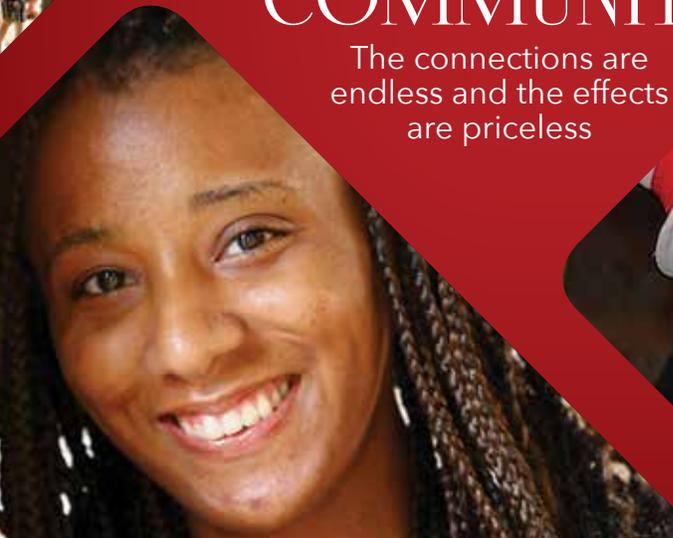


# VISIONS



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Gary Wheeler and his daughter, Rachel M<sup>c</sup>Claran, proudly support the Junior League of Greenville.

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Letter from  
**THE PRESIDENT**

*"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."*

- Jane Goodall

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the President of the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) for 2016 - 2017 and to work with so many remarkable women. I have been humbled by this opportunity and will be forever thankful to this wonderful organization!

The summer issue of VISIONS features \$53,500 of grants that the JLG awarded to four nonprofit organizations in the Greenville Community. The JLG does not just contribute money to these organizations, we also provide volunteers to help with their programs. Currently, the JLG has volunteers in twelve different agencies in the Greenville Community. This issue also highlights the pledge of \$100,000 to The South Carolina Children's Theatre Capital Campaign.

The theme this year has been "One Makes the Difference". It has been amazing to see how one member, one committee, one event and one League can make such a difference in our community. I wish I had space to list every member, committee and event that made a difference, however this issue will highlight just a few of them.



I am also proud of the work Junior Volunteers has done in the community this past year. This small team worked with four community centers in Greenville, including incorporating a free library into their program. They also decorated cards to distribute at Thanksgiving, partnered with the Salvation Army to make no-sew fleece blankets for Christmas, and folded and donated 1,000 Origami Paper Cranes to the GHS Children's Cancer Center.

The Nearly New Shop underwent major renovations this year that were a direct result of countless volunteers and the support of the Nearly New Shop Staff. I sincerely appreciate everyone involved in the planning and execution of these improvements. I especially want to thank Jill Schneider, Laura Sharp and Sarah Henry! Please come visit the Nearly New Shop and see how it looks and feels like a new store.

*Sandy Brown*

**Sandy Brown**  
President, 2016 - 2017  
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.



Sandy Brown



*Sandy Brown is the 2016 - 2017 President of the Junior League of Greenville. Born in Pennsylvania, Sandy lived in New Jersey until she was 13 when she moved to Atlanta with her family. A Clemson grad, Sandy joined the JLG in 2005 and has served on multiple committees, most notably finance, one of her many passions. She and her husband, Tom, have two children, Abby (20) and Alex (16). In her free time, you can find Sandy listening to Bon Jovi or attending one of their concerts.*

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Greenville, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

The Junior League of Greenville initiates and participates in programs and partnerships that enhance the physical, emotional and educational well-being of children and families. We are committed to building a safe, healthy, nurturing community.

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Please recycle after you have enjoyed this publication.

We would love to hear from you! Email Anne-Marie Moehring with your thoughts about the magazine or to learn how to become more involved at [Information@JLGreenville.org](mailto:Information@JLGreenville.org)

For more information about the Junior League of Greenville or becoming a member, visit us online at [JLGreenville.org](http://JLGreenville.org)



Letter from  
**THE SUSTAINER REPRESENTATIVE**

My years of membership in the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) have been worth millions to me. Actually, they have been worth \$2,709,053.93. That amazing number is the amount of money that the JLG has given back to our community. We, as members, are extremely proud to know that we have been able to make a difference by raising funds to be given as grants to local organizations.

Through our grant process, we review and fund grants monetarily, but the beauty of the JLG is that when we approve a grant, we also agree to give our time and along with that, most of the time, we end up giving our hearts, too. When we grant money to any organization, we commit to send our volunteers there to work weekly or monthly shifts, called their "placement". As you can imagine, once you volunteer with an organization, you feel an incredible connection. In many instances, these heartfelt connections lead JLG members to life long associations with these organizations. There are countless nonprofit boards in Greenville that include JLG members, and it usually started with the member volunteering for the organization.

We held our Emeritus Tea in April, an event that honors our members who are 80+ years old. At the event, two of the Ladies were discussing how they became close friends years ago, working at a Junior League placement together and how they remain close to this day. I feel the same way-I have two friends in particular that I love dearly. I probably never would have crossed paths with either if we had not worked together in our placements. That is another reason why the Junior League of Greenville is worth \$2,709,053.93 to me!

