



LEAFLET

A Publication of the Junior League of Raleigh | Winter 2016



inside this issue

**STRENGTHENING
FAMILIES & PROTECTING
CHILDREN:** A Partnership
of SAFEchild and the Junior
League of Raleigh

**WELCOME TO THE
JULIA JONES DANIELS
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP**

on the cover

Each week during the school year, the Junior League of Raleigh (JLR) is making a difference in the lives of 100 children from food-insecure homes at two Wake County elementary schools. Through our Backpack Buddies program, these children are getting their nutritional needs met and are better prepared to learn and grow thanks to the healthy weekend meals and snacks provided by the Junior League.

We are thrilled to announce that the Riddick Insurance Group is the fresh fruit sponsor for the JLR Backpack Buddies Program this school year! Through their generous donation each of the 100 children we serve each week will receive two pieces of fresh fruit in their bag in addition to 6 meals and 2 snacks.

Mike Riddick explained why the Riddick Insurance Group was proud to sponsor this program, "As parents we understand the vital role nutrition plays in the development of children. We are thrilled the Junior League of Raleigh participates in Backpack Buddies, and we are honored to help provide fresh fruit to the students at Hunter and Lacy Elementary." Through corporate and personal sponsorships like this, the JLR Backpack Buddies program is able to continue feeding local children in our community over the weekend.

To learn more about the program, become a sponsor or to donate food or funds, please email backpack@jlraleigh.org.



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & PROTECTING CHILDREN: A PARTNERSHIP OF SAFECHILD AND THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RALEIGH

In 1992, visionaries in the Junior League of Raleigh identified a missing piece in the human service offerings available in Wake County, and the membership voted to create a child abuse prevention agency, naming it SAFEchild—Stop Abuse For Every Child. This move reflected the League’s public position statement that “every child has the right to mature in an environment free from physical abuse and emotional neglect.”

The vision of SAFEchild has grown since its inception. Three years after it began, it became an independent agency through a combined effort of the League, Wake County Social Services and dozens of other public and private agencies in Wake County. Today, SAFEchild meets a critical need in the community by helping more than 900 families annually through parenting programs and the SAFEchild Advocacy Center. Additionally, nearly 7,000 first-graders are served through the Funny Tummy Feelings program each year.

Right: Chancy and Keith Capp.
Below: SAFEchild staff at the 2015 Luncheon; Apex Police supports SAFEchild; JLR leaders attend this year’s luncheon; SAFEchild Young Ambassadors at Kick-off.

Photos provided by SAFEchild.



“Creating the organization and Child Advocacy Center was a huge leap, and SAFEchild could never have taken it without a legacy of support from the League,” said Chancy Kapp, League member and this year’s SAFEchild Campaign Honorary Chair along with her husband, Keith. “As a community, we don’t like to deal with negative things like child abuse and neglect, but I think SAFEchild owns the answer.”

The League’s continued support of the agency has included more than \$1 million in funding and a lead gift of \$260,000 to kick off the SAFEchild Comes Home campaign. League volunteers also continue to be actively involved in SAFEchild programs and have spent more than 15,000 volunteer hours mentoring new mothers, providing abuse prevention training in the Funny Tummy Feelings program and caring for children while their parents participate in SAFEchild family building programs.

“SAFEchild’s important work in our community is possible because of the ongoing commitment of the Junior League of Raleigh and other civic and religious groups, volunteers and donors who provide the resources needed to help protect children and eliminate the tragedy of child abuse,” says Cristin DeRonja, Executive Director of SAFEchild. “We are extremely grateful for the commitment and vision of the members of the Junior League of Raleigh like Chancy Kapp for dedicating their time, talent and financial investment to help the children and families of Wake County.”

In May 2015, DeRonja became only the second executive director of SAFEchild, following the retirement of Marjorie Menestres. DeRonja began her work with SAFEchild in 2004 as a counseling intern and group facilitator mentoring new mothers in the Welcome Baby program. Over the years, she has worked with various programs and initiatives, developing and leading training workshops, launching SAFEchild’s Circle of Parents program and serving as director of the Advocacy Center.

With DeRonja’s recent appointment to the Executive Director role, *the Leaflet’s* Assistant Editor Karen Scott asked her to reflect on her experience with SAFEchild.



You've worked in so many different areas of SAFEchild; how has this prepared you for your new role as Executive Director? My diverse and multiple roles through the years at SAFEchild have cultivated a rich and deep sense of empathy for all of our staff. My SAFEchild background helps me feel connected to our staff, enables me to better relate to what they experience and helps me anticipate plans for the future. When our staff needs support it is often much easier for me to visualize and feel their perspective because I have walked their paths and, as a result, I am better situated to formulate more specific, customized solutions.

