

# the bridge

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON FALL 2014

The  
Bridge  
is now  
**MOBILE!**

# IMPACT

1:1 with President Andrea Garcia

The Diaper Bank  
In Action

Meet the New Board

A WVOY Preview

Advocacy in Jacksonville

KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
VOLUNTEER

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THE BRIDGE **b** FALL 2014



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Cover Compliments  
Lori Garner



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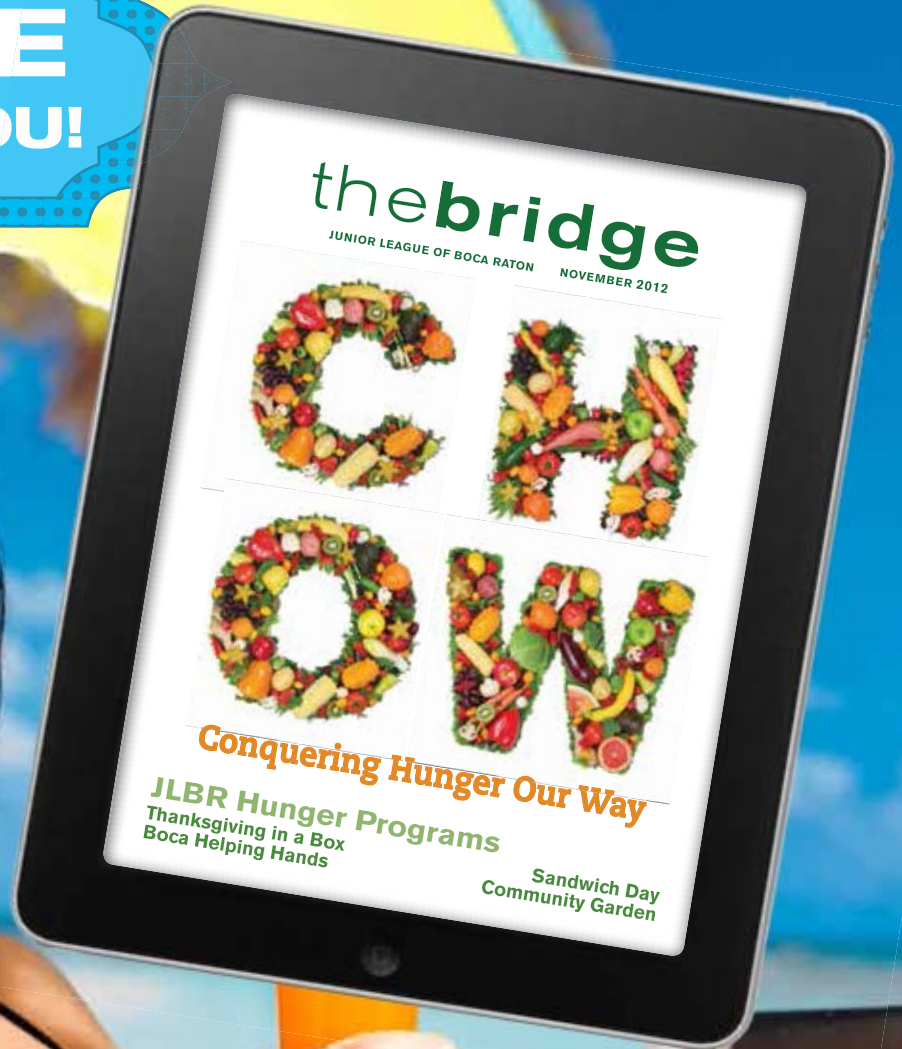
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**On the beach or pool side,  
The Bridge magazine has got you covered!**

# Letters to the League

To: The Amazing Ladies of Junior League -  
 Thank you all so much for your time, energy, & generosity! We were so blessed to have you as a part of Stamp Out Hunger. You all truly made a difference & did an amazing job! We are so grateful to you for leading a "helping hand."  
 Diana Dale  
 B.H.H. Volunteer Program Manager

**STAR**  
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**The Farmworkers Childrens Council, Inc.**  
 March 30, 2014

130 Island Drive  
 Ocean Ridge, FL 33438  
 Phone: 561-732-9779  
 Fax: 561-732-9047  
 Email: [info@starcc.org](mailto:info@starcc.org)  
[www.starcc.org](http://www.starcc.org)

Dear Members,  
 On behalf of The Farmworker Childrens Council, Inc., I thank you for your support to our unique organization with your \$200.00 donation.

