SECOND HARVEST FRESH PRODUCE PROGRAM: A DELICIOUS ALTERNATIVE

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN
P.18

JLNO’s Top Chef and Family Teach Healthy Eating Habits

TOUCH A TRUCK: INTRODUCING CITY KIDS TO NEW POSSIBILITIES

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On the Cover
The Murphys, Alicia and Matt, and daughters, Carolyn, Alanna, Margaret, Elizabeth and Molly, sit down for a nutritious meal they prepared together.

In Every Issue
Letter from the President
Letter from the Editor

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WELCOME TO THE WINTER 2012 issue of Lagniappe — a celebration of Healthy Families — and our last issue before the start of a brand-new calendar year!

This time of year is the perfect time to give thanks for our families and loved ones, those who work beside us and those who selflessly devote their time and talents to others. It's so easy to find ourselves caught up in the hustle and bustle of our lives to forget to stop and say, “thank you,” so I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our 2,200 members — Provisionals, Actives and Sustainers — who support the League’s efforts to make New Orleans a better place to live.

Thank you to our members, especially our chairs, vice-chairs and committee members, who work tirelessly and volunteer countless hours each year to help the League raise funds, publicize our efforts and support our wide-reaching community programs.

Thank you to the members of our Board of Directors whose dedication and leadership keep us moving forward. Thank you to our Lagniappe Editor, Sarah Roy, and our Photography Editor, Kelly Walsh, who help us to publicize our efforts in the community. Thank you to our dedicated and loving staff at Headquarters and Bloomin’ Deals Thrift Shop for enabling us to keep up with the fast moving pace that we find ourselves moving in.

The start of a new calendar year is also a time to set goals and take a look within ourselves.

You will find that this issue of Lagniappe begins with a wonderful feature on a family and an individual that are living and embracing our League’s focus area, Healthy Families — an inspiration in today’s fast paced world. The Murphys and Chef Matt have certainly made me re-examine not only what my family eats but the way we prepare our meals. What better time to teach children and spend time together with loved ones, than while preparing a meal (or making a phone call for “healthy carryout”) and sitting down to share the meal together?

In 2013, I encourage you to slow down and take a moment to spend quality time with your loved ones and the special people in your life. While Healthy Families is about healthy eating, it is also about healthy living.

I wish you and yours health, happiness and prosperity throughout the coming year.

Best regards,

Brandy Baechle Whisnant
This is what 100 looks like.

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WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL if Second Harvest informed the League that future community shifts could be cancelled because there were no longer any hungry families in New Orleans? Or, if Lafayette Academy Charter School let us know that their students were teaching JLNO volunteers a few things about math?

I think the greatest compliment a Junior League program can receive is a call from one of our community partners letting us know that our services are no longer required. This issue of Lagniappe focuses on Junior League programs that build a stronger New Orleans by empowering those in the community we serve to become independent. Programs like Upward Bound, Strength of Relationship and our newest fundraiser, Touch a Truck, encourage children to remain in school, successfully transition to adulthood or even consider career opportunities for themselves they may not have thought possible due to their circumstances.

Sustainer Alicia Murphy and her family teach us it is never too early to begin fostering independence in children by encouraging them to take charge of their health through the development of nutritious eating habits, and that there is no reason why you can’t have fun while doing it!

The League also nurtures independence in its membership through programs that develop the potential of women. October 2012 was Training and Education Month, and members took advantage seminars focusing on everything from football to organization.

Finally, we are thankful to the men and women serving in the military. It is often said that families of military members serve as well, and we are proud to feature Provisional Laurie Leiva, wife of Maj. Mike Leiva, as League Member in the Community. Many people ask how they can support military families who might have a loved one spending their holidays far from home. Greta Perry, a prolific member of the Military Blogging community, and herself a military wife, tells people looking for ways to support military families, “don’t ask a military spouse what they need, just do it for them!” Great advice!

I hope you have a wonderful holiday and a prosperous 2013. I’m looking forward to sharing more Junior League successes with you in the coming year.
Visit the Junior League of New Orleans at

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New Orleans has its benefits — Mardi Gras, live music, debris po-boys, sno-balls, fried oysters, and did we mention beignets?

The challenge of eating healthy in a region known for amazing cuisine can be a real test.

