

the Link

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RALEIGH | DECEMBER 2012



A Shopping SPREE! launches holiday season

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The Bargain Box
gets a fresh look! pg. 22

9/11 survivor inspires
at September General
Membership Meeting pg. 26

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the Link

2012-2013: ISSUE 1

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The Junior League of Raleigh is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

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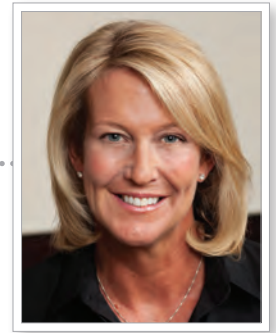
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PAT WILKINS
President



www.tammywingo.com

President's message

What an exciting time to be a part of the Junior League of Raleigh! All our volunteer efforts are in full swing. Our double Provisional class is busting at the seams, the Center for Community Leadership has hosted more than 100 nonprofits, and the Capital Leadership Initiative has more leaders enrolled than ever before. We recently experienced a record-breaking A Shopping SPREE!, have landed new sponsorships for our upcoming N.C. Inaugural Ball and have widely increased public relations and social media for all League events. And, of course, we now have our first issue of *the Link*.

All of these wonderful opportunities enable our members to grow and develop their potential, all part of our goal this year to TRAIN our League volunteers to be COMMUNITY LEADERS; which is vital to our success as a community. In a recent survey, we found that JLR members not only serve in our community placements but have served more than 150 nonprofits in Wake County using the training received at the JLR. This proves the League's effectiveness is based on service and training. Our members are among the most active volunteers in the community, and the League offers exceptional training that allows women to make vital contributions in all facets of their lives: in their jobs, at home and in the community.

You'll read about our impact over and over in this new issue of *the Link*, with stories such as our article highlighting Sustainer Mary Brent Wright, who has joined our Capital Campaign team. She's a perfect example of how the League provides exceptional training opportunities that are valued for a lifetime. I hope you also enjoy reading about our new development director Jill Kuykendall, and finding out what's ahead next month for the Inaugural Ball. One of my favorite stories is about all the changes made earlier this year at the Bargain Box. And I hope you'll spend some time lingering over all the photos from A Shopping SPREE! This year, *the Link* covered SPREE! instead of previewing it. Please let me know what you think.

While the year is almost half over, we have plenty more ahead, including the Inaugural Ball, the Belk Fashion Forward event and hundreds of big and small opportunities for our members to get engaged, get trained and step up as community and League leaders.

My sincere thanks,



The 2012-2013 JLR Board of Directors, from the left: Selene Brent, Lindsay Beth Gunter, Kathryn West, Brooke Schmidt, Pat Wilkins, Whitney von Haarn, Samantha Hatem, Meredith Keyes and Jennifer Gottsegen

GETTING to know you:

2012-2013 JLR Board of Directors

PAT WILKINS, PRESIDENT

What is the most unique vacation you've taken? I took a cruise with 30 family members (two times), ages 11-90. We all snorkeled, went on jungle jeep rides and even zip-lined over the treetops on a canopy tour in Belize.

What is your best piece of advice? "Do all the good you can, by all the means that you can, in all the ways that you can, in all the places that you can, at all the times that you can, to all the people that you can, as long as ever you can." – John Wesley

What has been your favorite placement and why? President! You are able to work alongside so many talented, passionate and motivating members in every League placement. You see how very rich the JLR is with great leaders willing to go to any limit to support, teach and create lasting change.



Jackson (13), Pat, John and Emma (11)
www.tammywingo.com

WHITNEY VON HAAM, PRESIDENT-ELECT

What is the most unique vacation you've taken? I went to the Canary Islands, which are Spanish-owned and 80 miles off the coast of Africa, while I was in high school to help on a science expedition. It was life changing. Traveling that far by myself and not speaking the language of my destination (although I did learn before I went how to ask where the bathrooms were) was truly a growing experience for me.



Adam (2½), Eric, Nyah (5), Whitney and Tamryn (2½)
www.tammywingo.com

WHITNEY CONTINUED

How do you find balance? Balance is a hard one, but I stick to a few basics:

- Time with my children is sacred, and I strive to have a "meaningful moment" every day with each of them.
- My husband and I are big believers in "Team von Haam." We share a commitment to uplifting and supporting each other's lives in every aspect.
 - I work hard, and I play hard.
 - I laugh as often as I can – at myself and the world around me. Life is too short not to enjoy every moment.

What is your best piece of advice? The mantra I've found myself saying now that I have kids: "It may not be perfect, but it's better." I'm amazed how it can relate to so many different aspects of my life.

KATHRYN WEST, COMMUNITY VICE PRESIDENT

What is the most interesting and/or unique thing about you? I love to travel and have been to South America including spending time in the Amazon, Australia including night diving in the Great Barrier Reef, Russia including volunteering in orphanages and lots of other cool places. Love road trips close by, too!

What is the most unique vacation you've taken? I went to England for the Royal Wedding and cheered on Kate and William from the side of the road!

What has been your favorite placement and why? I have loved all of them. Chairing A Shopping SPREE! provided an amazing training experience!



www.tammywingo.com
Kathryn

BROOKE SCHMIDT, FUNDING VICE PRESIDENT

Who do you admire? I definitely admire my parents. My parents are the most influential, admirable, inspiring people in my life. I grew up hearing the importance of giving back, whether it was through a career or otherwise. They always taught me to treat others with honesty and respect, and treat people how you would like to be treated. They have motivated me to think positive, to always have strength, grace and good manners, and to do what I love in life.

What has been your favorite placement and why? I have to say our Bargain Box! It amazes me that our thrift store has been around



www.tammywingo.com
Brooke, Mark, Will Preston (who arrived in October) and Opal (Corgi)

BROOKE CONTINUED

for 61 years and still thrives to this day. I love to talk with different customers and hear their stories. You never have the same experience twice while working there. You never know what hidden treasures you are going to find at the Bargain Box. It's all part of the experience of working at the Bargain Box, and its customers make our store unique. Without the support of the Bargain Box and the funding it provides, the Junior League would not be able to fulfill our mission.

What is the most unique vacation you've taken?

The most recent unique vacation adventure was sailing around the British Virgin Islands with friends. Sailing in the BVIs truly is sailing in paradise: wonderful weather, fair winds, beautiful, clear, warm water, great food and good snorkeling and diving.

SAMANTHA CONTINUED

many cities as you wanted, but you had to keep going west. In 20 days, I went from Raleigh to Los Angeles to Tokyo to Bali to Singapore to Cairo to Istanbul to Zurich to Paris to New York to Raleigh. And I did it all alone. While I knew it would be an adventure of a lifetime and a little scary, I didn't know it would end up being a journey of deep introspection and personal growth.

What is your best piece of advice? Be kind to people, even when they have been not so kind to you (or behind your back).

What has been your favorite placement and why? Hands down, my role this year as C&S VP has been the favorite, in large part because I have been pushed out of my comfort zone on a weekly (and sometimes daily!) basis. The amount of knowledge I have gained so far is stunning and staggering, and the year is only half over! And I've had the opportunity to work with some truly inspiring and talented women!

JENNIFER GOTTSEGEN, TRAINING VICE PRESIDENT



www.tammywingo.com
Adam, Eleanor (3), Jack (3) and Jennifer

What is the most unique vacation you've taken?

I love to travel and have been many wonderful places, but the most unique vacation was one my husband and I took in November to South Africa to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. Right after we were first married, we made a pact that we

would go on safari for our 10th anniversary and we made good on that promise! We spent a week in Kruger National Park on safari and a week in and around Cape Town exploring and relaxing.

How do you find balance? I find balance by trying to be as well-rounded as possible and doing a little bit of everything! My motto is "work hard, play hard." I am the mother of twins, practice law full time, am committed to my service to the community through the League and my church, love spending time with my husband and friends and I try to end every day with a long run or some other type of exercise.

Who do you admire? My grandmother, who is 98, is a strong woman who has dedicated her life to helping others. My grandmother was one of very few women of her generation to go to college. Following her

graduation from college, she and my grandfather served thousands of people in many communities through various outreach programs, including founding a home that has served hundreds of orphaned and at-risk children from broken homes. My grandmother has always emphasized the importance of family, education and helping others.

SELENÉ BRENT, MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

How do you find balance? Finding balance for me is hard. Between family, work, church, JLR and the work I do for other organizations, it is often hard. In the past few years, I have learned the power of the word "NO" and it has helped me to pull my life back in.

What is your best piece of advice?

Listen, listen, listen. When you are in a serious discussion, you always need to step back, take a breath and listen to the other person's point of view. Do not try to formulate your response while the person is talking. You must stop and truly listen to what they are saying because you may be closer to an answer than you think.

What has been your favorite placement and why?