At Farmworkers Childrens Council Inc., we serve the children of the workforce agricultural, nursery, and equestrian families of coastal south Palm Beach County, Florida. At this time, we are in the throes of preparing for the FCAT (State Tests), and special projects. Two of our students have science projects that proceeded to the next level and there is much excitement for them.

Our elementary student's grasp of reading, math, and language arts, and the next 10 weeks of classes at Pines North and Pines South are in progress, taught by the Senior Elementary Education students in the College. Classes are 1 hour. Of those Saturdays, 2 of the sessions are devoted to art, music, and media. What a privilege! The elementary children are truly loving Saturday School!

Thank you for playing a vital role in helping these children who are primarily in elementary, but also in middle and high school. We could not do it without the help of community partners such as you.

Sincerely,  
 Donna Marie Goray  
 Founder/ Treasurer

No goods, services, or benefits were provided in exchange for this grant.  
 With your permission, we would like to add you as our partner on our web site:  
[www.starcc.org](http://www.starcc.org)  
 Photos will be sent in August 2014!

**FARMWORKER COORDINATING COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.**  
 1313 Central Terrace • Lake Worth, Florida 33460  
 (561) 533-7222 office • (561) 533-6999 fax  
[www.farmworkercoordinating.org](http://www.farmworkercoordinating.org)  
 Belle Glade Office  
 235 W. Avenue A • Suite D • P.O. Box 99 • Belle Glade, FL 33450  
 (561) 992-0603 office • (561) 992-8618 fax

April 28, 2014

Jacqueline Reeves-JLBR President  
 261 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

Dear Ms. Reeves:

On behalf of our farm worker families the staff and the Board of Directors, please accept our most sincere thanks and appreciation for the generous donation of rice and beans for our clients. We are extremely fortunate to count on the generosity of people like you and Community Friends that help make a difference in the lives of those that are less fortunate.

Please express our thanks to all those at the Junior League of Boca Raton that made this contribution possible. Food insecurity continues to be a major challenge for the families we serve and we truly appreciate the opportunity to provide our clients with supplemental food items.

When people give from the heart, it makes such a difference. For the last 35 years the Farmworker Coordinating Council has provided numerous services, programs and intervention strategies to make a difference in the lives of the Farmworker community. Our success has been in large part due to the support that we have received from caring individuals such as you. Thank you once again for supporting our mission.

Sincerely,  
 Sergio M. Palacio  
 Executive Director

Contributions benefit the Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc., a not for profit tax exempt organization. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF FARMWORKER COORDINATING COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC., CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NO. 4101433 MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. receives 100% of each contribution.

To the Junior League of Boca Raton -  
 Many thanks for your generous donation to place of hope at the Haven. We appreciate the opportunity to share with your members and we look forward to partnering with you in 2014.  
 Sincerely,  
 Lisa McEwen

**Child Development Centers**  
 big hearts helping little ones

April 18, 2014

Ms. Gina Griffin  
 Junior League of Boca Raton  
 261 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

Dear Junior League of Boca Raton Volunteer Teams:

On behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you most sincerely for your admirable service to our Centers' Thrift Shop! For well over forty years FCDC has provided affordable childcare, quality preschool, enriched after-school, and summer camp to children from low-income families. 625 children between the ages of 4 weeks to 5 years and after-school children from 5 to 13 years are currently served at FCDC's two Boca Raton locations. Thanks to your support, we are able to continue providing our children with a safe environment for them to learn and grow.

The proceeds of the Thrift Store go directly to support our children's many programs, which makes your work efficient in providing for our children with education, health screenings, toys, and so much more. In addition, our Thrift Store Manager is so grateful for a cleaner space to work! Without dedicated volunteer teams like yours, big projects like that would just never get done. It is absolutely wonderful to be able to look to our community for caring and committed people to help us out! We are so grateful to the women of the Junior League are such people.

Together, we give disadvantaged children the chance to succeed while giving parents help to build brighter futures for their families. These experiences are made possible only through your time and contributions. On behalf of the children and their parents, thank you for being a big heart helping little ones.

Thank you so much for your commitment to helping children in need.

Our sincere thanks,  
 Dawn Orent  
 CEO

Diane Showcross  
 Development Director

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[www.fcfc.org](http://www.fcfc.org)  
 Please remember FCDC in your estate planning.