For Sustainer Alicia Murphy, this is a challenge she takes very seriously. As the mother of five young daughters, she works hard to make healthy living a priority for her family.

It’s not always an easy task. Alicia’s husband, Matt Murphy, is the owner and chef at Irish House, an Irish pub in the Lower Garden District where Alicia works five days a week. So when she heads home to prepare dinner for her four-year-old quadruplets and her three-year-old, she goes out of her way to make it fun for her children so healthy eating habits stick.

“It starts at the grocery store, where we’ll talk about all of the different things we see,” says Alicia. “And I love to bring them to the farmer’s market where they can pick out their favorite items.”

Educating and introducing the girls to new foods is a top priority for the Murphy family.

The Murphy children learned early on how to help mom and dad in the kitchen. As soon as they were old enough to hold utensils, they began using special children’s knives to chop vegetables and fruit for meals. And now, at ages 3 and 4, the girls are pros.

The Murphy family loves theme nights, and when we met, Fiesta Night headlined the menu. Each of the girls helped to prepare the ingredients for the meal. One chopped avocados, one worked on sic-
ing cherry tomatoes and the other girls worked on the rest of the ingredients. Alicia made homemade spinach tortillas and the girls helped her roll out the dough and shape it. This hands-on approach had every member of the family involved.

For families looking to involve their children more in the kitchen, Alicia recommends starting young, as food habits begin early in life.

“There’s always something your child can be doing, whether it is stirring pancake batter or cutting vegetables,” said Alicia.

She recommends yogurt parfaits as an easy recipe to have children assist with in the kitchen. The Murphy family enjoys parfaits for breakfast and starts by scooping plain, Greek yogurt into a bowl for each member of the family. The children add whatever toppings they prefer — chopped nuts, granola, raisins, fresh fruit or Cheerios. It’s a healthy breakfast disguised as an ice cream party.

The challenge of getting children started on healthy eating habits is something Chef April Neujean knows all too well.

As Health and Wellness Manager, she runs a Comprehensive School Wellness Initiative at five local schools, including the Green Charter School, where many League Members have volunteered in the Edible Schoolyard.

“Our goal is to introduce children and their families to a wider range of options through our school garden and local farm connections,” says April. “We know that if children grow it and cook it, they will eat it. It works every time!”

April works hard to introduce students to ambitious dishes such as eggplant caponata that do not normally fall into the kid-friendly stereotype.

She offers advice for parents looking to expand their child’s palate, but says you must first ignore everything you have heard about what a child will or will not eat.

“Make delicious food at home that you enjoy, and involve your child in the process,” says April. “Plant a window garden, take children to the grocery store and let them help plan meals, cook together. And after that, if they still don’t clean their plates, remember that it can take 10 or more times for a child to accept a new food.”

It takes just a few basic items to turn your kitchen into an area where your child can serve as your sous chef. April recommends disposable plastic knives, a nice cutting board, a Mason jar and small scissors. Let children tear lettuce with their hands and then carefully slice grape tomatoes, roasted peppers, olives, cucumbers and fruit for a colorful salad. They can snip fresh herbs with small kitchen scissors. And everyone can help shake up fresh vinaigrette in a Mason jar.

April frequently turns to the JLNO cookbook, “Crescent City Moons, Dishes and Spoons for the Growing Chef,” for inspiration.

“This book is filled with recipes from local chefs I admire, but the recipes are really accessible,” says April. “When I first moved to New Orleans from New York five years ago, the food and culture here were still very new to me. The Junior League donated a bunch of cookbooks to our program and pouring through these recipes really helped me start to get a sense of the food and its rich history.”
The Community Center at Christwood

Nestled on the beautiful 125-acre Christwood campus, the Community Center at Christwood is sure to be a welcomed attraction in the Covington area. Including the only indoor community pool in West St. Tammany Parish, this 23,000 square foot facility will house a state-of-the-art wellness facility complete with an aerobics studio, fitness center, relaxing day spa and a juice bar. With the 16-year tradition of excellence Christwood has provided, this new venture is no exception. Get ready to enjoy even more wonderful amenities when The Community Center at Christwood opens in 2013!

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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE of New Orleans has partnered with Raintree House to continue an exciting project. Raintree House’s mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, consistent home for adolescent girls in the greater New Orleans area in need of placement outside of their homes. Girls range in age from 12-17 and live at Raintree because they have been abused or neglected by their families of origin and, as a result, are placed in the foster care system.