The Triangle Reading Radio was my favorite placement. We no longer have it as a placement. I liked it because of what the TRR did. We would read newspaper articles, novels or any type of print media to the audience who were vision impaired. One of the listeners made special radio receivers that only picked up the TRR frequency. The broadcast also went out over one of the local cable TV networks. But for a 2-3 hour time slot, 365 days a year, volunteers would read over the radio. Note, there was no DJ or engineer there to run the station. Each volunteer had to turn on the power, run the board, etc. It was great. I always said if I ever get the time, I will volunteer at TRR again.



www.tammywingo.com
Selené

SAMANTHA HATEM, COMMUNICATIONS & STRATEGIES VICE PRESIDENT

What is the most unique vacation you've taken?

In 2000, on kind of a whim, I bought a 'round-the-world plane ticket from Delta. The stipulation was that you could hit as



www.tammywingo.com
Samantha, Salma, Kate (almost 2), Greg and George (3½)

**LINDSAY BETH GUNTER,
NOMINATING CAPTAIN**

What is the most unique vacation you've taken?

Last year I toured Normandy, France, with my husband, parents and two brothers. It was my husband's first extended travel experience with my family, so the destination and the company made this a unique experience for me. For five days, we explored the historic towns, admired the beautiful landscapes and absorbed the legacy left by WWII – which offered moments both awe-inspiring and solemn. And for five days, my history-buff husband coped quite well with the close quarters of four in-laws – which offered a good bit of levity after long days in a small car on foreign roads!

How do you find balance? I'm not sure I'm good at finding balance – it's always a work in progress! My career, my community work and my family are all important to me, but they often jostle for my time and energy.

What I've found most helpful is to make sure that, no matter how busy things get, I set aside time for myself to unwind. "Me" time allows me to reset, re-energize and re-engage so I can be more attentive to the things I care about!

What has been your favorite placement and why?

I've enjoyed all of my placements but must say Nominating has been a favorite. It offers a truly unique experience and has given me a new perspective on – as well as greater appreciation of – what it means to be a leader in our League. From slating the Board and identifying potential team leaders to matching members with community boards and overseeing the member award program (and more), I am continuously inspired by the caliber of women with whom we serve in the League and in the community. Moreover, I have the privilege to work alongside eight other women on the Nominating team, all of whom I admire, learn from and hope to see take on new leadership roles in the future.



www.tammywingo.com
Daniel and Lindsay Beth



www.tammywingo.com
Tricia, Jenna (6), Julia (11) and Andy

TRICIA ELLEN, SECRETARY

Who do you admire? I admire my parents – their love for each other has always been there, an unshakeable foundation that they built our family upon. They celebrated 55 years of marriage this year and have been a shining example to me in all aspects of my life. I credit them for helping me to grow into the person I am today. As they worked together to provide for a family of five children, I always felt loved, appreciated and valued. As an adult, I cherish my relationship with them, not only as my parents, but as my friends. My parents taught me the importance of values, faith and honesty. They helped me to make good choices, learn from

my mistakes and take chances. The older I get, the more I realized how lucky I am to be a part of my family and what a privilege it is to have parents like my mom and dad. My hope, as a parent, is to be the best mom I can be to my two girls, now, and as they grow older.

What is your best piece of advice? My best piece of advice falls more into a "words of wisdom" category. While I can't take credit for it myself, I read it somewhere and try to remember it through good times and bad...Each day is a gift. Today will never come again, be a blessing, be a friend, encourage someone, take time to care, let your words heal and not wound.

How do you find balance? I find balance by making time for the things I enjoy most. I like to say my "platter is always full" (notice I use the word platter and not plate!). We are all busy, but I believe we make time for the things that are important to us. Those who know me best, know I am happiest when I am busy. I work hard to keep a balanced life that includes my family, my friends, a part-time job and serving others through volunteer work. And, I also work in some "me time" for cooking, reading and travel.

MEREDITH KEYES, TREASURER

What is the most unique vacation you've taken? The most unique vacation I've taken is the one I'm about to take. In December, I'm traveling to London for four days and then to a private island in the Maldives for a week and back to London for four days. I'm so excited to have a vacation that will be so varied. We will enjoy all the cultural activities and Christmas decorations London has to offer, and then we will

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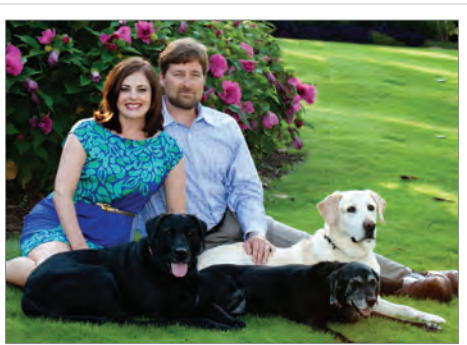
be able to experience some of the best scuba diving in the world with hammerhead sharks, manta rays, whale sharks and lots of pristine corals and sea life! It will be a great ending to a very busy 2012.

What is your best piece of advice?

The best piece of advice I have received was during my first job as a CPA for Ernst & Young, LLP in Atlanta. I always spent so much time deliberating over every decision I made, especially whether to move back to North Carolina and whether I was going to stay with E&Y, LLP. My senior manager told me to not worry so much and be willing to take risks. She said no matter what decision you make, no matter how bad, you can always get back to where you are; it may cost you more time or more money, but you will always be able to get back to where you are now. Since then, I've learned to not stress over seemingly life-changing decisions because I know it will all be okay no matter what I do.

What has been your favorite placement and why?

My favorite placement has been my current position as Treasurer. I think the Treasurer role often gets a bad rap as being a little boring and a lot of dull work. From my experience so far (and



Meredith, Kurt Bland, Stella Blue (Black Labrador), Talon (Black Labrador) and Wilson (Yellow Labrador)

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MEREDITH CONTINUED

this year is not even half way over) nothing about it has been dull! It has been incredibly insightful to work with the staff, other Board members and all of the fundraising teams on the Finance committee. I have a much greater appreciation of how challenging it is and how many decisions go into operating a nonprofit that owns its own building, has so many members and provides so many services to the community. I feel honored to be able to participate in many those decisions this year.

VIRGINIA PARKER, SUSTAINING ADVISOR

What has been your favorite placement and why?

My favorite placement was definitely my year as League President back in 2001-2002. I had a fabulous team of leaders to work with who were visionary, creative and fun, and together, we made some awesome things happen for the League including the beginning of our long-standing partnership with Communities in Schools and Heritage Park.

What is your best piece of advice? Always be true to yourself. Don't compromise your beliefs.



Monty, Hannah (20), Evan (18) and Virginia



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What is the most interesting and/or unique thing about you?

One thing about me that most people don't know is that I have bungeed off of a 140-foot bridge into the Karawau River in Queensland, New Zealand – an exhilarating experience!

**LINDA BROWN DOUGLAS,
SUSTAINING ADVISOR**

What would be your ideal

"Girls' Night Out"? A Broadway show, then a pajama party in a Manhattan hotel with the marquee lights shining through the open window curtains. We would perform lipdubs to old-style music – The Temptations, Luther Vandross, etc. We would eat fair food and finish our "meal" with ice cream and fried Snickers. The next morning we would walk it all off window shopping. Who wants to try on clothing after eating all that stuff?

What is your best piece of advice? Have fun. That's actually stolen advice from a former Junior League President. I agree, and would add "Share the fun with those around you." We work hard and make a

lot of sacrifices. We should enjoy the process and the people around us should enjoy it, as well. As my husband likes to say, "Don't just tell me about the great food you tasted. Bring me a sample."

What has been your favorite place-

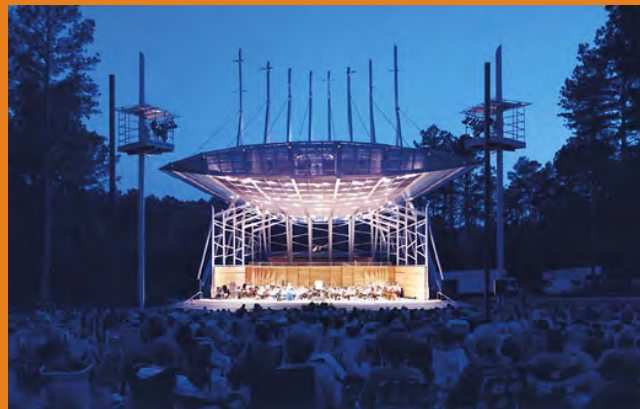
ment and why? I have had lots of favorite Junior League placements so I will just talk about my first placement. It was a community placement at PlaySpace Children's Museum (now part of Marbles). I enjoyed it because we could watch the kids use their imaginations to the fullest. At least one of them always did something worthy of an out-loud laugh. I had just given birth and looked forward to sharing the experience with my own daughter. Later, when I served on the PlaySpace Board, I guess I must have talked about PlaySpace around the house, because on my daughter's 7th birthday, the first thing she said was "May I go back to PlaySpace one more

time?" I asked her why she said that and she responded, "Because you said it stops at seven." So we went back and we cooked food for the pretend Friday's restaurant, doctored patients inside the child-sized ambulance and rang up plastic produce at the busy grocery store. But most of all, we had one more day of memories, all because of my PlaySpace placement.