*Lynn Armstrong*

**Lynn Armstrong**  
*Sustainer Representative, 2016 - 2017*  
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

*Lynn is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and calls Ole Miss "a special place" for her and her family. "One of my favorite things in the world is tailgating in the Grove" before football games with family and friends. Lynn's daughter, Isabella, graduated from the University of Mississippi in May.*



Letter from  
**THE EDITOR**

It has been an honor to serve as VISIONS Editor this past year and to share a snapshot of the Junior League of Greenville's (JLG) involvement in our wonderful community. This issue features five nonprofits that received grant monies from the JLG. Each organization submitted a grant request, was reviewed by an internal JLG committee, and awarded money based on how their mission aligns with that of the JLG and how they are actively working to improve the Upstate. I am excited to highlight these organizations and encourage you to explore how you can become involved in any that catch your attention.

We also have the opportunity to follow-up on two previous feature articles this issue. The first was the cover story for our summer 2016 magazine. Home Run for Healthy Kids® is the JLG's annual event at Fluor Field where elementary school children from across Greenville County come together to learn about healthy habits. The 2016 event expanded from two to three days with the support of numerous Upstate organizations and countless volunteers.

The second follow-up story is our largest fundraiser, the Nearly New Shop. Featured in the winter 2016 magazine, the Nearly New Shop has undergone significant renovations over the past several months. These upgrades would not have been possible without the sponsors and volunteers who donated time, money and materials. We look forward to welcoming you to our new store.

*Anne-Marie Moehring*

**Anne-Marie Moehring**  
*Editor, 2016 - 2017*  
Junior League of Greenville, Inc.

*Anne-Marie lives in the North Main neighborhood with her husband, Mark. In addition to the Junior League, she is an active member of Downtown Presbyterian Church and Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW). In her free time, Anne-Marie enjoys baking, walking downtown and traveling. She and Mark are looking forward to welcoming their first child this Fall.*



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# MAKING THE CONNECTION

Showing our support by investing in the community.

## Greenville Literacy Association

// By *Jessica Sharp*

Literacy and the ability to read is a foundation for all aspects of life, but is not a skill everyone has mastered. Research indicates that two thirds of students in the United States who cannot read proficiently by the end of fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare. Those who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate high school by age 19 than proficient readers. The Greenville Literacy Association (GLA) aims to decrease the number of adults in Greenville county whose reading level serves as a barrier to employment.

The GLA has served the community of Greenville and surrounding areas for over 50 years. The nonprofit started as a grassroots organization and is currently one of the largest community-based adult literacy programs in South Carolina, as well as one of the most highly developed in the nation. GLA helps adults improve their basic reading and job skills and has a direct and measurable impact on both the education and quality of life for these adults and their families.

Most of the adults working with GLA are unemployed or underemployed. Many are reading on about a 6th grade level. GLA offers programs that help students obtain a GED, learn and improve English skills through English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, and help prepare students for employment. Students attend classes, taught mostly by volunteers, at one of the three GLA locations. GLA



has sixteen paid staff members and approximately three hundred volunteers who serve as the backbone of their programming.

The JLG is pleased to award the Greenville Literacy Association a grant in the amount of \$13,500 to fund the GLA's "Women Investing in Women, Educate, Enrich, Empower - A Pathway to Skilled Employment and Economically Stable Families" Program. The grant will provide for twenty GED exam scholarships, six Greenville Technical College Quick Jobs scholarships and marketing materials for student recognition. The JLG will also give twenty vouchers to the JLG's Nearly New Shop for "Employment Readiness" certification participants so that they can purchase mock interview attire.

The JLG will also supply volunteers to work with GLA's students as tutors and mentors. JLG members will help students develop the soft skills necessary to thrive in today's workplace like teamwork, communication and problem solving.

Elizabeth Roser, JLG member and GLA Program Director, admits that while there are challenges to her work, there are many successes and bright spots. "Some of our volunteers have been with us for over ten years. We have fallen in love with our volunteers." When asked about working with the students, Elizabeth says she loves working with her students and helping them obtain GEDs and achieve their goals.

The JLG is proud to support and partner with such an impactful organization that equips our neighbors with the skills they need to create the lives they want.

## Julie Valentine Center

// By *Hannah Spellmeyer*

While many students are enjoying the fondest years of their life, one in five college women and one in sixteen college men will be sexually assaulted. These students are three times more likely to suffer from depression and four times more likely to contemplate suicide according to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network. Unsurprisingly, they are also likely to abuse drugs and alcohol at drastically higher rates than other students leading to increased dropout rates.

The Julie Valentine Center is partnering with Furman University to launch a new program aimed at changing cultural norms and engaging the college community in both prevention and response to sexual assault. Created in 1974 as a rape crisis center, the Julie Valentine Center's services now include crisis intervention, a rape crisis hotline, victim advocates that accompany women and children during forensic exams, forensic interviews, therapy and more. The hard-working staff is always looking for ways to better serve the Greenville community and is eager to add the Campus Sexual Assault Program as a new branch of advocacy.

The JLG is donated \$14,500 specifically toward a two-day Campus Sexual Assault Conference in 2017 and volunteers toward the 2018 conference where students, faculty, law enforcement and other community advocates can connect and build rapport among resources, debunk common myths about sexual assault and engage in meaningful dialogue about sexual assault on college campuses in the Upstate. Leila, featured on our cover, is one survivor whose story is helping train professionals in our area. The annual conference will complement other outreach efforts like sexual assault prevention and bystander intervention programs for students and quarterly community forums.

This initiative meets two key components of the JLG's Mission, to improve our communities and develop the potential of women. "Educational equity for women and girls requires fair, responsive, full developed campus sexual assault policies, knowledgeable administrators and, ultimately, an end to sexual violence on campuses," according to the American Association of University Women.

