

# LEAGUE LINK

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE'S MAGAZINE • SUMMER 2018

## *Soirée Success*



## **Our Mission**

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

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## **Contributing Writers:**

Krystal Clark, Jillian Frist, CaNesha Gordon, Ginger Levinson, and Brooke Shippee

## **Contributing Photographers:**

Caitlin Reed

## **JLN Staff**

Managing Director - Amy Smotherman  
Member Services Coordinator - Caitlin Reed

## **League Link 2017 - 2018**

### **Publications Committee**

Chair: CaNesha Gordon

Committee: Ginger Levinson & Brooke Shippee

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To learn more about the JLN, please visit [www.jlnashville.org](http://www.jlnashville.org) and find us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter by searching **#myjln**.

## Thank You & Hello!



*Krystal Clark*  
JLN PRESIDENT  
2017-2018

During my final remarks as President at our always inspiring Annual Meeting in May, I informed the audience that “Thank You” is my favorite phrase and “Hello” is my favorite word.

**THANK YOU** for a successful year and for the time, talent, treasure that you’ve contributed to make this year possible. We can’t be the organization we are without dedicated and gifted volunteers. **THANK YOU** for having me as your 2017-2018 President. **THANK YOU** to all of the members of the Governing Board, Management Team, and Council who took on the job of leading our organization to mission and values driven success. Serving JLN as President has been an honor. Jim Valvano stated that “if you laugh, you think, and you cry, that’s a full day. That’s a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, you’re going to have something special.” I believe this to be the case and that by this definition, JLN is something special. *The only thing I would add to this quote is dance.*

I’m excited for you to flip through the pages and relive many of the events from the second part of our League year.

A few of my favorite highlights include:

- The creation of our Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee that will serve for two years, 2018-2020
- Our Spring Soirée fundraiser which was a festive night spinning around the dancefloor at War Memorial Auditorium
- Our inaugural Women’s History Month program with Vicki Clark as our featured speaker.
- Members in Motion, our inaugural day of service
- Meredith Eason, Recipient of the Association for Junior Leagues International Rising Star Award at the AJLI Annual Conference in Memphis, TN
- Our special event with Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt celebrating

our history and our contribution to the Growing to New Heights Campaign

- Youth Villages’ nomination of JLN for a Mary Catherine Strobel Volunteer Award in the Civic Volunteer Group Category and our volunteer Jill Heyman’s nomination by OASIS for the Direct Service Volunteer Award
- At our final Governing Board meeting of the year, making the decision to grant almost \$50,000 to 12 partner agencies as we continue our work in Literacy and Human Trafficking
- Honoring award worthy members and a community partner with Paragon Awards at our Annual Meeting in May
- Welcoming over 160 new members who will continue the work of our mission for years to come

And there’s so much more...

And now to **HELLO**,

**HELLO** to all of incoming leadership who I wish all the best for the upcoming year. One of the quotes on the whiteboard in my office states, “Ask yourself: what is the best I can do? And then do that.” Let this question guide you as you navigate leading JLN. **HELLO** to our new Sustainers. I look forward to serving JLN in a new way as I sustain and become a member of the Past Presidents’ Club. **HELLO** to our 97th year and continuing to develop the potential of women, improve communities, and promoting voluntarism while living and leading from our values of community, connection, and growth.

The Junior League of Nashville has an incredible history and story worth telling and it is a privilege to be a chapter within it. My role as the first African-American President of this organization is to be an invitation for others so that I won’t be the last. To open the doors for any woman who is the first, the only, or different to step into leadership in our organization. My hope is that the JLN continues to move forward and that it works to ensure that our League is a place where women who believe in our mission and want to

*continued on next page*



live our mission, no matter their social identities, are able to do so and that JLN is a place of belonging and mattering for women in Nashville. This is important and meaningful not just to me, but for JLN, and for the communities we serve. **THANK YOU** for being a part of this work.