What have you learned from Marjorie that will help you? I could write an entire dissertation about what I have learned from Marjorie! If I had to select the most important thing I learned from Marjorie, it would be the essential trait of being a "Come Back Kid." It is easy to sail through the day when things are going well, but when a grant request is denied, a donor becomes fatigued, a staff or board member unexpectedly departs or the roof leaks it is tempting to feel defeated and discouraged. Wake County children, however, do not have time for me to wallow in self-pity or be consumed with "woe is me" thoughts. Wake County children need, expect and deserve every ounce of persistence that Marjorie dedicated to them and that I will continue to dedicate towards eliminating child abuse and protecting our community's children.

Do you have any major changes coming for SAFEchild or any future goals you want to achieve? SAFEchild is a solid, resilient organization with a mission as true today as it was when first created in 1992. I aspire to continue fulfilling SAFEchild's mission for a county that is more than double the size when SAFEchild was first established, which elicits questions about SAFEchild's capacity. Are SAFEchild's programs what they need to be now in 2015 and in the future with a growth rate that is only expected to increase? My goal is to answer this question and further develop SAFEchild according to these answers.

Lastly, for those who want to volunteer to help, what areas of SAFEchild are the most at need for volunteers currently? SAFEchild's most pressing current needs are for Children's Group Facilitators, Funny Tummy Feelings presenters or Welcome Baby mentors. Volunteer opportunities and applications are available at safechildnc.org. [JLR](#)

#JLRIMPACT

The Junior League has established a strong presence in Wake County. Our efforts have been woven into the fabric of our community over the past 86 years. We are proud of what we can accomplish when we work together; we look forward to working with you in the future. Many youth programs and initiatives across Wake County are supported by Inaugural Ball, SPREE! and other League initiatives combined with the generous support of community agencies, local business and our members and their families.

BARGAIN BOX

Established 65 years ago, Bargain Box remains an integral element of our community outreach by providing gently used clothing, accessories and housewares to the community at reduced prices. Bargain Box Co-captain Sarah Jacks is proud that the store sustains "collaborative partnerships with more than 70 human services agencies, giving tens of thousands of vouchers to these and other local nonprofits annually." Jacks says, "Bringing multiple organizations together and jointly leveraging their specialties holistically achieves the needs of our community." Stop by our 401 Woodburn Avenue location in Cameron Village to shop or donate next time you're out and about!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

The Junior League of Raleigh has been involved in Boys & Girls Clubs in Raleigh since the 1960s. Most recently, JLR provided funds to build the Brentwood Club, which opened in 2006. Our volunteers in service to the community enjoy the time they invest in this lively community agency.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

The Heritage Park Community Learning Center was put in place at this downtown Raleigh residential community with support from our League. We are proud to still support the center with volunteers that engage the neighborhood children and support them in their educational journey.



Julia Jones Daniels (center), with JLR President Kathryn West (right) and members of the 2015-2016 Junior League of Raleigh Board of Directors.

JULIA JONES DANIELS CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

On November 11, the Center for Community Leadership (CCL), Headquarters of the Junior League of Raleigh, was formally dedicated to Julia Jones Daniels. Now serving as a Sustainer, Julia Jones Daniels has been a model of leadership and service in the League for more than 58 years. League members, friends and community leaders joined in celebrating and honoring Julia during the dedication ceremony.

“Julia Daniels embodies the mission of the League which is to train women to improve their community as volunteers,” stated Jennie Hayman, Past President of the League and current Sustainer Adviser. “Julia has been an incredible example to all of us for many years. It is very fitting that we now name this building for her.”

During her time as an active member of the League, Julia served locally as the League President from 1969-1970 and nationally as the Association of Junior Leagues of America (AJLA) Nominating Chairman from 1971-1973, helping the AJLA identify and nominate trained leaders. During her presidency, Julia led the growing League to relocate into new headquarters and to hire our first paid staff member in an effort to advance League operations.

Today, the Julia Jones Daniels Center for Community Leadership is a community training facility as well as a location where women come together to learn and grow—a place where nonprofit partners receive training and where local businesses and groups collaborate.

As Kathryn West, current League President, remarked, it is a facility for “developing the potential of others; building better teams to serve and improve our community; and establishing networks, mentors and friends. These are all priorities that Julia Jones Daniels has embodied and inspired.” **JLR**

Discover the Julia Jones Daniels Center for Community Leadership



711 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27603



Convenient Downtown Raleigh
Location with Ample Parking
Multiple Meeting Rooms, Large & Small
Free Wireless Access & Integrated A/V
Work Room Space and Catering Kitchen
Professional Boardroom Suite
On-Site Security

jlraleigh.org | 919-787-7480





Amid pops of pink and green and holiday decorations, nearly 12,000 Triangle shoppers strolled along black carpets with bright green tote bags tucked under their arms, taking in the sights and sounds of the 182 exhibitors lining the floor of the Raleigh Convention Center. A Shopping SPREE!, the Junior League of Raleigh's four-day annual shopping event fundraiser, ushered in the holiday season with a spotlight on community.