**VITAL FLIGHT.**  
 Thursday, January 23, 2014

Junior League of Boca Raton  
 Attn: Chim Francisco  
 261 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

Ms. Francisco:

We are grateful for the Junior League's support of Vital Flight. We can't begin to thank you enough for your generous donation! Your contribution of \$1,800 is helping us reach out to children and families who so desperately need medical care or humanitarian aid far from home.

As you well know, Vital Flight transports passengers for whom long-distance travel for specialized care would be a financial burden. Your financial commitment makes it possible for us to continue rekindling hope and strengthening the lives of those who are hurting.

Your support is very much appreciated and always needed. On behalf of all those who will benefit because of your gift, thank you for your help.

MISSION STATEMENT  
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WEB SITE  
[www.vitalflight.org](http://www.vitalflight.org)

Chairman

**KidSafe Foundation**  
 20283 State Road 7 E600  
 Boca Raton, FL 33468  
[www.KidSafeFoundation.org](http://www.KidSafeFoundation.org)  
 (855) 844-5476

April 24, 2014

Dear Junior League of Boca Raton,

On behalf of KidSafe Foundation I would like to thank you for your incredibly generous donation of \$500.00 to KidSafe Foundation for our 1<sup>st</sup> KidSafe - FAU Family day on Saturday, March 29, 2014. It was a wonderful event - and a wonderful opportunity to educate families while having fun. Your commitment to helping to educate families will have a long life. Your commitment to helping to support KidSafe Programs in our community is sincerely appreciated.

Each year KidSafe Foundation continues to advance its mission of providing education to children and adults to prevent child sexual abuse, bullying and internet dangers. Through our programs:

- "KidSafe for Kids"
  - o 8 week curriculum for children ages 4 - 12
- KidSafe Parent Seminar
- KidSafe Teacher Workshops
- KidSafe Sexual Abuse Prevention Training for Professionals
- Two award winning children's safety books
  - o "Jack teaches his friends to be KidSafe!"
  - o "My Body is Special and Belongs To ME!"

We have seen thousands of lives changed for the better.

The goal of the KidSafe Foundation is to continue to make a difference and prevent children from harm. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, every day we are protecting, educating and empowering our children.

Thanks again for your generous support.

Working together to keep Kids Safe!

Sally Berenzweig & Cherie Benjoseph  
[www.kidsafe.org](http://www.kidsafe.org)  
 Phone: 561-715-1077  
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Thank you for all your support!

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Ever met someone that literally made you want to be a better person or inspire you to give just a little bit more of yourself? Inspiring and “IMPACTFUL” people like this may not come into our lives that often, but when they do...you definitely remember them. Their engagement is usually something that makes an impression lasting lifetimes with us.

I met one of these IMPACTFUL women when I joined the Junior League several years back. JLBR’s new President Andrea Garcia has an amazing spirit for life, passion for all things League and vision that I know will inspire hundreds along the way. I had the pleasure of interviewing Andrea last week as I worked on my first issue as Editor here at the Bridge. I know you will be inspired just as I was when you read more about her.

## from the editor

We hope her story and vision “impacts” you the way it has many of us here within the league and at the Bridge (page 10).

We’re also showing other kinds of IMPACT across the league and in the community in this issue. Learn how our Public Affairs crew is working on several initiatives with the help of other state-wide leagues (page 24). The Women Volunteer of the Year celebration is just around the corner. You’ll want to also learn a little more in our 1st Bridge Spotlight with nominee Mary Csar (page 28). We’ve got an in depth look into this year’s event on page 33. It’s a jam packed issue filled with IMPACT-ful stories to inspire you.

Here’s to kicking off this time of year with many wonderful ways you can make your own IMPACT in the community!

### #IMPACTTOMORROWTODAY

Shawn Sherlock

Editor of *The Bridge*, 2014-2015

## BRIDGE ADVERTISER Contest Giveaway

Enter for a chance to win 1,000 business cards from Minuteman Press (valued at \$79) by answering this Junior League question:

***In what year was the Junior League of Boca Raton founded?***

Send us your answer via our Facebook page and WIN!

<https://www.facebook.com/JuniorLeagueBocaRaton>



# How *The Bridge* is Making an

# I M P A C T

Following the footsteps of our fearless and driven President Andrea Garcia, we at *The Bridge* wanted to kick things up a notch and publish a magazine with a stronger statement and impact representative of our Junior League. With that in mind, you will find significant changes within these wonderful pages. We're also hitting the streets and working closer than ever before with our advertisers and our partners.