Linda, Ken and Kendra (19)

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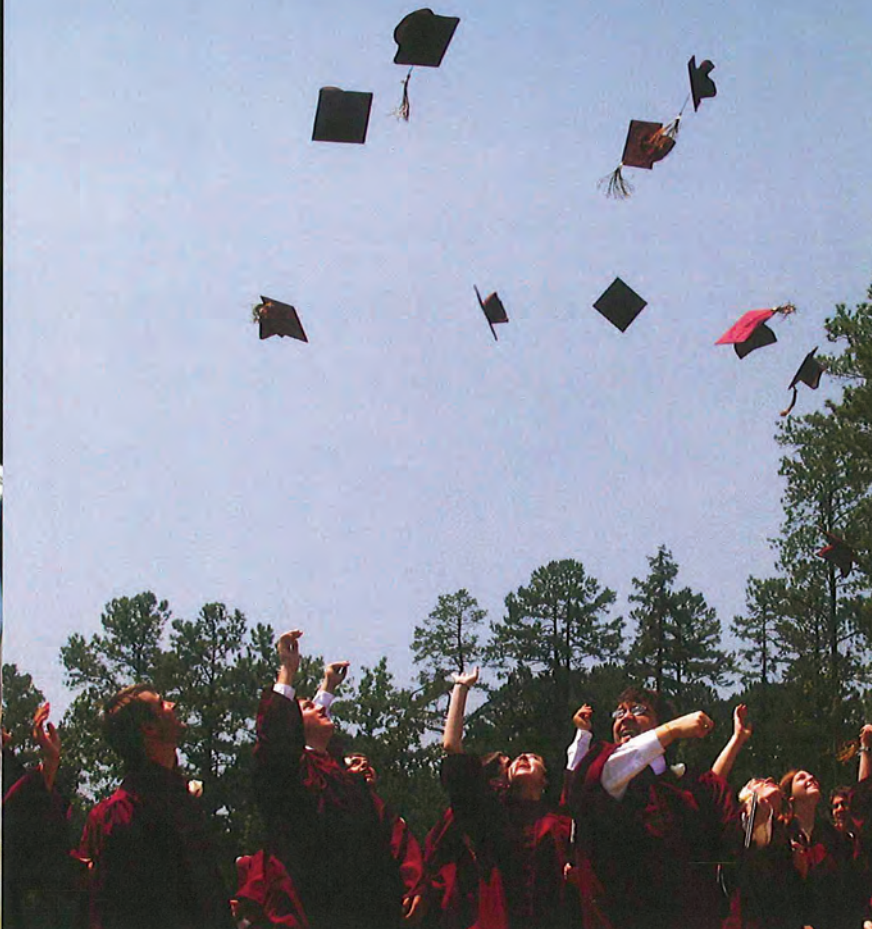
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SPREE!-lights

Highlights from the League's biggest fundraiser

Contributors: Lucy Austin, Cecily Hughes, Sandra Johnson and Averi Linderman

The 28th annual A Shopping SPREE! attracted more than 12,000 shoppers to the Raleigh Convention Center October 24-28, helping to usher in the holiday season in style.

This year's SPREE! featured a record number of exhibitors, with more than 170 vendors from 20 states. There were previous exhibitors, such as Cherchies Specialty Foods, which has sold its food products at SPREE! for more than two decades, and Olly Oxen, a vendor of university clothing and accessories that first came to SPREE! last year. About 30 percent of the exhibitors were new to SPREE!, including Under Wraps, a wrapping paper vendor from Dallas, and Five Points Baking Company, a new company started by a Raleigh resident.

"Shoppers can plan to find something for everyone on their shopping list," SPREE! Co-captain Sarah White shared during a televised interview with ABC11.

Preview Gala started off SPREE! with record attendance as shoppers hoped for a chance at winning stunning jewelry from Bailey's Fine Jewelry, enjoyed the sounds of Rubberband and ate Southern favorites like shrimp and grits. Hosting the Silent Auction in the Café area for the first time allowed Preview Gala attendees to spread out and enjoy the Gala.

"Preview Gala is the culmination of a year's hard work and is the official kickoff of our event to the public," said Special Events Co-chair Alison Perkins. "It is a time to celebrate with our sponsors, exhibitors, League members and the community."

Early Morning Shopping on Thursday morning gave shoppers the opportunity for stroller-free shopping and breakfast to jump-start their day. On Saturday morning, Weekend Wake-Up provided shoppers with coffee and a free tumbler to keep them shopping all day.

Throughout the weekend, the stage at center court hosted a number of performing groups, including the Junior League of Raleigh Chorus, Trinity Academy of Raleigh's Upper and Lower

School Choral Groups, the Meredith College Bathtub Ring and the City Ballet. Next to center court was Carolina Color, a juried art exhibition featuring North Carolina artists. This year's "Small Treasures" theme showcased works of art 20" x 20" or smaller. Works of art were juried by Past President Melissa Peden and Rory Parnell, and more than \$1,000 in prizes were awarded. The League received 40 percent of the sales of the 25 pieces sold at this year's show.

"Carolina Color is important to SPREE! because it sets us apart from other holiday shopping shows," Color Co-chair Rebecca Bue said. "It gives SPREE! that extra special touch, while at the same time offering local and statewide artists a venue to display their work to a large market."

Another feature unique to SPREE! was the Young Entrepreneur Program, a competition for young people starting their own businesses. In the second year of the program, Molly K. Paul, a 9th grader at Saint Mary's School, was awarded a booth at SPREE! to sell her turtle-shaped soaps. Molly is the founder and director of Raleigh Aquatic Turtle Adoption, and proceeds from her sales were divided between Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and Heritage Park Community Nature Learning Center. Molly's booth was so popular, she sold out of her soaps at the show!

In addition to the Young Entrepreneur Program, the League gives back to the community each year by providing Legacy Fund grants to organizations in which the League has had significant involvement through volunteer and financial support. The recipients for 2012-13 are the Boys & Girls Club of Wake County and March of Dimes – Eastern Carolina Division. Each will receive \$7,500 to support their community programs and projects.



Thank you from Brooke Schmidt, Funding VP

Our League has the ability to not only provide highly skilled, trained volunteers to work on programs and projects that positively impact our community, but also to provide funding to help support these same programs and projects. For the past 28 years, the Junior League of Raleigh has greatly impacted our community through A Shopping SPREE! This year, the SPREE! team set aggressive revenue stretch goals and have surpassed those goals. League fundraisers such as SPREE! also function as a platform for your friends, family and the community to understand JLR and what we do. The better informed our community is about the level of support that we provide, the better funded we will be to continue our work. What I hope that members will remember this year and in years to come is that their shopping experience is impacting the lives of youth.

I would like to offer my thanks to you, our members, for your amazing support! A Shopping SPREE! could not happen without the more than 6,500 volunteer hours from our members, as well as your financial support through the purchases of ticket packages, attendance at special events and of course, shopping! Congratulations to the entire SPREE! team for a job extremely well done!



Julie Moore

A Shopping SPREE! 2012 had a record number of exhibitors from all over the country.



Lucy Austin

Master of Ceremonies Tamara Gibbs from ABC11 revs up the crowd. "When I say 'SPREE!', you say 'Shop!,'" Gibbs cheered.



Katie Walker

From left: SPREE! Assistant Co-captain Kristen Hoffman, SPREE! Co-captains Sarah White and Katie Walker and SPREE! Assistant Co-captain Kathleen Brown.



Whitney von Flaam, JLR President-elect

I definitely went to A Shopping SPREE! and did my share of keeping the vendors happy by shopping, shopping, shopping! I went to Preview Gala, Early Morning Shopping on Thursday and then again on Sunday afternoon with my older daughter Nyah. We had a great time. She helped me pick out tons of wrapping paper - enough to wrap all of her birthday and Christmas presents for years to come - and we bought presents for almost all of her cousins and her dad, too. We also had a fun time eating in the You're Invited Back Café; Nyah ate more broccoli than any 5-year-old in history ever has. Loving those salads!



Nancy Johnson and Kat Jackson, Mother and Daughter

Nancy Johnson and her daughter, Kat Jackson, use A Shopping SPREE! as quality time together. Johnson took a day off of work and traveled from Charlotte to spend a day at SPREE!.

"We rushed downtown and were once again swept into the magic—it is like a time warp for us!" Jackson shared.

Johnson noted, "My favorite thing about SPREE! is the chance to get into the holiday cheer while spending time with my daughter."

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Koren Townsend
Active member Kelly Day greets shoppers, handing them their
SPREE! shopping bags.



The Mann Family, Shoppers

McKinley Mann, her mother and former Junior League of Raleigh member Ashley Mann, and two sisters, Grace and Lizzie Mann, have shopped at A Shopping SPREE! for years, making the event part of their yearly family Christmas tradition.

"My sisters, mom and I choose a time to go together to SPREE! each year. We love shopping and the SPREE! gets us in the Christmas spirit," McKinley said.

The Manns visit SPREE! multiple times during the weekend, purchasing their favorite items early into the event. "I like to visit at the beginning of SPREE! to purchase the items I really love and make sure they don't sell out," McKinley said.