To end sexual assault on college campus, the Julie Valentine Center and the JLG support a comprehensive approach that includes all members of our community. "It's on us: Campus and Community Summit on Sexual Assault" took place this year April 5-6. For more information on this conference or how to bring the Campus Sexual Assault Program to your school, please call Jenna Toney at the Julie Valentine Center at 864-331-0560 ext. 251.



## Thrive Upstate

// By *Emily Clever*

Walk into Thrive Upstate's greenhouse and you'll see the little green shoots of budding plants sprouting everywhere, the first signs of fresh life and the harvest to come.

The plantlets will soon be transported to an outdoor vegetable garden where people like Steve\* will work to keep them alive through the summer months, warding off weeds, disease and other crop killers. Then, the crops will be harvested, washed and stored – thanks to a brand-new station and cooling unit recently purchased via a \$12,500 grant from the JLG – before they go to market.

At first glance, this seems like any modest vegetable garden operation. But Steve is severely disabled. In our ablest world, Steve would be an unlikely candidate for most jobs. It's thanks to operations like Thrive Upstate's Generous Garden Disabilities Employment Project that Steve can work for his income. And it's this income that provides independence, which enables people like Steve to, well, thrive.

"When he first came here, he had a real chip on his shoulder," said John Cocciolone, Executive Director of Thrive Upstate. "Our staff was afraid to work with him. But we put him out here in the garden, and he settled right down."

This is the Cinderella story for Thrive Upstate – matching disabled and special needs individuals with jobs that are a good fit for them, jobs that provide the things we all want out of work: fulfillment, income, success.

"We're empowering people to make money and be part of society," Cocciolone said. Thrive Upstate does this through their proprietary PATH model. Developed by the nonprofit in response to needs seen in the community, the PATH model helps determine the level of independence and self-sufficiency each client needs and matches him or her with an appropriate job, keeping clients out of homeless shelters and state centers.

The garden is only one possible path to employment with Thrive Upstate. They also support a golf cart initiative (six carts a day are assembled entirely by Thrive Upstate's disabled and special needs individuals), a document conversion, storing and shredding service, a car washing and detailing service and a janitorial and cleaning service, to name a few.

Last year, Thrive Upstate clients were paid \$682,397 for work performed at work centers and in competitive employment in the community. That's a 565 percent increase since 2012. Partnerships with grant-giving organizations, like the JLG, have been instrumental in the nonprofit's success.

The washing and cooling station purchased with JLG funds makes the garden operation significantly more robust, as Thrive Upstate will now be able to wash, cool and house crops in industrial-grade storage before being sold at retail outlets like the TD Saturday Market in downtown Greenville.

For more information, visit [thriveupstate.org](http://thriveupstate.org).

\*Name changed to protect identity and privacy.



## United Ministries (GAIHN)

// By *Emily Clever*

According to recent studies, one in 30 children are homeless – across the country, yes, but also here in the Greenville community.

In fact, United Ministries Executive Director Tony McDade considers affordable housing the No. 1 problem in the Upstate. Without assistance from organizations like United Ministries, many families will stay homeless. Homelessness impacts every single aspect of life.

United Ministries' motto, "Serve. Empower. Transform.," speaks directly to their end-goal: to ultimately change the lives of the people, adults and children, who end up utilizing their services. The nonprofit does this via a comprehensive and integrated program that includes adult education, crisis assistance and homeless services.

These homeless services include transitional housing, which empowers the heads of homeless households with an opportunity to seek work because their resources aren't constantly drained by the need to find shelter. With the help of the organization, many homeless adults eventually achieve financial stability through a job and classes.

But finding affordable interim housing for homeless families isn't enough. Any house purchased by the organization must be in an area that's both "affordable and safe," McDade said. And that remains United Ministries' biggest challenge.

Earlier this year, the JLG voted to grant United Ministries \$13,000 toward purchasing a new house that will be used as a transitional shelter for homeless families.

United Ministries already has more than 10 other houses that serve this same goal: "We're veterans in this space," McDade said. But with the JLG funds, the nonprofit is looking to purchase a new house in one of the most at-risk areas in the county: Greater Berea.

The money granted by the JLG will be combined with funds from other donors and quadrupled by a matching program from the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority.



And the JLG partnership with United Ministries runs deeper than funds. JLG members have been serving placements with United Ministries for years, and when the new house is purchased, JLG volunteers will be tasked with renovations, from paint jobs and flooring to furnishing.

In partnership with the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (GAIHN), United Ministries shepherded more than 131 families in their journey to find permanent housing during the past three years – 59 in 2016 alone.

"Providing folks with real opportunities to actively participate in Greenville's economy generates far more in earned income than we could possibly distribute in crisis assistance," reads a brochure for United Ministries. With this grant, the JLG has teamed up with United Ministries in one of the greatest missions of all – transforming lives, together.

## SC Children's Theater

// By **Kathryn Freedman**

As you drive down Augusta Road toward the end of the summer, you may notice a change in the backdrop as you enter the West End Historic District. South Carolina Children's Theatre (SCCT), a longtime nonprofit supported by the JLG, is preparing to undergo a major building project in the fall of 2017. This new construction will increase their space and further their Mission to educate and stimulate the minds and imaginations of young people and their families through participation in theatre of the highest quality, year-round education and accessible outreach.