Here is our **IMPACTFUL** list of NEW features.....

We are **IMPROVING** our content and our look with more in-depth articles.

We are giving advertisers and Community partners **MORE** exposure via new spotlight stories, tips, shopping guides, etc.

We are getting **PERSONAL** with our advertisers by partnering on various client events, stopping in for customer appreciation days, and other hands on events with our fabulous advertisers.

We are working to **ADD** additional pricing offerings in the coming year. Stay tuned!

We are adding **CONTESTS** throughout the publications engaging readers from start to finish.

We will be adding advertiser **TESTIMONIALS** to show true impact from a different perspective.



From left: Gretchen Cenese Finkernagel, Shawn Sherlock, Minelle Tendler, Catharine Drettman, Marti Lotman, Samantha Danchuk. Not pictured: Delia Weiss

We want to thank all of you for your patronage over the years. We hope you enjoy the new look, enhancements and all and we welcome your feedback as we transition into this new era of *The Bridge*!

Yours Truly,  
The Staff at the Bridge

Shawn Sherlock  
Minelle M. Tendler  
Delia Weiss  
Marti Lotman  
Samantha Danchuk  
Gretchen Cenese Finkernagel  
Catharine Drettman



Proud printer of *The Bridge Magazine*



Mike & Lise Orr (JLBR Active Member)  
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*Thank you Junior League of Boca Raton  
for your support in our community!*



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# president's perspective

**W**elcome to another fabulous year in the Junior League of Boca Raton! I am truly honored to serve as the JLBR's 43rd President for 2014-2015 and I am thrilled to help move our mission forward and make it one of the best Junior League year's yet!

My theme for this year is "Impact Tomorrow Today". I asked our members what they want out of their membership. Why did they join? What does their membership mean to them? As you can imagine, I heard several different reasons but the common word that kept coming up was "IMPACT". They want to make a difference in the community. They want to have an impact! JLBR members want to know the impact they have when they volunteer at a DIAD. How did their volunteering help our nonprofit partner? They want to know if their time made a real difference. They want to hear stories or see pictures of how we have helped children at In the Pines, or how many children didn't have to go hungry because of the backpacks with food they received and they want the ability to share data with our supporters that demonstrates things like how many women and children we have helped and the overall impact we have.

The impact our organization has is both internal and external. When thinking about impact, also called outcome measurement, most people think about it as external impact. Meaning what impact does the junior league have in our community? We will be measuring and sharing our external impact but we are also going to measure and share our internal impact. Internal impact measurement is essential as we have to know where we are in order to figure out where we want to go. For example, what are women learning through their JLBR membership? What experiences

are they having? How is the JLBR changing their lives? We measure our impact so that we can build on what we have done and learn from where we have been allowing us to move forward to build a better future.

My vision is to share our impact in everything we do. Resources like closerware, our database system, has the capacity to store data and track our impact. We can store testimonials, thank you letters and our impact numbers ( like # of diapers, # of children we have served, pounds of food collected, funds raised, attendance at our events, etc.)-- If you can name it, we can track its impact! The benefits of measuring impact includes:

- Happier members who feel their volunteer time is making a difference or having an impact
- Greater success in retaining, maintaining, and increasing dollars that will go towards supporting our mission
- Identifying areas that need improvement
- Providing value to existing and potential funders
- Improvement of image and greater visibility in the Boca Raton community

Well my friends, get ready for an impactful year! Our JLBR leadership has been working hard all summer to collect and track our impact. The JLBR's impact will become an everyday reality this year as you will hear stories that will bring tears to your eyes and make you proud of being part of this great organization. We are on track to measure everything we do and according to AJLI, we will be the first league to do it in this way. Let's lead the way and Impact Tomorrow Today!

Andrea Garcia  
President, 2014-2015



*Follow the Junior League of Boca Raton!*



*A 1:1 with new  
JLBR President  
Andrea Garcia*

# PRESIDENTIAL IMPACT

Since its founding in 1901 by social activist Mary Harriman, The Junior League has evolved into one of the oldest, largest, and most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world, encompassing more than 150,000 women in 292 Leagues in four countries. Day in and day out, these fearless women are at the forefront of social reform, identifying problems like illiteracy, domestic violence and foster children. They are also key players when it comes to finding solutions.

