

Annual Report

Junior League of Greater
Winter Haven

A Year on the Runway

2012

2013



Board Members

Jill Bentley.....	President
Amy McKee.....	President Elect
Hannah Taylor.....	Communications VP
Amy Tucker.....	Community VP
Jennifer Schaal.....	Finance VP
Paula Orcutt.....	Finance VP-Elect
Jill Dunlop.....	Membership VP
April Porter & Angela Newell	Community Research/Project Development
Holly Hughes.....	Fund Development
Trula Donley.....	Public Relations



MISSION

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

FUTURE VISION

The Junior League of Greater Winter Haven, Inc. will be recognized as a civic leader that effectively impacts our community individually and collectively. With a pioneering spirit, the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven will work to meet the needs of our community through trained volunteers, education, funding, and collaboration.

REACHING OUT

The Junior League of Greater Winter Haven, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to volunteerism. No woman shall be excluded from membership because of race, religion, national origin, or disability.

Former Supermodels of the JL



Katharine Hepburn

Actress; Women's issue activist



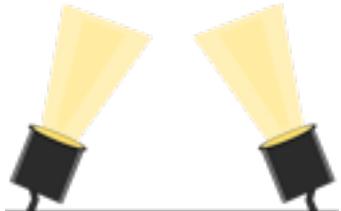
Shirley Temple Black

Child Actress; Delegate to the United Nations; U.S. Ambassador

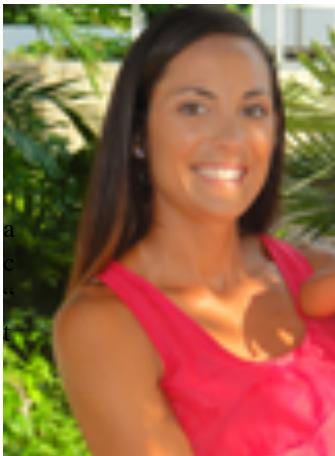


Barbara Bush

First Lady; Literacy activist



President's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

I asked each of you to step onto the “Runway of Community Success” with me this year and you all did just that! Each of you shined as true Supermodels in our League and out in the community. I am so delighted with all that we have accomplished with in the League, in our community and as women over the last year. Walking the Runway of Community Success” with each of you has truly made for an amazing year!

Each of you played a huge roll in making this year a true success. No matter what your placement was you shined as the Supermodel you are while fulfilling it. It is because of each of our members, sustainers and community partners that we were able to be successful in touching the lives of women and children in our community all while developing our own potential as women. You should each be very proud of the success the League has had over the last year, I am!

This has truly been a groundbreaking year in the League, we raised more money than every before, connected children with their incarcerated Mothers, educated families on health and fitness, awarded grants and scholarships, developed an issue that we all are passionate about, and published a cookbook “A Splash of Citrus” just to name of few. All of our projects and fundraisers were definitely Runway material thanks to all of your hard work and dedication to this League. As a League we accomplished many things that most would say are not possible to do in one year!

I am proud of all that we have done as a League this year; especially the things that most would say could not be accomplished in a year’s time. Publishing “A Splash of Citrus” was one the most exciting things that I have been apart of in a long time. It was accomplished only because of an amazing committee, and all of the yummy recopies that our members and sustainers submitted and taste tested. “A Splash of Citrus” is going to be a beautiful book that our League will forever be proud of! I am also proud of each of you coming together in true Supermodel fashion to work through the issue based community service process and develop an issue that we are all proud of. It took a lot of research and lots of discussion to come for a final decision to focus on the issues of hunger, and education.

I want to thank our sustainers for all of the support and participation during the last year. We were able to connect with our sustaining members at the annual Luncheon at Merry Market, as well as the recipe tasting that they so graciously hosted.

Our provisional class is full of “Supermodels” that I very excited to see rise to active status! These women stepped onto the “Runway” and strutted their stuff starting off with volunteering at Merry Market and ending the year planning a fabulous Kids in the Kitchen even for our annual Family Fit Fest. I have watched these women grow and develop in the League this year and I can not wait to see where each of them go in the League in the future.