As these girls are in need of support in dealing with the demands and challenges of life as a teenager in the foster care system, League members design and conduct meaningful life seminars to ensure that the girls are prepared for the real world when they exit the foster care program.

“Our goal is to teach the girls life skills that they can use as they transition out of the foster care system and into the real world,” says Project Chair Kimberly Fontenot.

While the program is still in its planning stages, Project Chairs Kimberly Fontenot and Beth Walker are planning large-scale themed programs for weekend meetings, along with smaller scale activities for weekday meetings to teach girls important skills such as self-defense, healthy eating habits, etiquette, conflict resolution, money management and the importance of volunteerism. For example, one Saturday program — “My Beautiful Self” — will focus on nutrition, body image and teen pregnancy. Another week, the theme will be “Class it Up,” and League members will provide an etiquette lesson with lunch, hair and makeup tips, and a shopping trip to Bloomin’ Deals.

For the weekday seminars, Kim and Beth plan to provide tutorials on career options, finance and conflict resolution. JLNO will also host a holiday party where the girls will decorate for the holidays, bake cookies and go caroling.

The Strength of Relationship committee is working to bring in experts and speakers to help with the training. Program coordinators hope to provide a seminar where a trained professional can offer the girls money management advice, along with how-to skills, such as how to open a checking account. With the guidance and support of Raintree, along with the JLNO life-skill seminars, the program is destined for success.
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE of New Orleans has been helping the high school students of New Orleans achieve their dreams through a program called Upward Bound. Low-income and first-generation high schoolers can take part in this project, which strives to increase the rate at which students complete high school and enroll in post-high school education.

A first generation student is one whose parents or grandparents have not attended college, making the student the first in their family to attend college.

Many low-income and first-generation students may find it difficult to finish high school and enter college. Upward Bound gives these students the skills and tools to achieve their goals including counseling, academic instruction, tutorials, college admission counseling, and cultural experiences.

Upward Bound is part of the Federal TRiO program and most of the activities occur at Xavier University New Orleans. The Junior League assists with the program during the academic year on Saturdays. League volunteers participate in class meetings, tutoring sessions, parent club gatherings, and senior seminars regarding college admission and financial aid, according to co-chairs, Colleen Timmons and Laura Wilt. The experience has been rewarding for students and League volunteers alike. “We have been able to make connections to these high school students and share our personal experiences with them which has been particularly rewarding for our members,” says Colleen. Recently, thirty two Upward Bound students participated in a college tour trip to Florida, where they visited campuses, including Florida State University and Florida A&M University. As well as volunteers, principals, teachers, parents, friends, Xavier personnel and community leaders are involved to meet the students’ needs.

The Junior League is helping the project by tutoring, counseling and other activities.
Proudly supporting the mission of the Junior League of New Orleans.
Touch A Truck:
Introducing City Kids to New Possibilities

JLNO IS EAGERLY awaiting the launch of its newest fundraiser, Touch a Truck. This unique, interactive, one-day event offers children and families an opportunity to see, touch and explore their favorite big trucks and vehicles while meeting the local heroes who protect, serve and build the New Orleans community. Emergency response vehicles, construction trucks and utility trucks will all be on display — maybe even an airplane.

This day of family fun and learning will be held Saturday, March 2, 2013, at an airplane hangar near Lake Pontchartrain. Tasty local food vendors, food trucks and hands-on activities for the whole family will be featured at the event, along with a few surprises.

“I am very excited to help bring these vehicles to life for the children of New Orleans,” says Touch a Truck co-chair Amy Robertson. “Many kids who live in the city have never seen anything like this before.”

The inspiration for Touch a Truck came from last year’s Fundraiser Steering Committee members Michelle Cox and Meredith Duke, who came across the idea while exploring new fundraisers for the League.

“While researching new fundraising ideas, Touch a Truck immediately caught my attention. Teaching two-year olds and working with many families for the past 11 years, I knew right away that this would be a huge hit,” says Meredith.

The new fundraiser not only incorporates JLNO’s focus areas of promoting children’s well-being, education and healthy families but also advances this year’s goal of broadening the League’s reach in the community.”

