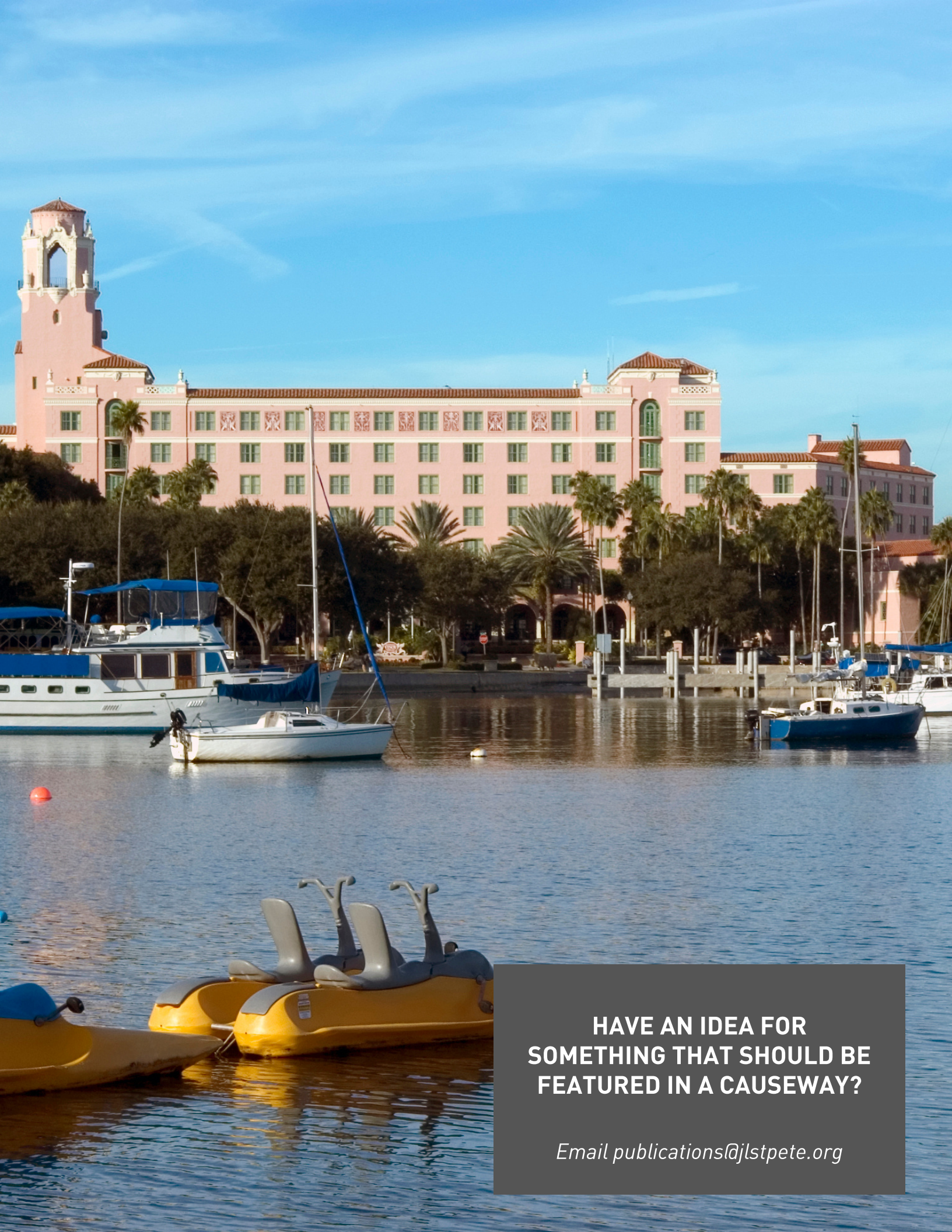
# Annual Giving Donor Benefits

Our 90th Anniversary Fundraising subcommittee has streamlined our donor benefits! Online donations can be made at [jlstpete.org](http://jlstpete.org) and questions emailed to [fundraising@jlstpete.org](mailto:fundraising@jlstpete.org).

						
<i>Annual Giving</i> <b>DONOR BENEFITS</b>	<b>CHAMPION</b> \$10,000	<b>PARTNER</b> \$5,000	<b>LEADER</b> \$2,500	<b>PATRON</b> \$1,000	<b>SUPPORTER</b> \$500	<b>FRIEND</b> \$250
<b>Recognition as Sponsor at One Signature JLSP Event</b>	Presenting Sponsor	✓	✓	✓		
Logo & Link on JLSP Website	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Logo &amp; Link in JLSP Causeway</b>	✓	✓	✓			
Company-Provided Banner Displayed at Community Events	✓	✓				
<b>Logo/Name Prominently Featured on Event Materials</b>	✓	✓	✓			
Logo/Name Placement in Event Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Ability to Place Marketing Materials at Community Events</b>	✓	✓	✓			
90th Anniversary Gala Tickets	16 VIP	8 VIP	4 VIP	2 VIP	2 GA	
<b>Admission with Guest to Patrons' Party</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Admission to Fundraising Celebration Social	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*All levels beginning at \$25 receive one General Membership Meeting credit and recognition as a JLSP donor.*





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SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE  
FEATURED IN A CAUSEWAY?**

*Email [publications@jlstpete.org](mailto:publications@jlstpete.org)*