One woman who is trying to find solutions to some of Boca Raton's toughest problems is Andrea Garcia. She's just stepping into her new role as President of The Junior League of Boca Raton. Andrea attended Florida State University where she received her B.S. in Marketing. She's currently an accomplished and highly motivated Senior Sales Consultant at Oasis Outsourcing; the largest privately held Professional Employer Organization (PEO) in the nation. Andrea is also very involved in her community. She believes to thoroughly understand your community you have to get involved with it. Not only does she currently serve as President, she is also a member of the League's Endowment Board and sits on the Advisory Board for KidSafe Foundation. Andrea is happily married to her husband Rich of 9 years and

they have 2 children. Their son, Ryler is 4 and they just welcomed their daughter Briella who is now 18 months old. Andrea loves to volunteer in her community, travel, read, and practice yoga.

Andrea sat down with The Bridge recently to let us know what her new mission is all about and how she plans on making an IMPACT in her community!

**The Bridge:** We are honored to have you serve as our President this year. Can you tell us a little more about your theme for the year: IMPACT?

**Andrea:** Thank you! I am honored to be here. My theme is Impact and I want to take every opportunity I can to show, share and educate our members and our community. As the league, we want to be the impact, share the impact and serve as a catalyst for an even greater impact within our community.

**The Bridge:** I love it. You can truly see your passion in your mission as well and feel the energy you have towards your theme this year. I know this will speak volumes to other members. What do you hope to accomplish this year as President?

**Andrea:** Over the 8 years I've been with the league, I have feared that some of the work we do and the overall impact our league makes can get lost. I want to shine the light on the power of the league and the differences



From top: Andrea Garcia with volunteers from the Caring Kitchen; Andrea with JLBR VP of Planning Meghan Shea; Andrea with her husband Rich Garcia. Following page: Andrea with her husband Rich, daughter Briella and son Ryler.

we make to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve the community.

*The Bridge:* Is there anything you would like the community to know about the league they may not know already?

**Andrea:** It's important that the community know the Junior League of Boca Raton is laser focused on making a positive impact in our community. Our impact-first approach guides everything we do. There is a perception that our organization is predominately a social organization- and we do host some fantastic events- but those events ultimately go on to support the work we do and they have created a long-standing impact on our community since 1971.

*The Bridge:* What else do you want people to know about you? What makes you tick outside the league?

**Andrea:** My family is my life. I simply adore my kids and my entire family as well. I have to give a huge thank you to my wonderful husband Rich. He is simply my world. Rich is such a wonderful husband, father and my best friend. Without him, I would not be who I am today. He gives me so much support no matter what I am doing in life.

*The Bridge:* Such a powerhouse you are and what a passionate leader we have. Thank you for taking the time out with us to get to know you a little more and hear more about your vision this year. I know it will be a wonderful year filled with many impactful stories to hear about!

**Andrea:** Thank you! I look forward to hearing about those stories and challenge everyone in the League and in the community to #IMPACTTOMORROWTODAY! 📌



# local Momscop

the SCOOP for moms in Boca Raton, Delray Beach,  
and other South Florida Areas!

Heather McMechan, Owner  
561.703.7358  
heather@localmomscoop.com  
www.localmomscoop.com

# How will YOU make an IMPACT

## IN YOUR COMMUNITY THIS YEAR?

### Heather McMechan

Owner, Localmomscoop.com

I plan on making an IMPACT by promoting local events and information that highlight education, philanthropies, getting active, eating healthy and other topics that are important to parents and kids. Local Mom Scoop plans to team up with local libraries, community centers, community gardens and philanthropic organizations such as the Junior League of Boca Raton to get the scoop out about how others can get involved and make that positive IMPACT!

#### 5 WAYS MY KIDS AND I ARE GOING TO TRY AND MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY:

1. Visit Gumbo Limbo Nature Center to learn how we can protect the Turtle Nests and keep our beaches clean.
2. Participate in Thanksgiving In A Box
3. Donate diapers to the Junior League of Boca Raton Diaper Bank
4. Be a part of the Spirit of Giving Holiday Gift Drive purchasing holiday gifts for children in need.
5. Say no to Bullying by showing respect, using kind words and remembering our manners.



From left: Local kids at Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party at the Boca Raton Community Garden; Heather McMechan with her daughters Jameson and Drew and husband Andy; Yvette Drucker (right) with Liz Grace.