The theme I chose for the year was JLNxDesign and I chose it because I firmly believe that as a member of JLN, you can make it work for you. You have to be invested in designing the best experience for you. Though this will no longer be the theme, I hope you will continue to take the sentiment to heart. As you serve JLN, be mindful of how it can also serve you. When you're in JLN, you can sometimes lose sight of how great this organization is and the impact that it has had, is having, and can have on the

community. Remember, to look up, remember our why, and do the work needed of you. I **THANK YOU** in advance for all that you will do on behalf of our organization.

Once again, **THANK YOU, HELLO**, and remember to always design a JLN you love. Who would have known that when I moved here from Durham, NC in 2011 and transferred into JLN that seven years later, I'd be permanently leaving a piece of my heart at 2202 Crestmoor Road.

Yours in Design,  
 Krystal Clark  
 President 2017-2018

*We are proud to support those who nourish*

# Fellowship

*because to embrace our neighbors  
is to embrace our values.*



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# Interviews with Provisionals

## SKYLA LEPORIS



### 1. WHY DID YOU JOIN JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE?

I joined The League for a number of reasons! In short, I wanted to make my transition into a new city more enjoyable and meaningful. I was looking to make new friends, network and get involved within the Nashville community.

### 2. WHAT DID YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR PROVISIONAL GROUP?

Our adviser (shout out to Mary Martin) was phenomenal and the women that made up our group all meshed together really well.

### 3. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY?

Back in Texas, my favorite summer activity was floating the river. Here, it's anything outdoors and anything with our pups; camping, hiking, exploring waterfalls, picnics, concerts, etc.

### 4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROOFTOP BAR?

We don't go out downtown too often, so the one with the coldest beer!

## MERILISE DORIS



### 1. WHY DID YOU JOIN JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE?

I joined JLN to meet other women in the Nashville area and to get involved with a volunteer organization.

### 2. WHAT DID YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR PROVISIONAL GROUP?

My provisional group and advisor were amazing! I loved getting to know each of the girls and learning that we all have different talents and interests. We were able to capitalize on these different skills when putting together our service project, which was so much fun!

### 3. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY?

I love to be outdoors when the weather is nice out. My favorite summer activities are: hiking, tennis, outdoor yoga, and laying by the pool.

### 4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROOFTOP BAR?

LA Jackson!

## NATASHA YOUNG



### 1. WHY DID YOU JOIN JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE?

I joined JLN because I wanted to expand my social network as well as be around a very diverse group of women.

### 2. WHAT DID YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR PROVISIONAL GROUP?

I loved that everyone had the same interest in mind, which was to meet new people. Not only did we see each other during our provisional meetings and trainings, but we enjoyed a couple of happy hours together, which made our bond closer.

### 3. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY?

I LOVE to travel! During the summer is when I travel most. I usually start off in Orlando, FL (for family time) and end in Los Angeles, CA (for me time).

### 4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROOFTOP BAR?

L27.



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# FINDING *your fit* IN THE LEAGUE

## *part two*

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**PLACEMENT IS CORE** to every JLN member's experience and it is central to the mission of the League as a whole. Picking a placement that is a good fit for you can make your time in the League as a volunteer incredibly effective, hence why picking the right one is so important. There are a myriad of options, both in In-League and Out-of-League, that have a tremendous collective impact in our community. With so many options, the choices can be overwhelming, so we wanted to provide some guidance and make sure you love your placement as much as we love you! More information about placements, including full descriptions, scheduling outlines, leadership information, and how many members are needed for each placement, can be found in 2018 - 2019 Placement Catalog on Digital Cheetah. Unless otherwise noted, all placements require the League minimum of at least 40 hours.

In the Fall 2017 League Link, we outlined the Organizational Development Opportunities (a.k.a. In-League Placements); in this issue, we're going to take a look at the Community Development Opportunities (a.k.a. Out-of-League Placements). You have the opportunity to serve on a variety of committees focused on literacy, human trafficking and youth services.