For over 30 years SCCT has entertained and introduced children of all ages to the wonder of performance arts. Whether it is the excellence of their MainStage and 2nd Stage shows, the diversity of their educational classes or the passion they exhibit for their outreach programs, this organization lives and breathes its Mission. The proposed building will incorporate classrooms, office space, lobby area and a new 300-seat theatre. The design ensures SCCT will be able to host more programs in-house versus having to perform in outside venues.

Extreme care has been spent to provide spaces for all to enjoy the many aspects of SCCT, especially those children and adults with disabilities. Through experience, SCCT has found children with special needs benefit from the self-empowering gifts of arts education and planning a theatre space which takes this into account has been a goal of SCCT leadership.

With their focus on education and enhancing the lives of children and their families, SCCT is an ideal partner for the JLG. Through a JLG Developmental Grant application submitted last July, SCCT requested money from the JLG to assist in their Capital Campaign to fund the building project. At the JLG General Membership Meeting held on September 13, 2016, SCCT Executive Director Debbie Bell presented information regarding the new building, and in October, the JLG membership overwhelmingly approved a grant to support the SCCT Capital Campaign in the amount of \$100,000.

The SCCT Capital Campaign has already raised 75% of its fundraising goal and looks to finish the building fundraising by the end of 2017. If you are interested in making a personal or corporate pledge toward the SCCT building project, please contact JLG Member and

SCCT Development Director Mary Ellington at 864-235-2885 or [mary@scchildrenstheatre.org](mailto:mary@scchildrenstheatre.org). SCCT plans to open its new doors to the public within 18 months from the start of construction.

Organizations such as South Carolina Children's Theatre serve as strong partners for the JLG, and we are honored to once again be an early donor in a community project which will change the face of Greenville. Like SCCT, the JLG initiates and participates in programs and partnerships that enhance the physical, emotional and educational well-being of children and their families. The JLG looks forward to this continued collaboration and hopes for a future in which every child has access to the arts.



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# YOUNG WOMEN'S *Writing Contest*

In February the JLG held its 4th annual Young Women's Writing Contest. Female students in grades 6-12 from Greenville County public, private and home schools submitted original essays on "Conflict Resolution."

## *A Peaceful Understanding*

// By *Roann Abdeladl*

February 11th, 2015. I heard the dreaded sound pierce the cool, calm morning; my alarm rang incessantly and after repeatedly smacking the snooze button, I dragged myself out of bed. I picked my phone up and eyes only half open scrolled through social media. Immediately, my phone was filled with news headlines that delivered half-developed, obscure stories. Three students. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Shooting. Muslim. My eyes widened as I clicked on an article and read a developing story about three Muslim students in Chapel Hill, North Carolina who had been brutally shot and killed by their neighbor the night before. The reason: a parking dispute. When I read this, I woke up fully. I knew it was not a parking dispute. It was a hate crime. Shocked, disturbed, and most importantly, exhausted, I trudged to the bathroom to begin what I knew was going to be an emotionally grueling day. I prepared for another day of vague news stories that would call the shooting a parking dispute. News stories that would fail to admit to the palpable Islamophobia that exists in the U.S. today. I was tired of American Muslims being ignored. I was tired of handling tragedies in the Muslim community not just as tragedies, but as political battles as the Muslim community struggled yet again to make the truth heard.

As an American Muslim, this was not the first time I woke up to news like this. Hate crimes against American Muslims had been on the rise. I, like other Muslim women who wear the head covering, or the hijab, have been subject to verbal hate from others who do not understand my faith. Consequently, it can be extremely difficult to stay positive. When I wake up in a positive mood ready to tackle my day, only to face stares and muttered derogatory comments at the coffee shop in the morning, it's hard. When I walk into a room with a smile and am only met with frowns or disgruntled head shakes at my hijab, it's hard. Anti-Muslim sentiment existed before the Chapel

Hill shooting; but, that shooting sparked something inside of me. Maybe I connected with the shooting that occurred just a few hours from my home, or maybe I felt immensely similar to the young victims. Regardless, I knew I had to do something to change the narrative. I needed to show those around me that my hijab and my faith, Islam, meant love and peace. I needed to show the world that I was not exotic, but rather I was exhausted of being victimized, vilified, and stereotyped. But, how?

Like most teenage girls, I love talking (long phone calls, anyone?); as humans, talking to others is a crucial way in which people communicate their innermost ideas, emotions, and complexities. Capitalizing on this idea of "talking" or "dialoguing," I began to form an idea. I realized that once I explained to my peers, teachers, or colleagues why I wore the hijab, what the hijab truly symbolized, and why that was not so different than their own beliefs, people understood. They no longer gave quizzical or judgmental looks, but rather, they gave kind and compassionate looks. All it took was a few simple words, which was something that I frankly found simple, universal, and fun.

In July 2015, I walked up to the microphone at the Islamic Society of Greenville on a Saturday morning and began to shakily read the introduction I had written on the paper. I introduced the first Youth Interfaith of Greenville: an organization that aims to promote inter-religious understanding among high school and college students through dialogue events and community service initiatives. Since the event in July 2015, my organization has grown and changed in a multitude of ways. I have learned how to facilitate dialogue in an engaging manner, how to demonstrate to students that their faiths are incredibly similar, how to show students the beauty of celebrating our differences, instead of ignoring those disparities.