This year marked the first time in event history that businesses with storefronts in Wake County were allowed to exhibit at SPREE!. Aiming to strengthen ties with local businesses, the Junior League of Raleigh was excited to welcome 42 local exhibitors to feature their wares on the shopping floor this year.

Long-time community sponsors such as Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Belk, First Citizens Bank, and WakeMed help make SPREE! a success with their generous support. As the League's signature fundraising event, proceeds from SPREE! fund the Junior League of Raleigh's annual Legacy Fund awards and other community projects that reinforce the League's focus on promising youth. In 2015, Legacy Fund grants of \$5,000 were presented to The Diaper Train, Kidznotes and CORRAL Riding Academy.

The Diaper Train improves the lives of babies and toddlers by providing diapers to low-income families. Run by volunteers and serving 1,000 children each month, it is the only diaper bank in Wake County. The Diaper Train partners with the Department of Human Services, SAFEchild, StepUp Ministry and other agencies to identify families in need.

Kidznotes employs the power of music education to positively impact the lives of children living below the poverty line in Southeast Raleigh. The organization provides orchestral instruments and accompanying lessons. Children learn discipline, teamwork and leadership to increase musical proficiency, academic performance and personal/social development.

CORRAL Riding Academy pairs rescued horses with at-risk girls between the ages of 11 and 17. A majority of the girls have been victims of violence, and many have been affiliated with gangs or the court system. Through CORRAL, the girls have access to academic tutoring, psychotherapy, vocational training, mentorship and social education. **JLR**



Header: SPREE! Team at our annual Preview Gala. **Right, from top down:** Karmia Lewis and Katie Lennon enjoying Gala with friends and family. Kidznotes Executive Director Katie Wyatt with Charity Van Horn. JLR President Kathryn West with Joy Currey, President of CORRAL Riding Academy. Allene Adams and Cameron Ellerbe, co-founders of The Diaper Train. **For more information about SPREE!, contact spree@jlraleigh.org.**



711 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
jlraleigh.org | 919-787-7480

CAPITAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE WANTS YOU.

Our Capital Leadership Initiative (CLI) is an award-winning program sponsored by Northwestern Mutual dedicated to providing women with leadership training applicable at work, at home and in service to others. Enrollment begins early 2016 for the 2016-2017 class and is open to professional women of the Triangle; Junior League membership is not required! Topics include:

- Commanding presence when you walk into a room
- Creating a personal brand
- Motivating a team and staying true to your task
- Squelching time-loss syndrome
- Learning from inspiring leaders with positive influence

Through CLI, you will connect with fabulous women in our community as you learn together from inspiring leaders.

VISIT US AT JLRaleigh.org/Partnerships
TO LEARN MORE OR CONTACT cli@JLRaleigh.org

MEET THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RALEIGH

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Kathryn West | pres@jlraleigh.org
President Elect Rebecca Ayers | pe@jlraleigh.org
Communications & Strategies Vice President Jen Reel
Community Vice President Danielle Shurman
Funding Vice President Marissa Bryant
Membership Vice President Katie Pollara
Training Vice President Jamie Martin
Nominating Captain Mary Paige Phillips
Secretary Liz Riley-Young
Treasurer Crystal Smith
Member-At-Large Lanier McRee
Sustaining Advisors Jennie Hayman & Virginia Parker

2015-2016 COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Beth Briggs | Dress for Success Triangle
Becky Bumgardner | The V Foundation for Cancer Research
Kevin Cain | John Rex Endowment
Ralph Capps | Boys & Girls Club of Wake County
Adrienne Cole | Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Cristin DeRonja | SAFEchild, Inc.
Carrie Gray | Wells Fargo
Greg Hatem | Empire Properties
Tracy Kimbrell | Parker Poe
Easter Maynard | Investors Management Corporation
Dr. John Panepinto | Project Enlightenment
Virginia Parker | Bank of America
Josie Reeves | Kane Realty
Bettie Sousa | Smith Debnam Narron Drake Saintsing & Myers, LLP
Terry Spicer | Epiphany Public Relations
Sheila Winston-Graves | Mechanics & Farmers Bank

JOIN THE CONVERSATION. LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND THE AGENCIES WE PARTNER WITH. VISIT JLRaleigh.org/Community QUESTIONS? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. 919-787-7480



[facebook.com/JLofRaleigh](https://www.facebook.com/JLofRaleigh)
follow @JrLeagueRaleigh
[instagram @jl_raleigh](https://www.instagram.com/jl_raleigh)