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### **BOOK'EM/READING IS FUNDAMENTAL**

Approximately 4,000 economically disadvantaged students in K - 4th grades at 13 MNPS Title I elementary schools participate in the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program administered by Book'em. A typical RIF day starts with a volunteer visiting our RIF book room at Rose Park Magnet Middle Prep to select a mixed variety of about 30 great books for their 15 students. They complete an online form documenting how many books they took. Next, they go to their school. The students get excited about having a visitor. The volunteer and the students talk about reading and how important and fun it is and what a difference it makes in our lives. Time commitments vary from 1 hour per week to 2 hours per month.

### **END SLAVERY TENNESSEE: DIRECT SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS**

The End Slavery Tennessee Direct Services for Survivors placement will focus on direct involvement with survivors. Direct involvement will include weekly or bi-monthly safe house activities arranged by committee members. Volunteers will collect and assemble emergency care kits, maintain and add to the safe house clothing closet, provide meals, and sponsor survivor milestones such as a sobriety anniversaries, gaining employment, birthdays, etc. This placement averages 4 hours per month.

### **END SLAVERY TENNESSEE: PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The End Slavery Tennessee for Public Awareness placement will focus on training Junior League volunteers to be advocates for Human Trafficking in the greater Nashville community. Junior League volunteers will receive specialized training by End Slavery Tennessee in order to become presenters in a variety of community settings. Presentation materials, including PowerPoint slides, videos, and a tabletop presentation board will be provided. Junior League volunteers will make these presentations in groups of 2-3.

### **MCNEILLY CENTER FOR CHILDREN LITERACY GUILD**

The purpose of this placement is to enhance the literacy environment of McNeilly classrooms, provide literacy skill building opportunities for the whole family, and complement teacher efforts to introduce children to books and reading. Volunteers will plan celebrations that are literacy-

focused, engage with children in their classrooms or one-on-one to read with the students and help them learn to write, and provide books and literary materials to empower children and families to build a literacy rich environment at home. Volunteers would also provide workshops or family learning opportunities that enhance literacy skills for entire families, and serve as mentors for McNeilly parents and advocates to the community at large. The time commitment required for this placement is 1 hour per week.

### **MONROE CARELL JR. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT VANDERBILT**

The purpose of a placement at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt is to provide support to the Child Life department in many areas of the hospital. Some of the areas JLN volunteers can serve include JLN movie night hostess, Junior League Family Resource Center, JLN game show volunteer, and patient and family-centered care. There is a set weekly or bi-weekly schedule that is decided upon between the volunteer and the hospital.

### **OASIS CENTER**

The Oasis Center exists to help youth grow, thrive, and create positive change in their and our community. Volunteers will provide assistance at the Oasis Emergency Shelter, which provides short-term residence and crisis intervention for teens, ages 13 - 17, who are runaway, homeless, or on the brink of leaving home. There are multiple opportunities for volunteers that may include cooking dinner in the shelter, providing overnight support, supporting enrichment activities, and assisting with special events. Volunteers commit to 2 - 3 hours at least once every other week.

### **PRESTON TAYLOR MINISTRIES**

There are many different avenues in which JLN volunteers can serve with Preston Taylor Ministries, including a reciprocal reading enrichment program, lunch mater mentoring, and the DreamPal program. Volunteers are also needed to help prepare reading materials, lead partner reading activities, and set up for special events. Time commitment varies and is flexible based of position.

### **SAFE HAVEN FAMILY SHELTER**

Safe Haven Family Shelter (SHFS) is the only shelter-to-housing program of its kind in Middle Tennessee that accepts the entire family experiencing homelessness. SHFS keeps the

family together and provides comprehensive services that empower them to achieve lasting self-sufficiency. Safe Haven has opportunities for volunteers to work in the nutritional aspect as well as family-oriented programming. Volunteers may also coordinate and execute family-oriented activities on Friday nights or engage with the early childhood literacy programming. Most volunteer opportunities occur in the late afternoon/evening, but there is opportunity to schedule other days and times based on the volunteer's needs.