At Youth Interfaith Dialogue events, students of all different religions discuss a series of thought-provoking questions about their faith and receive the opportunity to discuss their religious viewpoints with other students. Not only does society need programs like these to create collaboration instead of opposition, but unfortunately, schools do not facilitate an environment where these conversations are encouraged or welcomed. With this in mind, I structure events where students can talk about, ask, and answer questions from their personal religious perspectives; in this way, the attendees cannot answer incorrectly. Rather, the goal is to realize that through simple conversations, one's viewpoint of someone else can change drastically. To build the connection between students, I organize social lunchtime, break activities, ice breaker games, and fun outings at the Youth Interfaith Dialogue Events. By blending dialogue and ground-breaking conversations with engaging activities that all people enjoy, Youth Interfaith Dialogue Events build a strong, peaceful relationship among students of different religious backgrounds and instill the idea that differences in beliefs are not obstacles but are invitations to conversation and collaboration.

However, I found that dialogue alone was not enough to deliver this crucial message of peace and understanding. Students need experiences that reinforced the ideas they were being taught. So, I added a second component to the Youth Interfaith: community service. By taking the Youth Interfaith students to various community service projects and putting them in situations where they have to collaborate to achieve a common goal, the idea of cooperation despite differences truly plays out in front of the students' eyes. Having to put together a series of lamps at a Habitat for Humanity re-sale store or working together to package food boxes for the local homeless creates hands-on, collaborative experiences that imprints the message of the Youth Interfaith in students' minds. Through the Youth Interfaith, I have worked with over two hundred students in Greenville from a variety of schools, faiths, and backgrounds. I plan to continue expanding my organization to reach more students and am working to build even more bridges among the future generation of this nation.

Eventually, the Chapel Hill Shooting truly unfolded. Three Muslim college students were shot and killed in their home in a hate crime carried out by their neighbor, an openly Islamophobic man. The victims of this shooting, Yusor Abu-Salha, Razan Abu-Salha, and Deah Barakat, were bright, energetic, loving and active members of their community. They inspired a legacy of hope and change, and the Youth Interfaith is living proof of that. I founded the Youth Interfaith to prevent another shooter from killing innocent people because he did not understand their faith. I work harder each and every day to improve my organization to prevent more Muslims in America from being subjected to hate and negativity. I grow continuously to carry what I have learned to better my organization. I form bridge and long-lasting, peaceful relationships among youth to create a community that is better, brighter, and stronger together.



Photo provided by Roann Abdeladl



Photo provided by Roann Abdeladl

Roann is a junior at Greenville Technical Charter High School. She founded an organization called the Youth Interfaith, which promotes inter-religious understanding and cooperation among high school and college students through bi-monthly dialogue events and community service projects. In addition to leading Interfaith initiatives in the community, she also organizes clothing drives for Syrian refugees, leads a youth group at her local mosque and hosts and participates in community service projects through the Students in Action program. She is also passionate about giving youth a voice, which is why she is an active member of her school's Speech and Debate team.

## 2017 Writing Contest Judges

### Amy Ryberg Doyle

Amy Ryberg Doyle is serving her third term in Greenville City Council. She is a wife to Jonathan and mother of four. She works toward making Greenville active and sustainable. She still delivers Meals on Wheels, one of her favorite placements while an Active member of JLG.



### Annie Maertens

Annie Maertens, Director of Accesshealth Greenville County, strategizes and implements healthcare access and social determinant solutions for the uninsured through collaborations with health system and community leaders. Annie has committed her personal life to leadership roles in several local nonprofits, including the JLG, Greenville Chautauqua, Fostering Great Ideas and The Family Effect.



### Gaye Garrison Sprague

Gaye Garrison Sprague is the owner and principal of Sprague & Sprague Consulting Engineers and has been active in organizations for traffic, civil and professional engineers, and has taught under-graduate and graduate civil engineering courses at Clemson. She has also been active in community, organizations serving children and education. Gaye is completing her second four-year term as one of two at-large Greenville City Council members.



### Liz Seman

Liz Seman has lived in Greenville since 1999 and is the Executive Director of Corporate Engagement for Furman University. Her nonprofit career includes leadership roles with the American Red Cross, Hands on Greenville, Meals on Wheels and South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center. Liz is active in the Greenville Professional Women's Forum and Greenville Women Giving and a Board member of the Community Foundation of Greenville. Liz is also a member of the JLG, having twice served on the Board.



Photo courtesy of Deana Browning

## New and Improved

// By *Anne-Marie Moebring*

The Nearly New Shop has an exciting new look. Volunteers and staff spent months planning the much-needed renovations. Then, during April, the store was transformed. New landscaping and signage greet shoppers before they enter the Nearly New Shop. Once inside, energy efficient LED lights highlight the new paint and flooring. Regular shoppers will immediately recognize an updated selection of clothing and housewares, as well as a new sales desk. Amazingly, all renovations were completed within a weekend and a few extra days, allowing the store to close for only a handful of days.

The renovations could not have taken place without the support of JLG volunteers and the Nearly New Shop staff. From moving inventory out of, and then back into, the store to assisting with the updates, volunteers and staff made a huge difference. Laura Sharp and Sarah Henry, the Nearly New Shop Chair and Property Management Chair respectively, worked tirelessly to ensure the renovations stayed on time and within budget.

Jill Schneider and the Schneider Company designed the renovations and donated new LED lighting. Jill, a Sustainer in the JLG, used her decorating skills and eye for design to create the new store. Her expertise helped the project run very smoothly. Two Men and A Truck was the other prominent partner in this renovation project. Owned by Past-President Rebecca Feldman and her husband Bryan, Two Men and A Truck donated one truck for ten days, allowing the Nearly New Shop clothes and merchandise to be stored during renovations.