“We are looking to reach out further than just Junior League members and family, and this event has the potential to bring in a wide audience and more community participation,” says Ways and Means Council Director Amber Mays Beezley. “It’s been done in other Leagues around the country and will be a great community event for families in our city.”

The inaugural Touch a Truck fundraiser will be held at Hawthorne Global Aviation Services, a luxury private air terminal near the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans. The facility recently completed a $3.5 million renovation and offers more than 50,000 square feet of hangar space. The sizeable facility offers upscale amenities and a full concierge service to its clients. Touch a Truck will be held in Hawthorne’s largest hangar, which

By Melissa Frederick
We recognize the important work Junior League does in the New Orleans community,” says Jay Taffet, Hawthorne’s general manager. “Our facility is the ideal location for this unique fundraiser, and we’re very excited to partner with the Junior League of New Orleans on this great event.”

Along with co-chairs Amy and Meredith, Touch a Truck committee members Heather Reznik, Elise Guidry, Elizabeth Hayes, Colleen Loerzel, Allison Puneky, Cindy Sterbcow and Jennifer Goodbee Devlin meet monthly to develop, organize and plan the new fundraiser. The group is working to secure trucks, large equipment, food vendors and sponsors with the hopes of acquiring 15-20 vehicles in all.

“This event is very important for the New Orleans community. It not only gives children the opportunity to honk the horns and kick the tires of police cars and fire engines but also introduces them to the brave men and women operating these vehicles,” says committee member Elise Guidry. “Fostering a great relationship between kids, law enforcement, and firefighters helps to build trust and create a lasting connection.”

In its first year, the Touch a Truck committee hopes this new community event will bring out families from throughout the area. They welcome everyone to put their imaginations in gear, get behind the wheel and enjoy a day of family fun.

Jay Taffet, general manager of Hawthorne Global Aviation Services, has graciously offered to host the emergency response vehicles, construction trucks and utility trucks participating in Touch A Truck on March 2.
League Member in the Community:

Laurie E. Leiva

By: Sarah Roy

Laurie Leiva, her husband, Maj. Mike Leiva, and their children, Olivia, 6, and Peter, 3, are among the military families who call New Orleans home. Laurie is the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at Loyola University New Orleans, and Mike is a Professor of Military Science at Tulane University. He also teaches Army R.O.T.C. students at Loyola University, Xavier University, Dillard University and the University of New Orleans.

Laurie, who is originally from Houston, met Mike while they were students at Loyola University New Orleans. After 11 years as a couple and seven moves, Laurie and her family returned to New Orleans in 2011. Laurie joined JLNO as a Provisional this year. She decided to join the League when the Leivas moved back to New Orleans at the suggestion of a friend because she wanted to meet people and get involved with the community. Many of the women in Laurie’s family have been involved with Junior Leagues in Texas, and Laurie always thought she would enjoy becoming a member as an adult.

The Leivas have been stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and, most recently, with the Orleans Battalion. As a result of such constant change, Laurie believes that “most military families share the ability to focus on what is really important and living in the moment.”

Many couples have an annual, sometimes heated, discussion about where they should spend their holidays; Laurie and Mike consider themselves lucky when they are able to spend the holidays together, regardless of where they are. Additionally, military families have to be adaptable because “everything can change so quickly. You have to learn to just go with the flow and realize that no matter how much you try to plan ahead, plans can and oftentimes do change at the drop of a hat.”

Fortunately, “military families are part of a larger community and there’s a constant sense of being on the same team despite all the different units and branches,” says Laurie.
Laurie and Mike are very conscientious of how cross-country moves and Mike’s deployments affect Olivia and Peter. Mike’s deployments have ranged in length from two weeks to 14 months, and he’s served overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan and Spain. He was deployed while Laurie was pregnant with their daughter, Olivia, and was away for the first six months after she was born. Laurie worried that Olivia and Mike would have trouble bonding, so before he deployed, Mike recorded himself reading different children’s books. Laurie played the recordings for Olivia while she was pregnant and right after she was born, and Olivia has been a Daddy’s Girl since!

Laurie and Mike also try to involve Olivia and Peter as much as possible during a deployment or move by talking about where Mike is deploying, or choosing rooms in their new house. They also look at photos of their future home, and Mike is great about sending postcards.

“We hope that our kids will have a very realistic and balanced view about the importance of material possessions,” says Laurie.