### **YOU HAVE THE POWER!**

Committee members will organize, publicize, and recruit audiences for "No Girl's Dream" presentations, facilitate formal and informal workshops and learning experiences for large and small group presentation, collect surveys and sign-in sheets at the presentations, and attend and lead trainings. Volunteers may assist with marketing and designing one-sheets, updating educational materials, documenting the presentations, and assisting with Junior League and You Have the Power social media channels. This placement requires 5 - 10 volunteer hours per month.

### **YOUTH VILLAGES**

Youth Villages hopes to have a committee of caring, committed and passionate women who will be positive influences to the teenage girls we serve at our Wallace girls' group home in Nashville. Committee members will organize educational and meaningful activities/projects at the Wallace group home either every month or every other month, as well as possibly serving as a mentor. They may also implement a monthly, bi-monthly or seasonal book club to help with our efforts to promote literacy at the home and help to identify new resources for obtaining new or gently used books for the Nashville group homes. Volunteers will commit 1 - 2 hours per month or 3 - 9 hours every 3 months.



Wherever you choose to serve, we know you are making a difference and representing the Junior League of Nashville in the best light. Happy volunteering!

# BUILDING FOR THE *future*

## JLN 2022 UPDATE



**THE JLN HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR THE NASHVILLE COMMUNITY**, and the JLN 2022 committee was formed to honor the past, educate our community and members on all the wonderful work the league has done, and celebrate the members who contributed to our success.

This spring, the JLN 2022 committee met and began the planning process of bringing this amazing milestone to life. This committee group consisted of past presidents, sustainers, and active members, all of whom came together to brainstorm and prioritize the types of celebration activities to consider for the 2021-2022 league year. The committee also identified the work involved, when the league should start the efforts, and who from the group will help own the work, given their past knowledge and experience.

JLN 2022 is an exciting initiative that will continue to grow and evolve as it grows closer to the 2021-22 league year. Stay tuned to this fall's League Link for more exciting information!

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NASHVILLE**



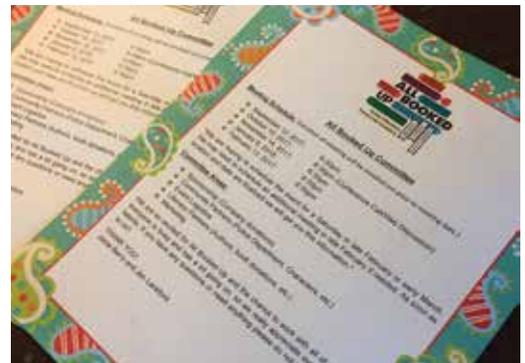
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# All Booked Up!

**BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS**, *All Booked Up* was held on March 3 at the Martha O'Bryan Center and featured reading stations, character meet-and-greets, The Nashville Library Puppet Truck, and activities from the following local community organizations and companies: Imagination Library, Pi Beta Phi, Frist Art Museum, New Beginnings Center, Nashville Zoo, Adventure Science Center, Metropolitan Nashville Police

Department, Nashville Fire Department, Nashville Public Library Committee, Nashville Ballet, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee, Nashville Children's Theatre, StorieChild, Book'Em, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, *Kids in the Kitchen*, and local celebrity Mr. Bond The Science Guy. The free event was attended by 180 children, ranging from preschool to middle school age.



# Provisional Update



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017-2018 PROVISIONAL CLASS** on becoming active members in the Junior League of Nashville! Provisional graduation was held on May 2. This was a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the provisionals and hear about each group's service project in the community! Each provisional group was tasked with considering the needs of the community, identifying an organization to serve, and designing and executing a project that will impact the needs of that organization and provide direct interaction with those they are serving. Each group presented their service project to the entire provisional class at graduation, where we heard how they impacted the community and what they took away from the experience.

Provisional groups partnered with many of JLN's partner agencies, including End Slavery Tennessee, Oasis Center, Youth Villages, Book 'Em, Kids in the Kitchen, and McNeilly Center for Children. In addition, other agencies and groups in the community welcomed our provisionals to complete various projects, including Rest Stop Ministries, Martha O'Bryan Center, Girls on the Run, Grace Empowered, Magdalene House, Schools Helping Schools, Girl Scouts, Renewal House, Davidson County 4-H, and Wright Middle School.