Thank you to everyone who made these updates possible. We look forward to welcoming you into our Nearly New Shop.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS:

# Anne Ellefson & Minor Shaw

// By *Emily Clever*

Anne Ellefson and Minor Shaw, both Past Presidents of the JLG, are two wildly successful women who have transformed the Upstate. They were recently awarded prestigious distinctions from the University of South Carolina and Clemson University, respectively.

Ellefson, the 2016 recipient of the South Carolina Honors College Distinguished Alumni Award, is a commercial real estate lawyer who was an instrumental leader for the RiverPlace development, the Clemson ONE building and many more. She has served Greenville – personally and professionally – for the past four decades.

Ellefson currently works as the Deputy General Counsel for Academics and Community Affairs for the Greenville Health System.

Shaw, chair of the Daniel-Mickel Foundation, The Duke Endowment, Hollingsworth Funds and Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission, was given the 2016 James F. Barker Ethics In Action Award, granted by Clemson University's Rutland Institute for Ethics Advisory Board.

Shaw has served the Greenville community since 1979, nurturing organizations that range from the South Carolina Children's Theatre to the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.

**Ellefson:**  
Each year, the Distinguished Honors Alumni Award is presented to recognize a SCHC graduate who excels professionally or who has contributed time and effort to the betterment of the Honors College or to society.

**Shaw:**  
Bestowed upon an exceptional individual whose actions exemplify integrity, the James F. Barker EIA award seeks to bring ethics into focus in the best way possible – through real-life application.

**Ellefson:**  
"I like creating something with a huge impact. Like right now, we're working on transforming health-care in the Upstate."

**Shaw:**  
"I believe it is our responsibility to give back to our community and to help everyone have an opportunity to succeed. My parents always taught us to follow the golden rule – to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. That has been an important factor in my desire to give back and help others."



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Photos courtesy of Deana Browning

## A winning game plan

// By Elizabeth-Kelly Pope

In October 2016, the ninth annual Home Run for Healthy Kids® took place at Flour Field. Traditionally a two-day event this year, it was expanded to a three-day event for approximately 2,700 Greenville County 4th graders, a majority from Title One schools. The students received this fun-filled and informative field trip at no cost to them or their schools thanks to the JLG and our generous sponsors. Local businesses and nonprofit organizations provided fun activities and information, as well as great giveaways, and the JLG Members volunteered their time to provide everything else it takes to make the day an unforgettable experience.

Planning for Home Run for Healthy Kids® is a monumental task. While most JLG members enjoy a summer vacation, the Home Run for Healthy Kids® committee is beginning to shape the fall event. Sponsor asks are made to ensure that no costs are passed on to the schools. Since the main focus is on Title One schools, being able to cover the cost of transportation and attendance is a requirement. Support from local businesses, organizations and individuals make this possible. The committee also reaches out to station partners. These organizations provide the children with valuable health and safety information. While the Curriculum Coordinator and Committee Members are working on sponsorships and partners, the Schools Coordinator is making sure schools receive information and invitations for the event. Spaces are filled on a first come, first served basis so schools are eager to get their reservation in each year. The Logistics Coordinator and Co-Coordinator then work with the Committee

to make sure everything is in place to provide the students with a fun-filled day at the park. This requires a lot of meetings and hard work for the committee.

After months of getting all the pieces and plans in place, event week is finally here. Before the busses arrive and students embark on their information journey, there is still a lot to be done. Committee and JLG Members spend hours making sure that all of the tables are set up for the Station Partners around the park, that the giveaway bags and event lanyards are ready, that all safety precautions are in place, and much, much more to ensure the students are provided with the perfect day. These various tasks continue throughout the event, with many members working both early mornings and late nights to get everything just right. And when the last bus rolls out, there is still work to be done. Stations are broken down and boxes put away until the next year. Committee Members take a moment to celebrate their success and then soon begin taking apart every aspect of the event and figuring how to make improvements for an even bigger and better event in the years to come.

GreenvilleHealthSystemChildren'sHospital,PresentingSponsor, and Greenville Drive, Venue Sponsors, are a huge part of making this event possible. A strong Committee and the support of all of Membership, Active, Provisional and Sustainer, make it a success. The event is certainly a great way to see the community and Leaguers of all ages come together to make Greenville a better place.

## AJLI Rising Star Award

JLG past board member Jessica Sharp was one of two recipients of The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) 2017 Rising Star Award. The highest individual member honor award given by AJLI, the AJLI Rising Star Award is designated to recognize new and Active members whose early years as a Junior League member demonstrate significant promise consistent with the Visions and Values of The Junior League's Mission. Jessica was nominated by members of the JLG due to her professional and community leadership, as well as her dedication to the JLG. Sandy Brown, JLG President, says, "Jessica focuses on organizations that develop the potential of women and girls and young professionals... Jessica embodies the Junior League's mission and consistently works to further the mission in our community."

An active participant in numerous organizations, Jessica's impact can be felt throughout the Greenville community. Jessica is a founding member of LeadHER Greenville and the current chair of Pulse's diversity and inclusion committee with the Greenville Chamber, as well as an active member with the JLG. Jessica has dedicated her life



to educating young women and to the advancement of women and minorities.

A graduate of Leadership Greenville's 2015-2016 class and recipient of 2015 Best and Brightest Under 35, Jessica's leadership has been recognized outside of AJLI as well. She was also named an Upstate Black History Maker in 2015. Professionally, Jessica serves at the Interim Diversity Manager at Greenville Health System, is pursuing a Masters in Public Administration and is an active blogger for GenTwenty, a blog for millennial women.