It has been my honor to serve as your President and I am forever grateful to each of you for giving me this opportunity. Working with this group of amazing women was a remarkable experience. I am lucky to have gotten to work with and lead with a board full of Supermodels! Each of the women who served on the board this year went completely over and beyond many times because they were each committed to the success of the League. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to a magnificent group of women!

Amy McKee has been planning to put all of the pieces together as she begins her year as President. I am excited to see where she takes the League as she steps off of the Runway to Community success over the next year. I am eager to continue to work with Amy over the next year as she puts the “Pieces together” for another successful year!

Best wishes,
Jill Bentley
President 2012-2013

Finance Report

As of April 30, 2013:

Program Expenses: \$12,523.50

Support Expenses: \$8,259.92

Fundraiser income: \$33,089.36

Community Project Expenses: \$9,558.01

Checking Account: \$47,128.93

Savings Account: \$52,651.19

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Schaal, Finance Vice President

Paula Orcutt, Finance Vice
President-Elect





CELEBRATES MANY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN A “30” SERVICE HOUR

Thank you to all of the our Super Models who
CHALLENGE challenge!
TO ALL OF OUR RUNWAY MODELS

Jill Bentley- 76 hours

Hannah Taylor-59 hours

Jae Lynn Akin-37.5

Amy Tucker-37.5

Jennifer Schaal-35

Amy McKee-34.5

Jennifer Myers-33

Megan Gillis-32.5

MaryBeth Jackson-30

20 or more hours:

Julie Smith-27

Brandy Gray-26

Paula Orcutt-26

Lisa Weathersbee- 23.5

Holly Hughes-22



Community Projects

In many ways, the past 8 months have been bittersweet as several year. However, we are also excited to adopt new issues and service projects for years to come.

This year the ladies of the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven, A Mother's Voice, started a new mentorship program called Lunch Buddies and a successful Family Fit Fest.

While we hope to continue Lunch Buddies, both A Mother's Voice and Family Fit Fest will be taken off our list of projects after this league year. We hope to identify other local organizations that can take over these projects so that the positive momentum can continue. The work that JLGWH has created will live on.

Mid-year, our members evaluated the needs of our community in order to determine which issues our League would like to focus on in the coming years. We voted to focus our efforts on three issues: Education, Health and Child Hunger. These issues are the foundation of our community outreach and will guide our decisions on which projects our League will take on as a League.

After identifying the issues, our members proposed and voted on a variety of projects to address and support improvement on those community issues. The projects that our League will begin to tackle this summer and in the years to come are: JLGWH Daycare, the Senior Kitchen, Dress for the Dance and Lunch Buddies. We look forward to serving our community through these projects!

Respectfully Submitted,
April Porter, Community Research and Project Development

Membership Report

This year the member of the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven challenged our members to go beyond the required 10 volunteer hours. Instead we asked members to contribute a total of 30 volunteer hours. Not only did our League membership accept the challenge, but they exceeded it, blowing our expectations off the map.

This year our membership volunteer hours for the League totaled 1,128 hours. According to the Independent Sector, the average volunteer wage per hour is \$22.11. Therefore, the value of the work performed by the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven in 2017 was \$22,128.93 was provided to the community by the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven.

The impressive thing about this challenge is that many hours, such as holding office positions and attending committee meetings are not counted toward the challenge. League members felt this was doing our community and our League proud to count those hours as part of our volunteerism. The League should recognize the value of the work performed by its dedicated membership.

To recognize our membership's devotion to volunteerism in the community, the League instituted a pilot program for next year. Instead of requiring ten volunteer hours, the League changed the requirement to twenty five. Of those twenty five hours, there are many opportunities to earn those hours. As in the past placement hours in the classroom count towards the required volunteer hours. Now it does!

Ladies, I think these statistics speak for themselves. Heels off to you all!