While Peter and Olivia are still young, they recognize that while they might have had bigger bedrooms living at one post, they had an awesome back yard to play in while living another place.

Many of us do not have first-hand experience with having a loved one serving abroad, but most of us know someone with a spouse, sibling or parent serving their country in a danger zone. Laurie advises that while she enjoys talking about her family with friends who are genuinely interested in their lives, she would rather not talk about news stories she purposefully avoids while Mike is deployed. Laurie also likes to point out that she doesn’t “let (her) husband” serve in the Army.

“It’s his job, he loves it, he’s good at it, and there’s no way I could live with myself if I stood in the way of that,” says Laurie.

JLNO thanks Maj. Mike Leiva, Laurie Leiva, Olivia and Peter and the entire military community for their service to our country.
WHAT DO HALLOWEEN crafts, belly dancing and real estate have in common? Each of these topics was featured in the Junior League of New Orleans’ Training and Education seminar series in October. This year the Training and Education committee hosted 18 seminars on a variety of topics from nutrition and art history to fitness and organization.

Throughout the month, Junior League Provisionals, Actives, and Sustainers gathered at various venues throughout the city to gain knowledge about a variety of special interest topics. Experts from an array of fields donated their time to these sessions all intended for members’ edification.

While many are aware of the JLNO’s commitment to volunteerism and improving communities, another facet of the League’s Mission is developing the potential of women. Specifically targeting this goal, the seminar series has grown and developed over the past three years to reflect the variety of interests of League members. This year’s committee members took feedback from previous years’ seminars and expanded and improved their offerings and reach.

Co-Chairs Sarah Abbott and Marie Louise de laVergne credit their committee members for the wide range of this year’s...
seminar offerings.

“They were great with thinking outside of the box and coming up with new ideas,” Marie Louise adds.

For example, one of this year’s seminars held Oct. 10 — “Maximizing Your Real Estate Investment,” hosted by Re/Max New Orleans Properties at their 8001 Maple St. office — brought together real estate brokers Sandra Cason, Bill Baker and Darryl Glade; a home organization specialist, Kay Morrison of The Occasional Wife; and a renovation specialist, George Fowler of Fowler Development, all of whom spoke candidly about getting the most value out of your home. They offered sound advice that they have gained from decades of experience to homeowners.

Other seminars featured topics such as deciding between urgent care versus the emergency room, featuring Patrick Dennis of Urgent Care M.D., husband of League member Kathleen Dennis, jogging tips from the experts, and a private tour of the New Orleans Museum of Art sculpture garden.

Member Stacey Stiel, who attended last year’s running session said, “I learned so much in that session about all facets of a running program, from shoes and clothing, to ideas to consider when running, to gait analysis. It truly helped me kick start a running program for myself.”

With such a range of fun and informative sessions, there was something for everyone. With this October series, the League truly accomplished its goal of training and developing the potential of women.

In addition to the October seminars, the Training and Education committee also hosts a speaker series in the spring. Unlike the seminars, which are open to members only, the speaker series is open to the general public. One of the goals of the Training and Education committee this year is to expand the series. The committee welcomes speaker suggestions and volunteers, especially inviting League Sustainers to provide input!

“We are reaching out to all members for any suggestions and contacts because that’s how we will help make it grow,” says Sarah.

Please contact Sarah Abbott at sarah@nolababy.com or Marie Louise de la Vergne at delavergne@cox.net if you have ideas or would like to participate in the spring speaker series.

Dozens of people assisted in making this year’s seminar series a rousing success and the Training and Education committee hopes for similar results in the spring. The committee members who spearheaded, organized and marketed the sessions from the ground up included Enid Fahrenholt, Jessica Fridge, Natalie Kaharick, Kelly Baughan and Kathleen Dennis. Special thanks goes to Junior League preferred partner Capital One for hosting an informative financial planning session. Thanks also to League member Caroline Brady of 504 FitCamp for her “Fitness at Home” session, and Matthew, Clayton, Brown art appraisal services for hosting the “Antiques Roadshow.”

If you did not get a chance to attend this year’s seminars, you missed a great opportunity. Keep your eyes open for the Spring Speaker series and mark your calendars for next October.
If you love to play dress up, there's no better place to live than New Orleans! We asked Junior League Provisionals, Actives and Sustainers what their favorite costume was for whatever occasion — Halloween, Mardi Gras, Red Dress Run or just for the heck of it. Some members love dressing up so much they couldn't pick just one costume! We hope you'll enjoy and get ideas for future costumes!