## A SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to The Schneider Company and Two Men and a Truck for their continuous support and efforts during The Nearly New Shop Renovation.



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Big Night Out 2017

# GIVING BACK IS A MATTER OF TIME

Photos courtesy of Chelsey Ashford Photography

Big Night Out, the JLG's black tie gala, was held on February 11, 2017 at the Westin Poinsett Hotel in downtown Greenville. Giving Back is a Matter of Time brought a cast of generous characters to celebrate among whimsical decor and decadent goodies all while raising funds for community programs, project and grants of the JLG. Perhaps the only critique a Mad Hatter might have had is that the gala ended too soon.



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Summer 2017

# SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENTS

// By Caryn Vedane

## SOUP KITCHENS

- Greer Soup Kitchen  
521 E. Poinsett Street, Greer  
[greersoupkitchen.com](http://greersoupkitchen.com)
- Miracle Hill Greenville Rescue Mission, 575 W. Washington Street, Greenville  
[miraclehill.org](http://miraclehill.org)
- Project Host Soup Kitchen  
525 S. Academy Street, Greenville  
[projecthost.org](http://projecthost.org)

## FOOD BANKS

- Loaves & Fishes  
25 Woods Lake Road, Suite 810, Greenville  
[loavesandfishesgreenville.com](http://loavesandfishesgreenville.com)
- Harvest Hope Food Bank  
2818 White Horse Road, Greenville  
[harvesthope.org](http://harvesthope.org)
- Samaritan House  
105 Old Augusta Road, Greenville  
[thesamaritanhous.org](http://thesamaritanhous.org)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Education Zoo Camp  
Greenville Zoo  
**June 5 through August 2**
- Mentor Upstate Ongoing  
[mentorupstate.org](http://mentorupstate.org)

## SPORTING EVENTS

- Superhero 5K  
All proceeds benefit The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club Kroc Center  
**August 12**
- Race to the Rock  
Chimney Rock State Park  
**August 13**

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

- Wells Fargo Red, White, and Blue Festival Downtown Greenville  
**July 4, 2017, 5-10:30 p.m., fireworks at 9:45 p.m.**
- Future Park at the Children's Museum of the Upstate,  
**through September 4th.**
- Curious George: Let's Get Curious! at the Upcountry History Museum,  
**through September 24.**

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- Alchemy Improv Shows  
Coffee Underground  
Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at **7:30 and 9 p.m.**
- Greenbrier Farms' Weekly Porch Series  
Greenbrier Farms, Easley  
**Wednesdays, March 13 to October 25 from 5 to 8 p.m.**
- TD Saturday Market  
Main Street, Greenville  
**Saturdays, May 7 to October 29 from 8 a.m. to noon**
- Piedmont Natural Gas Downtown Alive  
NOMA Square  
**Thursdays, March 16 to August 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.**
- Greenville Heritage FCU Main Street  
Fridays  
NOMA Square  
**Fridays, March 17 to September 29 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.**
- Upstate Shakespeare Festival  
Falls Park  
**Thursdays-Sundays, July 7-31 at 7 p.m.**



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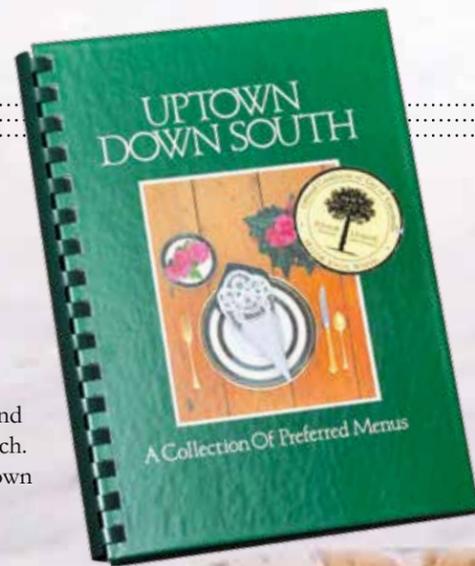


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## Magnificent Mexican

// By *Hannah Spellmeyer*

There are countless reasons to love Mexican food, the least of which are cheese and carbs. It's easy to dress it up with your favorite toppings and makes feeding a crowd a cinch. The recipes here are drawn from the "Fiesta Dinner" menu in The JLG's cookbook "Uptown Down South"



Photos courtesy of Hannah Spellmeyer

### My Favorite Mexican Dip

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups shredded mild cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon chick bouillon granules
- Dash of hot sauce
- 1 4 ounce can chopped green chilies
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped onion

Combine the first 5 ingredients in mixing bowl; beat at medium speed until smooth. Drain chilies. Gently stir in chilies, tomatoes and onions. Put in serving bowl and chill. Serve with taco chips. Yield: 2 cups.



### King Ranch Casserole

- 1 3 pound chicken
- 1 10 ounce can Rotel tomatoes
- 1 onion, dice
- 2 10 3/4 ounce cans cream of chicken soup
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 1 4 ounce can green chilies, chopped
- 1 package soft corn tortillas
- 1/2 pound Longhorn cheese, grated
- 1/2 pound Monterey Jack cheese, grated

Boil chicken; bone and cut into small pieces. (Editor's Note: You may also substitute with rotisserie chicken or chicken breasts.) Add tomatoes and onion to the chicken. Mix soup, sour cream and chilies in a large bowl. Tear tortillas into bite-size pieces; set aside. Combine the cheeses. In 13x9x2 inch baking dish, layer as follows, using 1/2 of each item: chicken mixture, tortillas, soup mixture and cheese. Repeat process with remaining ingredients. Bake at 350 deg for 45 minutes. Serves 8.