These projects not only provide a great opportunity for the provisionals to learn about the needs of Nashville, but also allow for efficient teamwork, effective communication, and collaboration with a community agency. These are all traits that we hope will benefit the new members of the League. We are proud of the graduating class and know they will be wonderful active members in the JLN!

We are also grateful to all our amazing advisors who helped foster learning and friendship within their provisional groups! A special "thank you" goes out to the following Provisional Step-Up Chairs: Leigh Adams, Katie Good, Emily Hagerman, and Natalie Mixson, and to the Provisional Advisors: Mary Mac Dyer, Kristin Gregory, Kathryn McNabb, Katie Madden, Marta Parker, Connie Deidiker, Alexandria Hamm, Lindsay Jacques, Lauren Pirkle, Emily Hagerman, Mary Martin Mogan, Caroline Caldwell, Emeline Dunn, Ellen Kington, Jessica Hopson, Julie Newman, Natalie Withers, Lauren Hansen, and Emily Brinser.



# Members in Motion

## MEMBERS IN MOTION WAS A LEAGUE-WIDE DAY OF SERVICE for Provisionals, Actives, and Sustainers.

This event was an opportunity to showcase the great work we do in the community by doing direct service. We chose the date because March is both Women's History Month and the birth month of Cornelia Keeble Ewing, the founder of The Junior League of Nashville. The event was planned by Dana Bybee, Meredith Eason, Meredith Schiefer, Kelly McCollum, Lauren Berny, and Ashley Warrington.

Over 130 Members attended Members in Motion and completed over 520 hours of direct service! Our members volunteered at Adventure Science Center, Safe Haven, Preston Taylor Ministries, Book 'Em, Youth Villages, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Nashville Dolphins, Nashville Public Libraries, Oasis Center, and East Nashville Hope Exchange. Volunteers spent time cleaning books, cleaning toys, restocking libraries, hosting tea parties, helping with swim class, and preparing meals for the organizations. The day culminated with a celebration brunch at JLN HQ.





# SPRING SOIRÉE

**THE SPRING SOIRÉE CELEBRATING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE** was held Saturday, April 28, 2018 at War Memorial. The Spring Soirée welcomed 300 plus guests who dined on heavy hors d'oeuvres, while bidding on amazing items in the silent auction and guest danced the night away with a live band.

The Soirée recognizes the history and accomplishments of the JLN, and the proceeds benefit the community endowment. Over the course of its history, JLN has worked diligently with community partners to develop the potential of women to advocate for issues in our community.

## SPRING SOIRÉE SPONSORS

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- Restaurant Bar Catering

## SPRING SOIRÉE PATRONS

### SUPPORTER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Mary Lee and Steve Bartlett
- Jennifer and Garrett Hamilton

### FRIEND OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Taryn K. Anderson
- Dana Bybee
- Mr. and Mrs. Chip DeVier
- In Honor of Megan Davis
- Kristin Torrey
- Jenna and Brian Watson
- In Honor of Jennifer Hamilton,  
Brittany Irby, and Emily Leaman
- Sarah and Jay Woodall







# Everyone is Welcome

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**SPURRED BY AN INITIATIVE AND COMMITMENT** to Diversity and Inclusion on the part of AJLI, the Junior League of Nashville began its own introspective process to take a look at Diversity and Inclusion in the League, and complete the following steps:

1. Adopt the commitment to Diversity and Inclusion statement
2. Evaluate the League's current efforts
3. Establish a Diversity and Inclusion team

During the 2013 - 2014 League year, the Junior League of Nashville completed the first step and introduced the following statement:

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

Step 2 began in the Fall of 2017, with a two-part approach. The first part saw the Board of Directors completing Part I of the *League Assessment: Find Where Your League is on the Diversity and Inclusion Journey*. Part II was a member survey, completed by 144 members. Of those 144 members, 43 women took part in five focus groups this past January facilitated by Erika Burnett, Founder and Principal of The Burnett Group. Through guided discussions and interactive exercises, such as word clouds and the rose and thorn analogy, she was able to gather qualitative data to help assess and understand the current state of Diversity and Inclusion in the League. This participation reflected a 64.5 hour total investment of the part of League members. While there were many ideas discussed, the following themes emerged the strongest from the focus groups:

- Training
- Communication
- Finances
- Recruitment/Admission
- Partners, venues, vendors

The aspects most commonly discussed were:

- Age
- Race
- Economic bandwidth
- Experience and expectations

There were several recommendations made regarding these aspects; comments about these themes, as well as survey responses, can

be in the Forms and Documents section on Digital Cheetah.

In order to complete Step 3, The Junior League of Nashville has formed a new Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee, whose purpose is to use the AJLI's *Advancing Diversity and Inclusion by Design* to develop an annual diversity plan and implementation plan. This new Steering Committee will help guide the Board and other relevant groups (as determined by the Board and Management Team in their compliance with its provisions) as well as monitor and evaluate performance on the plan. The goal of the Committee is to continue moving forward with Diversity and Inclusion and integrate D&I education throughout various levels of League training and experience. Comprised of 8 members, including a Chair and a Chair-Elect, the Committee will be reporting directly to the Board of Directors and members will serve a two-year term.

The vision for the Committee is as follows:

***Transparent and efficient structures that support member development***

***A place where members belong and matter***

In addition, the Junior League of Nashville, will also be taking the following steps to show its commitment to the Diversity and Inclusion initiative:

- Installing a visual representation of our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion at JLN Headquarters.
- Specific Diversity and Inclusion training for the incoming Council.
- Strategizing on the part of the Marketing & Communications Council on how to create how inclusive communications.
- New efforts on the part of the Membership Transformation Taskforce to meet members where they are and to help create a League where all women thrive.
- The creation of a space on the JLN website dedicated to Diversity and Inclusion materials.
- The addition of a pumping room at JLN Headquarters for new moms.



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# growing TO NEW HEIGHTS

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE MEMBERS AND MONROE CARELL JR. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT VANDERBILT STAFF** alike gathered on May 30, 2018 at the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center for a construction update on the Growing to New Heights campaign. The League donated \$1.5 million at the beginning of the 2017 - 2018 League year to support the Child Life program and the ongoing four-floor expansion of the hospital.

Attendees heard from Dr. John Brock III, Professor and Chief, Division of Pediatric Urologic Surgery and Director of Pediatric Urology, Krystal Clark, and Jennifer Hillen, who reminded everyone of the incredible “generational impact through the power of voluntarism”. Stephanie Van Dyke, Director of Child Life and Volunteer services spoke to how Junior League volunteers continue to bring “human touches to healthcare” everyday our volunteers are present in the hospital.

The Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt opened in 2003 with 216 beds across 8 floors. The hospital has since grown to 267 beds and will add another 76 beds and 85,000

square feet upon the completion of the first two floors of the expansion, set to open in July and September of 2019. The exterior of the new addition is set to be complete this fall and once the construction is complete on all four floors, the total space within the hospital will have increased to almost 1 million square feet and it will be the tallest building at Vanderbilt. The expansion will allow the hospital to have focused areas of patient care located in a dedicated part of the hospital for heart and neonatology patients, as well as adding two new elevators, expanded food service, telemedicine-enabled conference rooms and workstations and a new sensory playroom.

In addition to the on going onward expansion, renovations are also taking place on the first floor on the first floor of the hospital to enhance the lobby and patient waiting areas. This area of the hospital is set to reopen January 2019.