Ashley has shopped SPREE for almost 20 years. "With my three daughters, it's a great tradition to develop. We love shopping for unique items at great prices," Ashley said. For many years now, Ashley has gifted pewter from Fabulous Pewterware to her daughters. "Now we each have a collection of pewter ware that will continue to grow every Christmas," Grace said.



Koren Townsend

Dancers from the City Ballet's Nutcracker get ready to perform at center court.



Koren Townsend

Andre Brown, husband of SPREE! Decorations Co-chair Kate Brown, takes advantage of the television and couch provided to shoppers. On Saturday, the television allowed shoppers to keep up with the N.C. State University v. UNC-Chapel Hill football game.



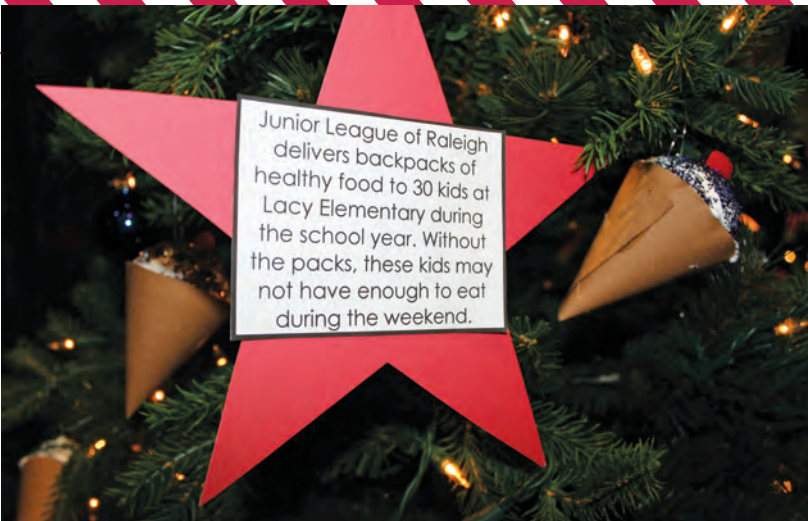
Sandra Johnson,
the Link Assistant Co-editor

I've been in the League for three years, and I've loved every minute of it. Yet, with all the amazing women I've met, it's been hard to create sustained friendships that extend beyond the commonality of League. This year, instead of haphazardly scheduling my SPREE! volunteer hours at the last minute, I took a more purposeful approach and coordinated my volunteer hours with Monique Merriweather-Yarborough, a fellow League member I met at the September General Membership Meeting. Merriweather-Yarborough, Meredith McLaurin and I sold admission tickets while intermittently discussing Halloween costumes, family stresses and joys. It was exciting to fulfill my League responsibilities, while solidifying new friendships.

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Koren Townsend

A message from the Backpack Buddies team decorates one of the Community trees at SPREE!



Koren Townsend

Francis Williams and First-year Active Amy Grady bring their son, Sebastian Williams, to get in some early Christmas shopping.



Lucy Austin

The Junior League of Raleigh Chorus performs at center court, singing favorites such as "Chattanooga Choo Choo."



Koren Townsend

Dr. Angela O. Terry and Daphne Terry, a former Active with the Junior League of Durham, enjoy coffee at Weekend Wakeup.



Annie McQuaid, Member

Since I became a member of the League several years ago, I have always planned my SPREE! shifts with my dear League friend, Cecily Hughes. This year, however, our schedules did not allow for our annual joint SPREE! shift tradition, so we made plans to attend the General Membership Meeting together instead, and I set out on my own, a little unsure of what to expect at SPREE! this year. I didn't have much time to wonder, though, as my shift was quickly filled with helping out vendors with lunch orders, and I don't think I stopped moving the first two hours.

The last hour, I ended up sitting in the Snookie Snookerwitz booth with a fellow JLR member, Rebekah Laney, whom I had not had the chance to spend much time with before. It was great seeing a familiar face, and even nicer to have a chance to get to know each other in between helping shoppers determine which cocoa flavors were best and sampling a few of them ourselves. The hour flew by, and by the time the vendor came back from lunch, I not only had a new favorite gourmet coffee, Snookerdoodle Latte, but a new friend.

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Meet Jill Kuykendall: JLR's new development director

By Lucy Austin, Co-editor

As the Junior League of Raleigh's new development director, Jill Kuykendall is eager to see the League blossom in new, and financially prosperous, ways. And she's already rolling up her sleeves for just that cause.

"I really hope to help build a strong and lasting culture of philanthropy among League members, engaging them in the act of generosity to this League that's given us all so many opportunities to become community leaders," Kuykendall said.

In her new role, Kuykendall's first priority is working to round out the Capital Campaign. She also wants to see the League develop lasting relationships with sponsors and look at sponsorships holistically. She is working to support cross-League sponsorships, where donors such as Belk, Wells Fargo and CenturyLink sponsor multiple fundraising events like A Shopping SPREE! and Inaugural Ball. Kuykendall is also working to help League teams work with each other in building fundraising. For example, the Bargain Box has promoted the "You're Invited Back" cookbook and also created a display window for A Shopping SPREE!

"We have so much talent here in the League that we can build all kinds of promising relationships, within our organization and in the community," Kuykendall said.

Kuykendall has had a long interest in public relations and, subsequently, in development. After receiving her degree in public relations from Appalachian State University, Kuykendall worked for a public relations firm in Boone. After talking with JLR Sustainer Margaret McCoy about fundraising and development, Kuykendall took a position working on a capital campaign for a homeless shelter, which kick-started her interest and experience in development.

Kuykendall says the League's deep-reaching connection to the community—and its legacy of creating community leaders—gives her a challenging, yet exciting, platform to build up development.

"There are so many great members here," Kuykendall said. "And so many programs that help children that otherwise might not have such opportunities."

The development director functions as the overseer for the League's fundraising efforts. She cultivates donor relationships, supports our fundraising event teams and develops grant-writing strategies as part of a comprehensive strategic funding plan. Kuykendall's public relations experience fits in with this charge, as she knows how to create and maintain positive relationships with donors.

League President Pat Wilkins recognizes Kuykendall's desire to get the word out about the JLR. "Hiring Jill as our director of development demonstrates the League's continued commitment to broaden the League's reach in our community, increase our visibility and identify potential partnerships among key supporters," she said. "Her role is critical not only to telling the 80-year story of the JLR and its impact in our community but also to ensure the future growth of our League as a training organization."

Kuykendall wants to apply the training that the League provides to its members to its fundraising efforts. "I was initially attracted to the League because of its work in the community," Kuykendall said. "Now I also know the importance of the League's training of women."

It is that training that she looks forward to using in helping JLR reach its goals in the future.



Jill Kuykendall
Hobbies: Running, biking, travel; Pet: Cody (Brittany Spaniel); Favorite Raleigh restaurant: Poole's Diner; Latest Book: "Time Traveler's Wife"
Koren Townsend

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NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL BALL



INTRODUCTION

The Junior League of Raleigh is proud to host the North Carolina Governor's Inaugural Ball for the 20th time. The League's tradition of planning inaugural festivities began in 1933 and continues to be an enduring legacy that sets our League apart from others across the nation.

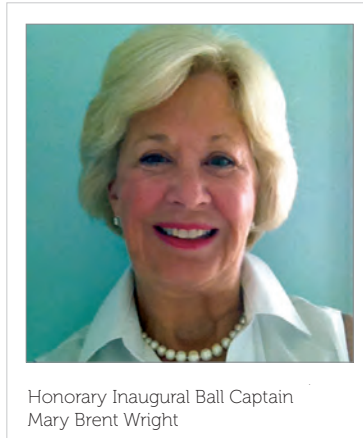
LEADERSHIP

Lisa Marie Ferrell, JLR 2011-2012 President, appointed Active members Shayla Bradshaw, Emily Funderburk and Liza Roney and Sustainer Virginia Yopp as the 2013 Co-captains in January 2011. Each of the Inaugural Ball Co-captains has a long history with the League and brings with them a wealth of community experiences and professional skills to the event.



From left to right: Inaugural Ball Co-captains Emily Funderburk, Shayla Bradshaw, Virginia Yopp and Liza Roney

In May, a new honorary captain position was created for long-time League supporter and Sustainer Mary Brent Wright. She and her husband Bob were asked to serve as the 2013 Honorary Inaugural Ball Captains in honor of their dedicated service and faithful contributions to JLR. Mary Brent joined the League in 1980, served as President during the 1988-1989 League year and completed a two-year term as an AJLI board member from 1990 to 1993. She has worked on seven inaugural balls throughout her League career— serving as Public Relations Captain, President of the



Honorary Inaugural Ball Captain
Mary Brent Wright

League during the 1989 Ball, Co-captain in 2001 and, along with her husband, as a Council of State escort four times!

The 2013 Inaugural Ball team has been hard at work since the spring to make the 2013 Ball a grand success. The Co-captains began meeting in March 2011, and plans really started to come together with the first full team meeting last March. Since then, the team has held several meetings each month to ensure the 2013 ball is one of North Carolina's best celebrated events in the history of our state.