Complied by: Jennifer Chamberlin

“When the show Pan Am came out last year, we all decided it was time to channel our inner flight attendant. We had the costumes made by a local seamstress.”

Actives Samantha Daniels Fritz, Kelly Taylor Geist and Misti Landry Bryant

“I couldn’t decide between my two favorite costumes! I have my Saints costume which debuted during the Saints Parade and Poison Ivy, which was just as fun to make as it was to wear.”

Active, Rachel O’Dwyer

“Dressing up as seasonings was easy to do with a group. Everyone picked their favorite spice. And the costume was super simple. Clothing in colors that go with the colors on the spice bottle and pictures and phrases from the website enlarged and put on craft board.”

Sustainer, Martha Heausler

“My first Wonder Woman portrayal was for Halloween in 2004 and she’s been to a few JL events in the past, as well as Halloween and Mardi Gras. This was taken Mardi Gras 2011. She will be heading to Atlanta this month for a birthday party. This is why I have to take Jazzercise.”

Active, Gigi Roth

Provisional, Martha Claire Breeland

Who didn’t dream about running through the grocery store with a cart full of turkeys, coffee beans and diapers on Supermarket Sweep?! I say we bring back all the shows and the styles from the 90s! Martha Claire Breeland and her husband, Quin Breeland
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HEALTHIER OPTIONS mean healthier families. Through its partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, Junior League of New Orleans is excited to provide fresh fruit and vegetable access to South Louisiana’s food insecure population. While traditional donated food items are canned goods, rice and pasta, this exciting new program offers a wholesome alternative.

Six billion pounds of fresh produce goes to waste each year in America because farmers are unable to sell it. As a member of the Feeding America network, Second Harvest is able to distribute 168,000 pounds of produce each month that would otherwise end up in a landfill. The food is mostly distributed through mobile pantry trucks that deliver nutritious options to community food pantries without access to refrigeration. The trucks can also travel to rural areas without food pantries to reach additional residents in need.

“Volunteering through Second Harvest is an excellent oppor-
tunity for League members to see another nonprofit organization at work. They're so organized and passionate about their mission,” says Blair Truslow, Fresh Produce Program co-chair. “When you complete your three-hour shift there, you feel like you’ve really accomplished something great.”

Oranges, cabbages, onions, potatoes and carrots are the most common foods shipped, as they transport well, have a long shelf life and appeal to most taste palettes. Second Harvest obtains the produce at a low cost, paying only the freight and processing fees per truckload. The produce currently is shipped from California, but the program hopes to include more local farmers in the future.

JLNO has partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank since 2001 on kids’ programming, volunteer efforts, the Lagniappe Backpack Program and, most recently, the Fresh Produce Program. The League currently provides monthly volunteer hours, as well as financial support to cover the transportation costs of produce to Second Harvest for bagging into family friendly containers. The ready hands of League volunteers assist with unpacking, sorting and re-packaging the produce.

“I am so excited about my role in the Junior League’s continued relationship with the Second Harvest Food Bank,” says Katherine Miller, Fresh Produce Program co-chair. “Through our volunteer hours, we have all come to understand and feel firsthand the immediacy of the impact our work has on the Greater New Orleans area and South Louisiana parishes. With Blair and Stephanie Arnaud, our Vice-Chair, I am honored to serve as co-chair of this committee with so many dedicated women helping programs that reach those at risk for hunger.”

Through the Fresh Produce Program, JLNO touches lives directly, helping to make the New Orleans community a healthier place to live.

“The consistency and willingness of the Junior League to jump right in and help is incredible,” says Second Harvest Volunteer Coordinator Catie Quinn. “They all have busy lives but take time after work and on weekends to volunteer. These ladies are truly making a difference in our community, and we couldn’t be more thrilled with our partnership.”

Sarah Samuel and Sibby Charbonnet assemble boxes at Second Harvest Food Bank.
Cheer for a Second Year

Elves Spread Holiday Cheer for a Second Year

By: Amanda Goldman

The League kicked off a new fundraising project last Christmas with Elves in Canal Place, where League members provided shoppers with additional Christmas cheer as they wrapped gifts and sold Junior League cookbooks.