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Dunlop, Membership Vice President

Community Report

The Junior League of Greater Winter Haven continued its support of local teachers this year by giving out 19 “Grants 4 Greatness.” The grants of up to \$250 each were awarded to teachers proposing innovative, sustainable projects that enhance student learning by integrating with existing curriculum and goals. Winning projects this year included materials to build tables for robotics courses, games to encourage students to learn about healthy habits in P.E., and supplies for disadvantaged students to learn cooking skills. As the Grants 4 Greatness project has grown over the years, we’ve seen an increase in applications with more than sixty applications over the course of the year.

League members participated in four Done-in-a-Snap projects this year, supporting local organizations by providing volunteers for their projects. This year’s Done-in-a-Snap projects included the League’s participation in the Women’s Baby Fair; Salvation Army Toy Shop; Florida’s Natural’s Orange Blossom Festival; and the Winter Haven YMCA’s Healthy Kids Day.

This year, we also promoted the League’s projects with displays at various locations, including the Chain of Lakes Elementary Fall Festival; Winter Haven’s Winterfest; the Winter Haven Art & Craft Exhibition; and the Winter Haven Public Library.

Finally, although winners cannot be announced until Spring Dinner in April, the names of the winners will be published in the Spring issue of the League’s publication, *Our Voice*, published prior to that, the League will also award several community scholarships to local students with this year’s Silver Tassel Awards. These scholarships are given to students who have demonstrated a commitment to serving their Winter Haven community that goes beyond school requirements.

Woman Building Better Communities

Fund Development

Wow! What an exceptional year this has been for fundraisers for our organization. It is not possible without the wonderful members of the JLGWH and our sponsors supporting the 2012-2013 fundraisers- Merry Market, Light Up The Night 5K, and the Cookbook. The money raised through these efforts directly impacts our programs within our community.



The fundraiser season kicked off on November 14th & 15th with the **Merry Market**. This two-day shopping event, held at the Winter Haven Center for the Performing Arts, included over 40 unique and fashionable vendors, a silent auction, a raffle, and the always popular "Girls Night Out" VIP shopping experience. The event also featured live music, appetizers including samples of featured recipes, and wine and beer to accompany the shopping. We would like to thank the Merry Market Committee for their hard work and dedication to this fundraiser and raising over \$13,000 to support our organization. We look forward to next year's Merry Market: November 14&15!



On Friday, February 21st, the JLGWH hosted the 10th annual **Light Up the Night 5K** to benefit the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven. The Light Up the Night 5K was held at the Winter Haven Center for the Performing Arts, and had over 450 participants. The fun-filled night included a 5K run/walk, live music, food, and wine. The Light Up the Night Committee did an excellent job once again, and we are grateful for their hard work. We look forward to the Light Up the Night 5K back as their event was a great success. Please mark your calendars as you do not want to miss the Light Up the Night 5K on Saturday, February March 2014.



Finally, the JLGWH is proud to present our newest fundraiser, the **Splash of Citrus**. The Cookbook Committee worked hard on the planning, organizing, proofing, selling sponsorships and most importantly, creating the delicious and unique recipes that showcase the talents of our members. The cookbook is filled with recipes from our own JLGWH members and Susan's Kitchen, a local restaurant owned by a longtime community member. We are excited to release the cookbook in time for the upcoming October 2013. Make sure you purchase a copy of the cookbook before they are gone!

Please join me by giving a special THANK YOU to all of our Fundraisers for their hard work and dedication to our organization.



President-Elect

Dear Members and Friends,

What an amazing year we have had with Jill Bentley leading us during “Off the Big Stage” and onto the “Runway” as we unveiled brand new pro-

We started off this year with a new Provisional class of 11 fabulous women. These ladies quickly learned what the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven is all about right in to assist with our first fundraiser of the season, Merry Market. In January, we put on our stilettos and welcomed the community to join us for our annual Girly Night. This is our official kick-off for Merry Market each year. During Merry Market we will be launching our “Splash of Citrus Cookbook” which will be available at our 2013 Merry Market. We will also be serving our annual Sustainer tea and luncheon during the Friday of Merry Market.