THEME

The Junior League of Raleigh Inaugural Ball committee is proud to announce that the 2013 Ball theme is "The Old North State Forever: Preserving our Past, Discovering our Future." This theme has and will continue to guide plans for the Ball's entertainment, program, food and distinguished guests as we focus on all the great attributes available for display and honor in North Carolina.

The Inaugural Ball team is focused on ensuring that the 2013 Ball celebrates the rich history and promising future of our state. This year, following extensive research and a review of community needs, proceeds from the Inaugural Ball and related events will benefit the JLR's Center for Community Leadership. This center is a training hub, which furthers the League's mission to train community leaders who make vital contributions across the state. The CCL provides training, programs and meeting space and networking opportunities for our members, other nonprofit staff and aspiring business and nonprofit leaders.



2013 Inaugural Ball Committee

VOLUNTEERS

Without League volunteers, the Inaugural Ball would not have been a success for so many years. Since 1933, every four years League members have worked countless hours to host the Inaugural Ball as a fundraiser to support community and statewide programs that benefit both Wake County and North Carolina. An estimated 400 League members worked approximately 21,000 hours for the 2009 Ball.

This year, the Inaugural Ball will need volunteers like you. The Ball averages more than 500 volunteers over the course of two days. League members are encouraged to sign up for an opportunity to be a part of the event. Those who volunteer the night of the Ball will receive a complimentary ticket to attend the event once their shift is complete. Please email any volunteer questions to 2013ibvolunteers@gmail.com.

TICKETS

Volunteering is not the only way to support the 2013 Inaugural Ball. Every four years, the League's members make up some of the most supporting and engaging guests who make the Ball the fun and exciting event it is. Please plan to join in the Ball's festivities during the weekend of January 10-11 in Raleigh. Events include the Council of State Reception, Rock the Ball concert, Governor's Reception, Gala Presentation and Inaugural Ball.

League Members can visit the Inaugural Ball website, www.ncgovernorsball.org, to purchase tickets.

PROCEEDS AND BENEFACTORS

The amount of money raised during each Ball varies depending on factors such as incumbency or changing party control. The 2009 Inaugural Ball honoring first-term Governor Beverly Perdue yielded net proceeds of approximately \$621,000. Historically, a big challenge for an incumbent's Ball is raising the same amount twice in a row. The 2005 Inaugural Ball for Governor Mike Easley's second term raised \$187,485; his first term Ball raised \$694,413.

Since the 1930s, North Carolina's Inaugural Balls have raised money for many worthy organizations serving promising youth, including hospitals and other health agencies, public school programs, community centers and child abuse prevention agencies. Some organizations have been local to Wake County while others have been statewide in scope.

Notable projects include the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake County, North Carolina Smart Start, Communities in Schools of North Carolina, Heritage Park Community Learning Center and Natural Learning Initiatives and SAFEchild, JLR's signature project.

The League used all proceeds from the 1993 Inaugural Ball to establish SAFEchild, the only child-abuse prevention agency in Wake County. Although SAFEchild was financially independent from the League in three years, many League members support SAFEchild today in varying volunteer capacities.

The 2009 Inaugural Ball helped the League make its largest impact to date and reach statewide, with the majority of proceeds supporting the League's gift to the community, the CCL. Proceeds from the 2013 Inaugural Ball will be used to continue to enhance and grow the training programs the CCL offers.



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Council of State Reception

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 6 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

LOCATION: PROGRESS ENERGY CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

FOOD & BEVERAGE: HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES BY VENUE

ENTERTAINMENT: INSTRUMENTAL OR VOCAL GROUP

TICKET PRICE: \$125

ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE: 800 - 1,000

Rock the Ball

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 9 P.M. - MIDNIGHT

LOCATION: LINCOLN THEATRE

FOOD & BEVERAGE: CASH BAR

ENTERTAINMENT: INSTRUMENTAL OR VOCAL GROUP

TICKET PRICE: \$20

ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE: 800

Governor's Reception

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 6 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION: RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER GRAND BALLROOM

FOOD & BEVERAGE: HORS D'OEUVRES BY VENUE

ENTERTAINMENT: SMALL INSTRUMENTAL GROUP

TICKET PRICE: \$150

ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE: 1,000

Gala Presentation

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 8 P.M. - 9 P.M.

LOCATION: RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER EXHIBITION HALL

FOOD & BEVERAGE: PROVIDED BY VENUE

ENTERTAINMENT: VARIOUS INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL

GROUPS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

TICKET PRICE: \$200

ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE: 3,000

Inaugural Ball

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 9 P.M. - MIDNIGHT

LOCATION: RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER

FOOD & BEVERAGE: GUEST CHEFS FOR HORS D'OEUVRES AND DESSERTS

ENTERTAINMENT: BULL CITY SYNDICATE IN MAIN BALLROOM

TICKET PRICE: \$125

ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE: 3,000 - 5,000



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Bargain Box facelift breathes new life into beloved 61-year-old program

By Sandra Johnson, Assistant Co-editor

Tucked beneath the hustle and bustle of Cameron Village, the Bargain Box provides affordable, high-quality, second-hand clothing and household items to the community. This year, the Bargain Box received a facelift, transforming the dimly lit, split-level merchant into a spacious, well-organized store resembling Filene's Basement.

"The remodeled Bargain Box helps the Junior League of Raleigh serve the community by providing a better shopping experience for our customers," said Bargain Box Co-captain Lanier McRee. "The store is brighter, cleaner and just easier to shop in."

New racks and new wall colors were just a few of the changes made during the Bargain Box renovation project. Remodelers converted a rarely used staff conference room into a bright gallery to display housewares. The new room transformed from a jumble of linens and arbitrarily placed knickknacks into a place to purchase décor for a new apartment or serving platters for a party. Books, videos and other audio-visual items are now organized into a section of the store referred to as the Book Nook.

The genesis of the remodeling project began in 2011 with past Bargain Box Co-captains Sarah Ronnenberg and Allison Hajj.

"They were instrumental in getting funding in the budget for this year, and our outstanding sales last year – nearly \$75,000 above budget – certainly helped us make our case," said Bargain Box Co-captain Danielle Shurman.

The Bargain Box team began identifying specific changes in January, collecting contractor bids and negotiating with Cameron Village on the lease. "We were very fortunate to work with MP Contracting; they were amazing, completing all the work in less than two weeks," McRee said.

The revamped floor plan provides shoppers with better bargains. Before the remodeling effort, the store included all designer and mid-to-high end retail clothing brands in prominent area of the store called the VIP area. The VIP area contained gently used and unworn brand name clothing for a price slightly higher than the Bargain Box's general merchandise.

Since the reopening of the Bargain Box, the former-VIP area, rebranded as the Designer area, now includes only exclusive labels—Lily Pulitzer, Brooks Brothers, BCBG and the like, while mid-level retail brands like Gap and Ann Taylor Loft are dispersed throughout the store and sold at regular prices.

"This not only improves the overall quality of our racks but provides better deals to our customers," McRee said.

The Bargain Box generated \$460,000 in sales each year and in a non-Inaugural Ball year provides 31 percent of revenues to the League's operating budget. The Bargain Box also provides \$29,000 in "Bargain Bucks" vouchers to many of Wake County's community organizations.

The Bargain Box is located at 401 Woodburn Road in Raleigh's Cameron Village. You can also find the Bargain Box on Facebook or contact the store via telephone at 919-833-7587.



Koren Townsend
Bargain Box staff member Dana Meredith helps arrange the new housewares section.



Koren Townsend



Koren Townsend
The newly remodeled Bargain Box has updated flooring, new signs and fixtures, and a fresh coat of paint, among other upgrades.

Snapshot: the Bargain Box's Voucher program and the community

By Jessica Kozma Proctor, Co-editor

Nearly \$29,000 sure would buy a mountain of clothing at the Bargain Box. Think thousands of garments: jeans, sweaters, baby clothing, shoes; maybe even a prom gown or new suit for a job interview.

And yes, all those garments are going home, thanks to the Bargain Box's voucher program, to people who otherwise might not have the means to purchase even second-hand items.

For many years, the Bargain Box distributed roughly \$25,000 in vouchers to more than 80 community agencies of all kinds: churches, nonprofits and county and city social services. In turn, agencies distributed vouchers to disadvantaged clients of all ages, who got a chance to spiffy up their wardrobes for just a fraction of what regular retail would cost.

Last year, the Bargain Box's program enjoyed

a growth spurt, distributing more than \$29,000 in vouchers. For Bargain Box Co-captain Lanier McRee, building up the Bargain Box's voucher contribution to community agencies is a goal she hopes isn't too far off.

"We have given out more than \$25,000 annually for many years and are trying to increase our giving through awareness and partnerships," McRee said. "Our long-term goal is to increase giving to \$50,000."

Vouchers also are given in emergency situations, when an unfortunate house fire or natural disaster occurs.

You are important to the Bargain Box and its clients! If you know someone in need, please email BBVouchers@gmail.com and let the League help.



Koren Townsend
Bargain Box employee Charlotte Vall assists a customer.