The Elves had an impromptu start last year, and despite a time crunch, the program proved to be an immense success. Carla Adams, the Director of Marketing at Canal Place, generously provided store space and support. Dee McCloskey, last year’s League president, presented the idea to the Board shortly before the holiday season. With the Board’s support, Dee worked tirelessly to put the project together in a short time. Her unwavering support continued as she filled in for shifts that were lacking volunteers and made late night runs to Wal-Mart to replenish supplies.

Other League members provided tremendous support for the project, including Katherine Kleinpeter Raymond, Kathleen Gross, Courtney Sherman Lane, Maria Huete, Jeanne Boughton, Tristan Dupepe and Anne-Marie Crifasi. Shannon Able donated supplies and provided the Elves with a generous discount on supplies.

Cash, check or charge? Maribeth del Castillo and her husband Alexander, the owners of Taceaux Loceaux, trained the Elves on how to use Square Up, which facilitated the sales process for the Elves. With an iPad, technology-savvy Elves were able to ring up purchases, balance the books and swipe credit cards.

The Elves will return to Canal Place from Dec. 8-24, and Elena Korbut-Smith and Michelle Kulhanek, the project’s chairs, hope to make the Elves bigger and better.

“Everyone who did the Elves shift last year will tell you that they had fun,” said Elena. “It may be that they laughed at the stressed out men buying last minute gifts for their wives and were running to us for help, or that they enjoyed the free ten hour parking at Canal Place.” Many Elves also managed to cross items off their Christmas lists.

“Any time you walked into our shop you heard laughter, and sharing of stories between Junior Leaguers and tourists,” Elena said, adding that Elves donned bells on their aprons and festive headbands. “What can I say, we try to make it as festive as we possibly can!”

To order your Electronic Version of the 2012-2013 Book of Lists contact Jaclyn Meith at (504) 293-9229 • jaclyn.meith@nopg.com
Shopping Until You Drop for a Fabulous Cause!

By Enjoli Nelson

THIS YEAR’S BEST GIFTS were purchased with the Buy, Save, and Serve Card. From Nov. 2-11, shoppers delighted in the fabulous deals afforded by the card. Twenty percent discounts were offered at some of the finest local retailers and restaurants. Led by co-chairs Adrienne Ehrensing, Mary Dawn Pugh and Chalon Dominique and their committee, more than 500 cards were sold with all benefits going to the League’s community programs.

League members and friends purchased the $35 cards both online and at the kickoff event held Nov. 3 at Lakeside Shopping Center. While card purchasers took advantage of the noteworthy savings, it was a great opportunity for local merchants to experience an increase in pre-holiday foot traffic.

Buy Save & Serve, formerly known as Shopping Card, celebrated its sixth year this year. New this year is an iPhone App, which organized participating merchants by type and location. The App was created by Matt Miller, husband of committee member, Tricia Miller. If by some chance you did not purchase a card this year, don’t worry — there’s always next year. Mark your calendars because Late Fall 2013 will be your year to Shop ‘til You Drop and Save for the enduring cause of the League’s community programs.
Looking for a place to hang out? Join the Parenting Center!

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**Sweet Potato Casserole with Praline Topping**

The holidays wouldn’t be the same without Sweet Potato Casserole. This recipe from *Crescent City Collection* updates a holiday classic with a praline topping. Take advantage of locally grown, seasonal sweet potatoes and pecans when preparing this dish for your next holiday get-together.

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup flour
- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped toasted pecans
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) margarine, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 medium sweet potatoes, peeled, halved (about 2 1/2 pounds)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 egg white
- 1 (5 ounce) can fat-free evaporated milk

**Directions**

Mix the flour, brown sugar, pecans, melted margarine and cinnamon until crumbly. Place the sweet potatoes in a large heavy saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes or until very tender. Drain well and mash in a bowl. Stir in 1 cup of the flour mixture, sugar, vanilla, egg white and evaporated milk. Spoon into a 2 quart baking dish that has been coated with nonstick cooking spray. Top with the remaining flour mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.
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JLNO President Brandy Whisnant poses with Junior League presidents from throughout the country at the AJLI Fall Leadership Conference in Chicago on Sept. 20, 2012.