In December we “Decked the Halls” with several December Cluster meetings. We also had a contest for the best decorated home that were submitted to be in our “Splash of Citrus Cookbook. ” We also assisted the Salvation Army, helping them to organize gifts for needy children in our community.

In January we worked individually as well as during our General Membership meetings to present to the League for next year. We are thrilled to announce the works for next year, which include: Kids in the Kitchen, Dresses for Africa, and the JLGWH Mobile Bus.

In February we laced up our sneakers and debuted “Light up the Night” 5K. This event totally “rocked” our community with more than 450 runners and spectators. Participants and spectators were invited to participate in the Food Truck vendors were on hand to sell all sorts of meal options.

In March we continued using downtown Winter Haven as our “Runway” for our Family Fit Fest. This year we added an Easter Egg Dash for the children to drop in for a quick visit. The Provisional Class hosted the Kids in the Kitchen.

In April we welcomed a few new potential League Members to “Bring a Friend” last official meeting with delicious Mexican food.

A Mother’s Voice has continued to impact our community as we record in bedtime stories to their children, and then sending the CD and book to them. We continued to award Teacher Mini Grants to local teachers who apply for additional items to help them teach their children in their various classrooms. We have a “Reading Buddies” program where a League member is matched up with a student from a local school. We have lunch with them at least once a month during the school year as part of our Reading Buddies program.

As we wrap up “A Year on the Runway” let us join together to give our President-Elect Jill Thompson a round of applause. It has been an honor and a privilege serving with Jill this year. Jill has a passion for our community, and a heart for making lasting changes in our community. Thank you Jill, for leading our League with grace, strength, determination, and humor. We are extremely grateful and appreciative for your fabulous leadership this year.

Sincerely,

Amy L. McKee

President-Elect & Provisional Class Instructor

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of world you want to live in.”

Woman Building Better Communities



Provisional Class

Introducing our newest members- the 2012-2013 Provisional Class!

Jamie Bonifay, Anna Bostick, Megan Gillis, Brandy Gray, Christi Holby, Nikdel, Christine Petr, Adrienne Richardson, Claire Simmons

These ladies started the year off by studying the mission statement and what the word “volunteer” really means. The ladies then jumped right into Fashion Night and their big project- Kids in the Kitchen for the 2013 Family Fun Day. We are so happy to have them on a great provisional year and we all welcome you to the league!!!!

Respectfully,

Mary Beth Jackson, Provisional Class Co-chair

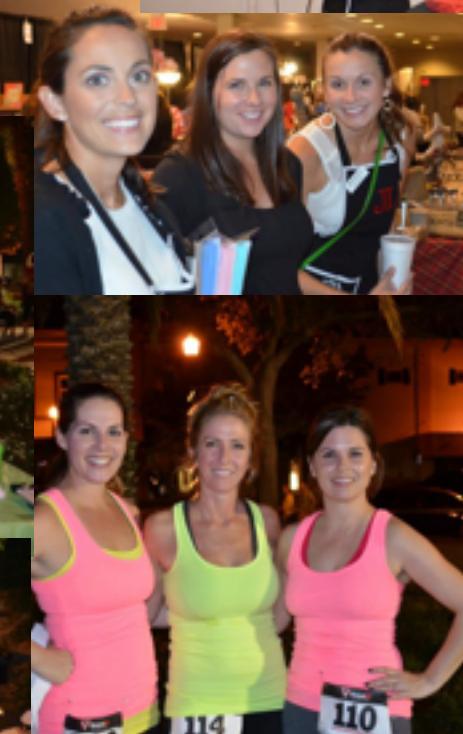
**Thanks
for a great year! Welcome
to the RUNWAY!**



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Thank you to
our many sponsors
for a successful year
the
RUNWAY!

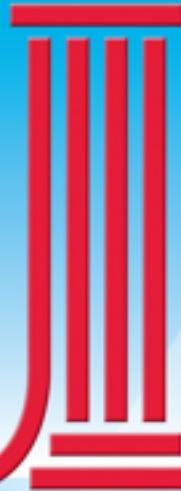
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The Junior League Of Greater Winter
**Light Up
The Night**

A Year on the

2012



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