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The JLR's Bargain Box: a user's guide

By Jessica Kozma Proctor, Co-editor

Feeling some yuletide affection for the refreshed Bargain Box? Use this handy guide to make your contribution to the Junior League of Raleigh's oldest fundraiser—with 61st birthday wishes going its way—successful for the Bargain Box and easy for you.

WHAT'S HOT BEFORE CHRISTMAS? Sweaters and other Christmas apparel: for the merry woman who loves her Christmas-inspired cardigans to the college student looking for a preppy (or perhaps, facetiously festive) ensemble for his fraternity Christmas party, Christmas apparel is among the fastest moving items during the holiday season.

AND RE-GIFTING? Instead of pushing off yet another bath set to that co-worker you think will love anything, give those unwanted—and unopened, by the way—sets to the Bargain Box. Gift sets of all kinds are big Christmas sellers and will probably make a Bargain Box shopper, who chooses the item, happier than the person you initially planned to re-gift the item to.

OTHER CHRISTMAS ITEMS? Platters, bowls and other serving items with a Christmas motif. Tasteful or fun and in good condition is always encouraged.

WHAT'S NOT HOT AT CHRISTMAS? Outdoor decorations get a thumbs down from Bargain Box management. "They are not as popular, take up more space and generally come in lower-quality condition, so they are not a good donation," said Bargain Box assistant manager Nicholas Wendehorst.

WHAT ARE THE BARGAIN BOX'S BEST SELLING ITEMS FOR THE WHOLE YEAR? Bargain Box shoppers delight in finding good quality jewelry, shoes, handbags and other accessories. Good-quality accessories bring in better prices, bringing in more revenue for the League to use to better the community. Designer clothing items are also highly sought after.

HOW ABOUT THE COSTUME JEWELRY I NEVER WEAR ANYMORE? Bejewel a Bargain Box shopper! It's so easy. "We accept jewelry in various conditions, so there is no need to polish your items," Wendehorst said. "We also accept watches, working or not. We have a relationship with a local jeweler who places batteries in them for us."

GIVING IS MORE THAN DONATING, WHAT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING? Volunteering is open to anyone associated with an organization and has service hours to fulfill. Keep in mind, the Bargain Box does require volunteers to come through an organization, be it the League, a school, church or even court-related community service. "We do not discriminate when it comes to good help," Wendehorst said.



Koren Townsend
Bargain Box assistant manager Nicholas Wendehorst laughs with one of the Bargain Box's little shoppers, Brandon Townsend.



Julie Moore



Koren Townsend
Jesse Fowler and Debra Christmas take advantage of the Bargain Box's dressing rooms.



Koren Townsend
Active member Caroline McEvoy helps sort merchandise.

Christmas volunteers needed!

The JLR provides volunteer muscle straightening the store and doing other maintenance. Other volunteers are always welcome, and needed as shopping volume often peaks between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., leaving staff with hefty closing chores during the Christmas season and beyond.

Why should you believe in the League's oldest continual fundraiser?

Believe in fundraising: The Bargain Box brought in more than \$460,000 in revenue last year. The store pumps more than 30 percent into the League's annual budget.

Believe in fashion: Where else can you find the occasional Vera

Wang or Tuleh garment among a landscape of Lilly Pulitzer and other coveted labels? You can at the Bargain Box.

Believe in our JLR legacy: Three generations of women so far have left their mark through the giving of time, dedication and – quite importantly – those donations to the Bargain Box. Expect that legacy to continue for generations to come.

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

The Bargain Box is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Please call 919-833-7587 to schedule a shift.



Koren Townsend



Koren Townsend
Shopper Janet Rice browses the jeans rack.



Koren Townsend
Sales associate Nancy Hight sorts through the racks in preparation for the Bargain Box's grand reopening.



Shoppers enjoy the new "Book Nook."

Koren Townsend

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BEING BLESSED

A 9/11 survivor inspires September GMM attendees

By Averi Linderman and Blair Miller, Staff Writers

League members place the needs of others before their own, be it filling a hungry child's backpack with food or providing horseback riding lessons to children with disabilities. Does that make Junior League of Raleigh members heroes?

John Cerqueira, a Raleigh resident and survivor of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, might say it does.

Cerqueira spoke at the year's first General Membership Meeting, held September 11 at the Gov. Kerr Scott building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. He shared his personal story of his life's transformation from what he called "lucky" to "blessed." Narrowly escaping death as World Trade Center Tower I collapsed while saving another life in the process, Cerqueira struggled as he became a media hero. He says he "was just a 22-year-old guy, doing what 22-year-old guys do," but now others looked up to him. He felt like a fraud, but he began to realize that "we find a greater purpose when we're helping other people."

League President Pat Wilkins told members that "for more than 80 years, the Junior League of Raleigh has been a place where women come together to make Raleigh and Wake County a better place to live." Throughout Cerqueira's message that evening, members were encouraged to find a need and help out.

First-year Active Brittany Wilson Balakrishnan said she was especially inspired by Cerqueira's story and challenge to advocate for the needs of others. "Even when we are personally challenged in a tragedy, it is important to muster extra strength during those times," Balakrishnan said. "Because no matter what your situation is at the time, I guarantee that there is somebody that can benefit from your help."



Koren Townsend
N.C. State University graduate and 9/11 survivor John Cerqueira speaks to League members at the September GMM.



Koren Townsend
Alicia Brown (left) and Jane Ferguson play with the props for the photo booth from Laugh Out Loud Photobooth at the September GMM.



Koren Townsend

Attendees get ready for the September GMM held in the Gov. Kerr Scott building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds.



Koren Townsend

A Shopping SPREE! team member Katie Lennon sells tickets at the September GMM.



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The 2011-2012 Junior League of Raleigh Member Awards were presented at the General Membership Meeting in May at Vaughn Towers at Carter-Finley Stadium.

Darlene Shelton Outstanding First-year Active Award

Recognizing a new member for dedicated service to our League.

Rebekah Laney, *the Link* Advertising Manager



From left: Susan Holbrook, Donnie Holbrook, Rebekah Laney, Michael Laney and Hannah Grace Moose

Legacy Award

Recognizing an Active member for her dedicated service to the League in a fundraising placement.

Kim Keith, Annual Fund Captain



From left: Matt Keith, Cameron Keith, Kim Keith, Owen Keith, Donna Turnage and Bob Turnage

Member of the Year Award

Recognizing an Active member for dedicated service to the League who has gone above-and-beyond the typical parameters of her position, serving as a role model and inspiration for other members.

Natalie Schoeny, Website Coordinator



From left: Nathan Schoeny, Natalie Schoeny, Mary Claire Schoeny and Michael Schoeny

Guardian Award

Recognizing an Active member and her dedicated work within a community placement.

Keri Eddins and Jennifer Straw Olson, Backpack Buddies Co-captains



From left: Jennifer Straw Olson, Riley Olson, Chris Olson, Keri Eddins, Powell Eddins, Hal Eddins and Penny Pharr

Sustainer of the Year Award

Recognizing a Sustaining member for her dedicated work with our League and other volunteer and community organizations.

Jan Floyd



From left: Alex Floyd, Jr. and Jan Floyd

Sustainer Legacy Award

Recognizing a Sustaining member for her exemplary work on a League fundraiser.

Ruth Dobson-Torres



From left: Victor Torres and Ruth Dobson-Torres

Team of the Year

Recognizing a JLR team for exceptional results.

Membership Development Committee

Selene H. Brent, Sandy Bridger and Blair Coppedge, Co-captains



From Left: Cheryl Coppedge, Blair Coppedge, Michie Coppedge, Rodney Hudson, Selene Brent, Holland Hudson, Eunice Hudson, Addison Bridger, Sandy Bridger, Cameron Bridger, Banks Bridger, Rory Bridger, Anthony Buck, Peggy Richards, Melissa Rollman and Debbie Grissom

Foundation Award

Recognizing an Active member and her dedicated work within an in-League placement.

Paula Kukulinski and Paige Treichler,
Team Arrangements Co-captains



From left: Gracie Treichler, Tom Treichler, Paige Treichler, Ava Mae Treichler, Claire Kukulinski, Paula Kukulinski, Payne Kukulinski and Nick Kukulinski

Lifelong Member Award

Recognizing a member with 10 or more years of Active membership who continues to make significant contributions.

Christina Coffey, Center for Community Leadership Co-captain



From left: Bill Coffey, Christina Coffey and Frances Coffey

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Modern, Southern style: Belk and the JLR

By Jessica Kozma Proctor, Co-editor

A long-adored Southeastern retailer reached out and partnered with the Junior League of Raleigh to sponsor several League events and host a highly successful spring fashion show. Major retailer Belk and the League have formed what's newly called a "cross-League sponsorship," weaving their presence—and their support—into the events and financial health of our League.

Contributing nearly \$35,000 to the League this year, Belk's presence can be seen this year at A Shopping SPREE! and at the May General Membership Meeting.

League President Pat Wilkins said a partnership between the League and Belk started gaining momentum after the "Fashion Forward" event held March 25 at the flagship Crabtree Valley Belk.