### Oven Tostada

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 1 1/2 ounce package taco seasoning mix
- 1 cup water
- 1 16 ounce can refried beans
- 1 8 ounce can crescent dinner rolls
- 3/4 pound medium sharp cheese, grated
- 1 10 ounce bag corn chips, crushed
- Optional: shredded lettuce, diced tomato, diced avocado, sliced ripe olives, hot sauce, sour cream, grated sharp cheese

Brown ground beef with onion and drain. Add taco seasoning, water and refried beans. Press crescent rolls into 7 1/2x11 3/4-inch greased casserole dish forming a crust. Layer crushed corn chips over crust. Pour ground beef mixture on top. Cover with grated cheese. Bake at 350 deg for 25-30 minutes. Cut into squares and serve with condiments of your choice on top. Serves 8.



2016-2017

# JLG YEAR IN REVIEW

// By *Anne-Marie Moebring*

The Junior League of Greenville is proud of our involvement in the community. From partnerships with other local nonprofit organizations to financial contributions and volunteer hours, we are committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of

women and improving the community. Below is a summary of some of our accomplishments and contributions over the previous twelve months.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT



Home Run for Healthy Kids®: Expanded event at Fluor Field to **3 days** to teach **2,700 Greenville County 4th Graders** about healthy eating, exercise and safe habits.

Community Project Research & Development: Granted **\$153,500** to **5 Upstate nonprofits**



A Nearly New You: **Organized fundraisers and events for 7 Upstate organizations** supporting women and children

Junior Volunteers: **Partnered with 1 school, 5 community centers and 4 nonprofits** in Greenville to provide donations and volunteers



Kids in the Kitchen: **Launched pilot program** teaching **10 students** how to prepare healthy meals using a bi-weekly curriculum

Provisional Class: **\$4,000 donation** to the Cancer Survivors' Park



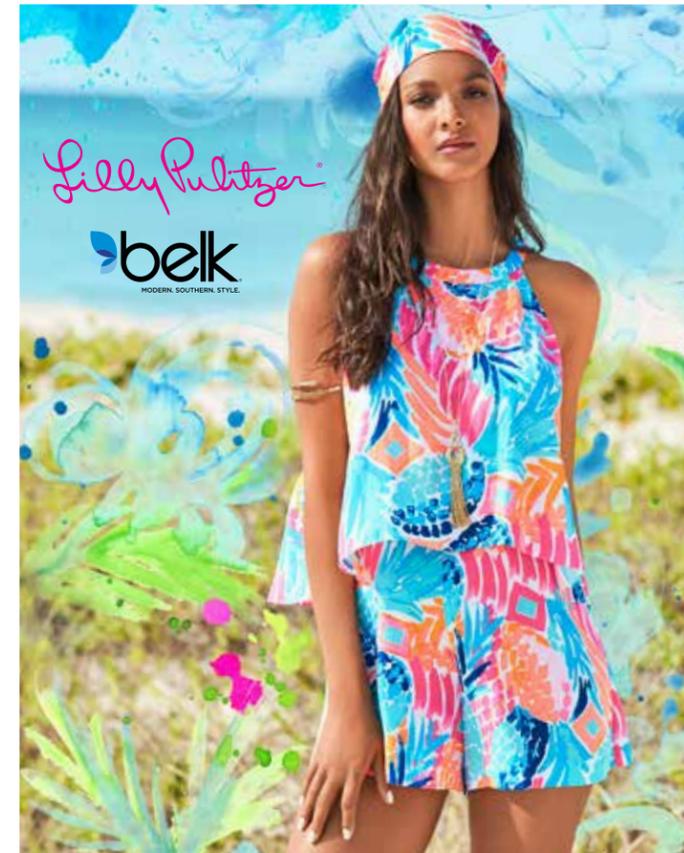
## FUNDRAISING RESULTS



- Cash Sponsorships: **\$38,487**
- Annual Fund: **\$17,135**
- Endowment Fund: **\$1,205**
- Big Night Out: **\$44,720**
- Nearly New Shop: **\$150,000**



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supports the Junior League of Greenville and their efforts to promote voluntarism and the potential of women leaders in our city.



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From new flooring and lighting to new merchandise, The Nearly New Shop has recently been modernized to give you a better shopping experience. Visit the store today to see why we're proud to announce these well-deserved improvements.

We have been in this building for thirteen years and it was time for renovations. The renovations make the Nearly New Shop seem like a brand new store!

**Sandy Brown**

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**12** MEMBERS ARE ORIGINALLY FROM GREENVILLE OR THE UPSTATE

**SMALL DOGS ARE THE PET OF CHOICE**

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## MEMBERS FUN FACTS

- One speaks fluent French
- One traveled to Ireland- alone
- One member fosters dogs
- One is annually in a Mardi Gras parade
- One member is a twin
- One danced onstage with Prince!

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## SOME HOBBIES INCLUDE

GOLF DANCING FOODIE  
 COOKING RUNNING TENNIS  
 GARDENING TRAVELING TRAVELING

## ALL MEMBERS ARE SOUTHEASTERN TRANSFERS FROM

TENNESSEE (1), GEORGIA (4), NORTH CAROLINA (1), SOUTH CAROLINA (9), FLORIDA (2), LOUISIANA (1) AND... A LITTLE FURTHER NORTH DC (1)

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