# Life Events

2017-2018

## MARRIED

**Meghan Miller** & Chris Benditzky  
were married 10/28/2017

**Kate Markwith** & Nathan Bradford  
were married 12/29/2017

**Katie Feldhaus** & Jeffrey Jackson  
will be married 11/3/2018

**Halee Culicerto** & Craig Veltri  
were married 3/10/2018

**Ashley Goldman** & Robert Glover  
were married 4/7/2018

**Catherine Hoffman** & Christopher Price  
were married 4/28/2018

## BABIES

**Meriwether Jane Beckman**  
was born 8/21/2017  
Proud Parents: Katie and Daniel Beckman

**Leo Thomas Kastner**  
was born 5/18/2018  
Proud Parents: Becky and Chris Kastner

## CAREER

**Brittany Irby**  
Innovation Program Manager,  
Nashville Public Education Foundation

**Katherine Lay Miller**  
Executive Director, Project C.U.R.E.

**Claudia Byers**  
Attorney, State of Tennessee  
Bureau of Worker's Compensation

**Renee Shipley**  
National Accounts/Regional A&D Manager,  
Caesar Ceramics USA

**Megan E. Davis**  
Director, TN STEM Innovation Network

## OTHER NEWS

Provisional **Katie Vasilopoulos** earned a leading role in Lizzy Borden with the Nashville Ballet. Many JLN members were able to attend the shows over the weekend and wanted to congratulate Katie on her outstanding performance.

**Megan Kelly** has been selected to be the Tennessee Aquatics Head Coach for the Special Olympics USA Games held in Seattle, Washington July 1 - 6 !

**Allison Plattsmier** won the Association of Fundraising Professional 2018 Outstanding Young Professional Award.



**MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE NASHVILLE** (“JLN”) joined women from across the country in Memphis, Tennessee on April 18th to engage in a four-day conference hosted by the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (“AJLI”). Six women represented JLN: Krystal Clark, Laura Creekmore, Adria DeLaune, Meredith Eason, Maleah Stephens, and Nahed Zehr.

This meeting marked the 96th Annual Conference for AJLI, and it proved to be a powerful reminder to League leaders that the Junior League is investing in females to change the world by changing minds and hearts along the way. That idea of empowerment and reflection is reiterated by way of the Conference’s theme. UNSTOPPABLE seems to exude all of the excitement and confidence that we all carry as strong women brought together to have conversations, set goals, and ultimately create a better society for our sisters around the world. All 536 delegates representing 242 Leagues were able to come together for a few days of empowerment and networking with

AJLI trainers and notable keynote speakers. Conference-goers conducted official AJLI business, and spent time cultivating their own skills to share with their sisters when they returned to their respective Leagues. But most of all, the delegates celebrated the accomplishments of Leagues and the individuals who drive them—like our very own, Meredith Eason!

AJLI recognized Junior League of Nashville’s own Meredith Eason as the distinguished recipient of the AJLI Rising Star Award. The Rising Star Award is designed to recognize women who, in their earliest years of Junior League membership, have demonstrated significant leadership promise consistent with the vision and values of the Junior League mission. Meredith consistently demonstrates her potential for community leadership by being an essential leader and contributor to guide fellow members. After joining the Junior League of Nashville in 2013, Meredith spent her first active year on the Done in a Day placement, which allowed her to learn more about many different non-profit organizations in the community. She later went on to lead that committee and help it grow to accommodate over 200 active members and provisionals.

Meredith has a reputation of excellence recognized by her peers in the League. Elissa Goodrich shares, “When I think of Meredith, I think of someone who is intentional, confident, reliable, and approachable. No matter what the job is at hand, Meredith is willing to lend a helping hand to get the job done. She takes her volunteer commitments very seriously, and I always appreciated her responsiveness and

leadership. There were many times that curve balls were thrown at her (for example, suddenly managing 175 provisionals needing a Done-In-A-Day shift for their community service project), and she responded with grace and a “can do” attitude, which is often so hard to find. Meredith’s even keel temperament allowed her to handle the ups and downs that come with managing almost fifty volunteers (and at times 225 volunteers!) with strength, poise, and effectiveness.”

In addition to being formally honored at the Conference, AJLI awarded the Junior League of Nashville \$3,500 to be used to support our work. JLN congratulates Meredith again on this tremendous accomplishment, and thanks all the members who attended the AJLI on behalf of JLN. You all represented us with class and dignity, and we are lucky to have such amazing League leaders to bring information learned in Memphis back to our League. May we all remain UNSTOPPABLE.





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