"The Fashion Forward event launched the idea of us working more closely together," Wilkins said.

At SPREE!, Belk sponsored an early morning shopping event, having trained cosmetic hands on call for spontaneous makeovers.

JLR follows a trend of Southern leagues partnering with Belk. Both the Atlanta and Charlotte leagues already have partnerships with the retailer. Founded in 1888 in Monroe, Belk is still led today by its founding family.

Karen Greager, a Belk regional vice president, says Belk's commitment to its communities is part of its lifelong mission.

"The partnership with the JLR supports Belk's mission of embracing the communities we trade in," Greager said. "Giving back has been part of the Belk culture since our inception 124 years ago."

Greager, formerly of Atlanta, says that her work with the Junior League of Atlanta helped her realize the "value" of Junior Leagues. After forming a partnership with the Atlanta league and then moving to Raleigh, Greager says she was "anxious to frame a new partnership with Pat Wilkins and the JLR."

Jill Kuykendall, the League's development director, says Belk is an ideal partner for the League as it has a long commitment to women's organizations.

"Belk places a high value on training women

to be community leaders," Kuykendall said. "This partnership shows their commitment to our mission as a League. We hope that after this year, we will be able to grow this partnership into a lasting one."

As Belk will now be a visible part of our League events, hopes are that the League-Belk partnership can be a blueprint for future partnerships.

"We hope to move more event sponsors to become more in-depth with the League," Wilkins said. "Instead of sponsoring one event annually, like SPREE! or the Inaugural Ball, we are looking to build a relationship with the organization and provide them with visibility throughout the year."

Greager says the new partnership shows Belk's dedication to seeing the JLR further its mission.

"This year's partnership deepens our commitment to the League by expanding our reach through additional venues," Greager said. "Our partnership is multi-faceted; strong support of the League's mission and a desire to provide engaging events for the membership."



Amy Rogers

At A Shopping SPREE!, Belk set up a booth and did makeovers at an early morning shopping event.



Amy Rogers

2011-2012 JLR President Lisa Marie Ferrell speaks to the crowd at Fashion Forward 2012.



Amy Rogers

Georgia Roney, daughter of JLR Member Liza Roney, walks the runway as a part of Fashion Forward 2012.

The cheese straw still stands as a Southern Christmas - or anytime, anywhere - favorite

By JESSICA KOZMA PROCTOR, CO-EDITOR

We all love cheese straws. Crispy-thin pastry strips with a zing of cayenne pepper and its most important cheddar cheese, these appetizers are often a mandatory part of many a Christmas party menu. Thought to have originated in the 1800s, everyone from the church social to the cocktail party hostess has celebrated this hallmark of reception foods. This Christmas, enjoy a recipe from "You're Invited Back," and delight your office mates, friends and guests to this time honored tradition. A tin of cheese straws makes an easy gift, and this recipe, yielding 12 dozen, can send you well on your way to spreading some tasty Christmas cheer.

CLASSIC SOUTHERN CHEESE STRAWS

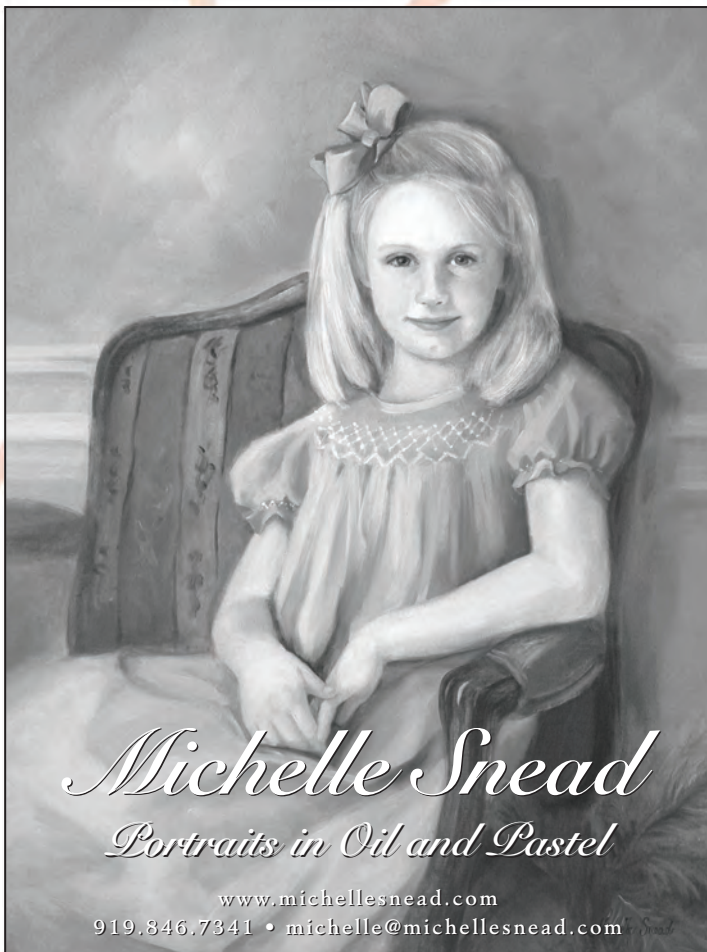
From "You're Invited Back"

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 1/2 pounds cheddar cheese, finely shredded and at room temperature
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Mix the flour, baking powder, salt and cayenne pepper together. Combine the cheese and butter in a mixing bowl and beat until smooth. Add the flour mixture gradually, beating until well mixed after each addition. Spoon into a cookie press fitted with a small star tip.

Press the cheese mixture into long strips on a greased baking sheet. Bake for 13 minutes or until light golden brown; do not over bake. Cut into the desired lengths while hot. Remove to wire racks to cool. Store in an airtight container.

Do not substitute margarine for the butter in this recipe.
{Makes 12 dozen}



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Over 12 years as an Active League Member   

SMALL-TOWN ROOTS WITH BIG CITY DREAMS: THE FIRST A SHOPPING SPREE!

By Cecily Steele Hughes, Assistant Co-editor

In September 1985 inside a cozy room at the modest Mission Valley Inn on Avent Ferry Road, the Junior League of Raleigh opened the doors to its very first A Shopping SPREE!, and with it began a tradition that would grow to become the League's most successful annual fundraising event.

A committee comprised of League members Claire Maddison, Frances Fontaine, Debbie Combs, Leslie Silverstein and Dargan Williams traveled to bazaars and shows throughout the Southeast to investigate what other League's and like organizations did for their shopping fundraisers.

Past President Audrey Black (1985-1986) recalls many challenges the committee faced, including finding adequate space for the event.

"The Mission Valley Inn was one of the few places in town that had space for us, as well as being in a relatively central place," Black said, noting also the economy of creating the first SPREE! "The Inn was not fancy ... but it was affordable."

Thirty-eight vendors were invited to participate in the first SPREE! A preview party kicked off the 1985 event, followed by three packed days of shopping.

With a profit of \$30,000 and roughly 2,300 in attendance, the inaugural SPREE! was quickly deemed a success.

During its initial years, the bulk of SPREE! shoppers were League members themselves, says Past SPREE! Captain Frances Fontaine. So much so that Fontaine says there was concern regarding the show's success in case the event overlapped with the wedding of "someone in a very prominent family in Raleigh."

In the "Missprints Miniprints" (a predecessor to today's *the Link*), committee member Dargan Williams wrote that League volunteers made a healthy impact at the first show.

"The Exhibitors were pleased with our first-time show. They felt their sales were very good and- most importantly- uniformly sang the praises of our enthusiastic, helpful League volunteers," Williams wrote.

Despite its success, some members had concern over SPREE! eating up too many community placements.

"There was some concern that we were taking members out of community placements and using them for 'in-League' placements," Black recalls.

But after deciding to review the event after three years, SPREE! found its way to a permanent spot on the League's yearly calendar.

And three years from its beginning, SPREE! found a new home at Ravenscroft School. The late-1980s SPREE! events gave shoppers three days of shopping almost 60 vendors, all for a meager \$3.50 ticket. The late-1980s SPREE! events also opened themselves up to its first large sponsors, with Harris Teeter as the first SPREE! co-sponsor, as well as special events and celebrity appearances.

These small but sturdy roots gave SPREE! the foundation to grow into the League's most successful fundraising event. And for the League, the shoppers and the many businesses that join us each year for SPREE! an opportunity to be a part of a story we all can be proud of, one that's far from over.



JLR Archives
Paintings from local Junior League artists adorn the entrance hall to Ravenscroft at SPREE! 1996.



JLR Archives
Shoppers get in some early Christmas shopping at SPREE! 1996.



JLR Archives
Shoppers enjoy the many booths and the You're Invited Café at A Shopping SPREE! at the turn of the century.

NEW SUSTAINER ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKS YOUR INPUT

There is value in being in the Junior League of Raleigh, even if your Active years are behind you.

In an effort to appeal to the spectrum of women who make up the League's Sustainers, the Sustainer Advisory Committee has been created. This committee is made up of women ranging from recent Sustainers with less than a year to seasoned Sustainers with 10 or more years of experience. Committee members hope that upcoming events this year will appeal to the wide variety of women who make up this diverse group.