### Yvette Drucker

Co-Chair, Woman Volunteer of the Year committee

I personally look forward to making an impact by co-chairing our signature fundraiser event Woman Volunteer of the Year 2014, by doing this my hope is that we will raise lots of monies to continue making impact in our community. I will also continue with my advocacy efforts in Public Affairs & SPAC to raise awareness on legislative opportunities around issues that affect our community.



## Margi Cross, JLBR Vice President of Community

As a member of Junior League of Boca Raton for the past 5 years, I have had the opportunity to see many of the challenges that face residents of South Palm Beach County. From the families that struggle to provide their children with diapers, to the young females who lack in self-esteem, to the countless that go hungry; far too many of the struggles in our community go unseen. As the 2014-2015 VP of Community I hope to bring those challenges to light in Boca Raton and the surrounding communities. By working with all 6 Issues Co-Chairs and their committees I hope to bring measurable changes to improve the lives of our residents.


The number of young females with self-esteem issues continues to rise. Through hands-on help we plan to reach out to young ladies with low self-esteem giving them self-confidence and a brighter future both in school and in the community.

Our team believes that no family in Palm Beach should go hungry or be malnourished. Our goal is to teach the importance of healthy nutrition while living on a budget through cooking and nutrition classes. We plan to educate our non-profit community so they are able to continue



making a difference in conquering hunger. Our food drives will continue to be a driving force in getting the community involved and making sure everyone has food on the table.

The number of families that struggle to provide diapers for their children is staggering. Through the Diaper Bank, diaper drives, and the support of local and national businesses we hope to make a difference in the lives of children by providing deserving families with diapers.

I am honored to be the VP of Community and work with the Community Issues Team. It will be a privilege to work with such talented women and truly make an impact in South Palm Beach County. 

*At top: Margi (middle) at the JLBR Diaper Drive.*

## A MUTUAL MISSION



### Delray Beach Public Library

**The Bridge:** What IMPACT do you think the League has on this community?

**DBPL:** The League assists our community with both financial support and volunteers. The work of the Junior League is most meaningful as the League directly funds significant programs and projects that directly impact the overall health of our community. In addition to the financial resources committed, the thousands of volunteer hours they provide with trained volunteers is of most benefit. Non-profits rely on volunteers which results in helping save significant dollars in personnel and providing more resources into the community.

**The Bridge:** How do you all plan on making an impact in your community this year?

**DBPL:** Over 2,000 people utilize the Delray Beach Public Library each day. Our resources and programs are accessible for EVERYONE to use. We are an independent, non profit library (not part of government) everyone in the state of Florida can get a FREE library card and use our Library. This year, the Library will continue to focus on quality FREE programs and resources for people of all ages – from birth to seniors.



# HUNGER<sup>BY</sup>THE NUMBERS

**21.6%** FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN **23.6%**  
← NATIONWIDE vs. PALM BEACH COUNTY →

FOOD INSECURITY: USDA MEASURE OF LACK OF MEANS TO ACCESS ENOUGH FOOD FOR AN ACTIVE, HEALTHY LIFE.

**\$2.74** AVERAGE COST OF A MEAL **\$3.08**  
← NATIONWIDE vs. PALM BEACH COUNTY →

NUMBER OF FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN PALM BEACH COUNTY **63,390**

**58%** OF AMERICAN SCHOOL CHILDREN RECEIVE THEIR PRIMARY MEAL AT SCHOOL THROUGH THE FEDERAL FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

**3** OUT OF **5** TEACHERS SAY THEY HAVE CHILDREN IN THEIR CLASSROOMS THAT REGULARLY COME TO SCHOOL HUNGRY

The Junior League of Boca Raton is bridging the hunger gap and providing food for after school so children can learn, play and grow to their full potential.



FROM SEPTEMBER 2013 TO MAY 2014 THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON PROVIDED

**38,457** MEALS TO FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

THAT EQUALS:

**26,064** WEEKEND MEALS SENT IN BACKPACKS

**5,361** SANDWICHES

**6,360** AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS

**672** HOLIDAY MEALS

(Data from: Feeding America (2012 data) and Boca Helping Hands)



# MEET THE



# BOARD

Making an “IMPACT”  
in Your Community

**I**t's a new year and the Junior League of Boca Raton is excited to introduce this year's new board members! This group of 14 unique and talented women bring to the table over one hundred years of league experience. We sat down with each of these lovely ladies and asked them to tell us a little bit about themselves, their new role on the board, and what "impact" means to them. Here's what they had to say!