League Faces

Country Day graduates of the Class of 2012 have been accepted to these outstanding colleges and universities:

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Alabama
American University
Auburn University
Austin College
Barnard College
Bates College
Baylor University
Bentley University
Bowdoin College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Cottey College
College of Charleston
University of Cincinnati
Clemson University
Colby College
University of Colorado at Boulder
Colorado College
Davidson College
DePaul University
Duke University
Emory University
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Furman University
The George Washington University
University of Georgia
Guilford College
Hendrix College
High Point University
Howard University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Kent State University
King’s College, London
Louisiana State University
University of Louisiana
Loyola University, New Orleans
Lynchburg College
Macalester College
Marymount Manhattan College
University of Miami
University of Michigan
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Mississippi College
University of Mississippi
University of New England
University of New Orleans
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The University of Texas, Tyler
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Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Washington College
Wellesley College
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Country Day accepts qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, creed, ethnic, or national origin.
Enid Fahrenholt's precious daughter, Daphne, taking part in the festivities at Front Porch Friday, on Sept 21, 2012.

Rana Francois, Katy Mallios, Barkley Rafferty and Provisional Advisor Elizabeth Feigley mingle at Front Porch Friday on Sept. 21, 2012.

Henry Clay Duquesnay, Blair Duquesnay and Melissa Stelly at Front Porch Friday, on Sept. 21, 2012.

Kate Argote lends her painting skills to a house on Spruce Street.

Rebuilding Together Committee Member Tristan Dupepe lending her painting skills during a community shift for Rebuilding Together on Oct. 12, 2012.

Kate Argote lends her painting skills to a house on Spruce Street.

Tristan Dupepe lending her painting skills during a community shift for Rebuilding Together on Oct. 12, 2012.

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Board Member Brandy Gilly reads to first graders at Lafayette Academy Charter School.

Aubrey Miller and Kristen Rolfs enjoy drinks at Provisional Happy Hour at Superior Seafood on Sept. 19, 2012.

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League Faces

Carla Brown-Pichon, Allison Plaisance and Melissa Eversmeyer enjoy the beautiful weather on the Superior Seafood patio at the Provisional Happy Hour on Sept. 18, 2012.

Deanna McLendon, Lauren Hitt and Michelle Soliman mingle at the Provisional Happy Hour at Superior Seafood on Sept. 18, 2012.

The Freret Neighborhood Outreach Committee volunteered at the Freret Street Night Out Against Crime on Oct. 16, 2012 at the Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center. Front: Jodi Yuspeh, Co-Chair Edie Charlton and Dorothy Mann; Back: Meredith Fuller, Susan Alford and committee Co-Chair Robin Adams.

Children enjoy a carousel at the Freret Street Night Out Against Crime.

Friends Jenna Graham, Ashley Roth and Katie Roth enjoy drinks on the patio of Superior Seafood during Provisional Happy Hour on Sept. 18, 2012.

Hayden Pasternak, son of committee member Merisa Pasternak, poses with a Halloween bag he decorated at the Freret Street Night Out Against Crime on Oct. 16, 2012.

Co-Chairs Edie Charlton and Robin Adams with Freret Street Night Out Against Crime Organizers Pastor D.K. Smith, Renate Brown and Linda Compton.
Your guide to JLNO Events, Community Shifts, Fundraiser Shifts and New Orleans fun!

December 25, 2012
Merry Christmas!
Headquarters closed December 24-25

January 1, 2013
Happy New Year!
Headquarters closed December 31 and January 1

Second Harvest Shifts
January 5, 10, 19
February 9, 14, 23
March 9, 14, 16

Bloomin’ Deals Bridal Boutique
January 12
March 9
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

General Meetings
January 15 9 a.m. (child friendly) and 7 p.m.
February 19, (small groups)

Front Porch Friday
January 18
February 22
5:30-7:30 p.m. Locations TBA

Lafayette Academy Dinner with Mickey for First Grade
January 24 at 6 p.m.

Lafayette Academy Tutoring Shifts
January 23, 30
February 7, 6, 20, 21
March 6, 7, 13, 14
All shifts are 9-11 a.m.

Happy Mardi Gras!
February 12
Headquarters closed February 11-12

Get On Board
February 18, Spring Kickoff Party
February 20, 27 at 5:30 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.JLNO.ORG
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