Social events and learning opportunities with special tours of our great local museums are part of the many events planned for Sustainers this year. Have you always wanted to check out First Friday in our dynamic downtown? Now is your chance!

"We want you to be a lifelong member of the League," Sustainer Captain Caroline Russell said.

If you have ideas you would like to share about what makes being a Sustainer worthwhile to you, please contact Russell at carolinerussell@bellsouth.net.

2012-2013 SUSTAINER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Sustainer Captain

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MARY BRENT WRIGHT: A GENUINE JLR STAR

By Dorothea Bitler, Guest Writer



From Left: Lilly, Mary Brent, Bob, Caison, McCallum and Robert

The meeting was starting, and Mary Brent Wright, glasses perched atop her head, was all set to help on one of her many philanthropic interests. It is 10 a.m., but Wright is coiffed, smartly attired and ready to go on what promises to be another one of her full-agenda days.

A member of the Junior League of Raleigh for more than 32 years, Wright's contributions and impact on our League are numerous and ongoing. From Public Affairs Captain, Projects Captain and "Missprints" Editor to League President and AJLI positions, Wright has been interested and engaged. She has also captained an Inaugural Ball, and she and her husband, Bob Wright, are Honorary Captains for the 2013 Ball.

Wright, who has been a JLR Sustaining member for more than 20 years, is a vivid example of how our organization provides exceptional training opportuni-

ties that are valued for a lifetime. For example, she recalls going to Washington, D.C., to testify on childcare issues while serving on JLR's Public Affairs Committee. She also remembers chairing an Annual Conference in St. Louis which brought together more than 1,200 delegates from Junior Leagues around the world. What fabulous experiences she has had to the pride of our League.

After marrying Bob Wright on October 11, 1969, they were on the go the next week moving to Hawaii. After finishing studies she began at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill through coursework at the University of Hawaii, Wright taught school in Hawaii, where she walked to work. From 1972-1974, the Wrights were back in Chapel Hill, after which they came to Raleigh and Wright taught at Hale School until 1980.

Her move into the JLR Presidency came from her willingness to serve. The President-elect needed to relocate from

Raleigh before taking her term. Wright was asked to assume this position and agreed. During 1988-1989, her Board and our members enjoyed her leadership and she juggled two young sons who were excited at the amount of pizza they were allowed for dinner that year.

Her bright smile, shining blonde hair, welcoming demeanor and keen organizational and leadership skills have made her a friend to countless people and a mentor to many. She is a visionary – as can be seen by her excitement at the chance to share the significant dollars raised at one Inaugural Ball.

"It was some of the first 'big' money raised through a Ball and we had a chance to make such an impact with those dollars," she said. She remembers having seed money for the Girls' Club, the Parent Teacher Research Center Project, Wake Teen Medical Services and Project Enlightenment, a collection of strong, enduring organizations and just a handful of examples of the many ways our League impacts our community.

Wright has a quick sense of humor, evidenced by her warm and frequent smiles. She recalls a phone call she received after Election Day in 1988, the year she was JLR President. "I was sitting at my desk at Headquarters and answered the phone," she said. "It was Coach Jim Valvano telling me that he didn't care who it was but they weren't going to dance on his basketball court in high heels." The plans that year were to hold the Ball in Reynolds Coliseum but Coach Valvano said "No."

"We had to shuffle around and moved it to the Civic Center. And it was just beautiful there," she says.

Wright joined JLR during the days that groups met at the Peden Guest House on Williamson Drive. She was part of the first fundraising efforts to buy the property on Barrett Drive that served as JLR's headquarters for more than 25 years. And she is presently on the Capital Campaign team for our new Center for Community Leadership because she understands why this new property is so important to the League and to our neighbors.

"The League needed a new headquarters," she said. "And this community needed space for nonprofits to meet."

She compliments the recent League leaders for realizing that we would be able to provide a service to the non-profit community with our new CCL. When asked what advice she has for our Active members, Wright says, "Support the mission of the organization. The building is our priority – having it is a plus for community groups to find a place to gather. If you are an Active, you are using our building and it needs your support in promoting our Center and financially participating as you are able."

Bob and Mary Brent Wright made a significant, early contribution to the Capital Campaign for the CCL. Their gift included naming rights for the Inaugural Ball Room. "We chose the Inaugural Ball Room because it is one of the fun things that we've done together," she said. "I couldn't have done the things I have with the League without Bob's support and understanding."

The two have been married for 43 years. They met on a blind date while Bob Wright was at N.C. State University and Mary Brent Wright was at Peace College.

And they've been a complementary pair over the years, as they've raised their family, welcomed wives and grandchildren and continued to identify community projects that called to them. The two have been involved in many causes, among them White Memorial Presbyterian

Church, StepUP Ministries, Ravenscroft School and the N. C. Museum of History Associates.

League Sustainer and Past President Jennie Hayman, a longtime friend of Wright's and someone who has worked on many projects with her, describes her friend's love for the League. "There is no other organization that [Wright] loves like the Junior League," Hayman says. "She believes wholeheartedly in the mission and treasures her lifelong friends from the League. The Junior League of Raleigh is where her heart is and that has been an inspiration to all of us who have worked with her."

Hayman recalls the year Wright was President of the League, and there were three fundraisers in about six weeks – A Shopping SPREE! the Belk Gala and the Inaugural Ball. "As you might imagine, all were extremely successful," she said.

A favorite pastime these days for Wright is the chance to spend time with her grandchildren. Son, Rob, and wife Parker (who is a League Active) have two sons, Robert (5) and Caison (3). They expect a third child soon. Son, Brent, and his wife Wendy have two children, McCallum (8) and Lilly (6).

With a smile, Wright talks about the attraction of now being a Sustaining member. "Being a Sustainer, you are able to expand your focus," she said. "You have all the things you enjoyed as an Active but you can choose among those things – or find some new ones – and be involved with your League friends."



2012-2013 JLR SUSTAINER EVENTS

December 18
Sustainer Holiday Tea at the home of Annette Anderson

February 12
Lunch n' Learn at the N.C. Museum of Natural Science's Titanic Exhibit

March 1
First Friday Art Walk for Sustainers

April 9
Lunch 'n Learn at the N.C. Museum of Art

May 4
Couples Sustainer Cinco de Mayo party at the home of Marla Turlington

20 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RALIEGH

You probably already know that the Junior League of Raleigh has 1,900 members, is the 9th largest League of nearly 300 Junior Leagues, donates 60,000 volunteer hours per year, and has 32 community advisors, 12 community teams, 40 total teams, 10 board members and two Sustaining Advisors and 110 members on Council. **But you may not know the following 20 things about the League.**

JLR founded SAFEchild in 1992 as a child abuse prevention agency, and today SAFEchild serves 900 families annually through its parenting classes, new mom mentoring and the SAFEchild Advocacy Center, as well as 6,800 1st and 2nd graders through Funny Tummy Feelings.

Provisionals coordinate, plan and facilitate nine community projects each year.

Every year, the Nominating team places more than a dozen women on community boards of directors.

More than 30 agencies have used the Center for Community Leadership in the past six months.

The Bargain Box offers a summer-intensive placement as well as a regular placement.

The Bargain Box partners with merchandising students to create displays and provide experience in retail.

More than 116 professional women have completed the JLR's Capital Leadership Initiative.

Inaugural Ball proceeds have been used to start SAFEchild, open the Brentwood Boys & Girls Club, create the Victorian Garden at the North Carolina Governor's Mansion, open the Project Enlightenment Parent Resource Center, renovate the Mordecai House, create the "Children in Grief" program for Hospice of North Carolina and form a partnership with Communities in Schools, to name a few.

Taking Care of Members completes up to 200 member requests each year. Although there is a team budget, most requests are paid for out of pocket by the TCOM member personally, just because they care!

Chorus, numbering 38 Actives and Sustainers (and growing!) performs more than 30 times per year, visiting nursing homes, retirement villages, adult daycare centers and community agencies such as StepUP and the Rotary Club.

The Bargain Box supports more than 80 community agencies with Bargain Bucks and gave \$29,000 in vouchers last year.

The Inaugural Ball Gala Presentation will be available to people worldwide via an Internet live feed.

JLR has hosted the North Carolina Inaugural Ball 20 times beginning in 1933 and is the only Junior League to do so.

Since its inception in 2004, Community Funding has recognized Wake County nonprofits with \$120,000 in support from the Legacy Fund Awards.

The Inaugural Ball will use more than 500 volunteers who will work more than 21,000 hours!

The Bargain Box contributes more than 30 percent of JLR revenues in a typical League year.

In just the first half of the year, two dozen team members from Quick Impact put in 138 hours serving 17 community agencies.

Community Connect organizes trainings for more than 200 community agencies and puts on six different trainings per year.

Team Training presents more than 30 separate sessions on leadership and growing to League members each year!

Kids on the Block has nine members who give eight performances in a season. Puppets are a similar construction/make to the Muppets and cost \$800 each.

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5-8 Group Tours	8:30 -9:30am February 6

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