### **Andrea Garcia, President**

You can read her in depth 1:1 on page 10!

### **Kirsten Stanley, President-Elect**

The impact the league has on its members' lives is of primary importance to me. We need to derive value from our time with the league. As part of the Impact Task Force I am working on gathering data and stories to measure our impact as it relates to the three parts of our mission. I am also excited to working with Planning Council on the transformation of our Governance and Management Model.

### **Terri Williams, VP Finance**

I was born and raised in Southern California. I love travel, health and fitness and taking long walks. I have two grown children and have been happily married for 24 years. I am most looking forward this year to helping others understand the impact of our financial role in the community. It takes hard work and financial support to achieve our positive impact in the community. To me Community Impact means where we strive to make positive changes in our community that are visible, shareable, and helpful.

### **Sherry Winter- Training Chair**

I'm very excited to continue in my role as JLBR Training Chair this year! Our leadership is highly motivated to develop the potential of women, which is where I think that I can most "impact" our membership. I believe the Training Committee's focus follows along with that goal. We are thrilled to offer training and speakers that parallel that vision. From a personal perspective, it's important to me that all JLBR members enjoy their experiences within the league,

and make the most of their membership. You truly get back what you put in!

### **Meghan Shea- VP Planning**

This year the Planning Council and The Board are working to improve our governance structure in a way that would allow us to become more efficient and effective. This change would help us to achieve more Impact both within the league and the Community. This year the Planning Council will also work with Training to develop a program that provides training for people interested in joining local Non-Profit Boards. Not only would we be training members to be on The Boards of Non-Profits in our community but we would also pair interested volunteers with Non-Profits in need of Board members.

### **Audrey Morris- PR/ Marketing Chair**

As the PR/Marketing Chair for the league, I am excited to help share our "impact" story with the larger community. Impact is a great way to define the work we do as a league every day. Whether it is through promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women or improving our community, we have countless story telling opportunities!

### **Liz Grace- VP Communications**

It's rewarding to see the strong impact that the Junior League has made locally over the years. The JLBR has directly benefited dozens of non-profits right here in South Palm Beach County. In my role as VP of Communications, I hope to work with the great team on our Council to effectively communicate the impact to our outside audiences.

### **Samantha Vassallo- Sustaining Advisor**

"Impact" to me is something that leaves a lasting impression. On a daily basis I am continually reminded of the impact the JLBR has left on our community... whether it's one of our many projects (The Community Garden, The Children's Museum or the Historical Society to name a few) or the impact we made on a child who got to "shop" for school supplies or attended a self-esteem event, or someone who needed diapers or a meal. Our impact in the community is boundless and I love being part of such a wonderful organization. This year I am most looking forward to working with Andrea and the Board and continuing to make an "impact" in our community!

### **Nikki Stelzer- CIRC**

I am the Chair of the Community Impact Research Committee (CIRC). This is my 7<sup>th</sup> year in the JLBR. My career is in Finance so I have chosen to spend most

# IMPACT

of my time on the Community side of the league to balance out my skill sets. To me impact is summed up by this quote I came across: "If you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room." –Anita Roddick" Each of us makes a difference in the JLBR and our community, and if there is one thing that I have learned while being in the league, it's that many women moving in the same direction, around a single cause, effects change and has a lasting impact. That is exactly why I am so excited to be leading CIRC and being a part of this movement of driven women. As a league we are broadening the conversation on impact, how it's measured, and what it means for our community. With our President, Andrea Garcia's focus being on impact this year, I feel like it is an exciting time to be on the Board and I'm looking forward to another rewarding year.

### **Margi Cross- VP Community**

As VP of Community I look most forward to promoting the work that the Junior League of Boca Raton does for the residents of Boca Raton and surrounding service area. My goal is to connect with new non-profits while maintaining strong relationships with those that already exist. I look forward to working with the provisionals, actives and sustainers as we can and will IMPACT our local service area. If I can have an effect, influence or alter the life of an individual be it for an hour, a day or a lifetime I feel like I have made an "impact". It can be as simple as reading a book to a small child, serving lunch to the elderly or helping build a home for a deserving family. In my spare time, I am also a dedicated mother and wife. I enjoy spending time volunteering not only for the Junior League of Boca Raton, but at Boca Helping Hands and Hospice by the Sea. You can also catch me up at a FSU football game or at a Miami Heat basketball game.

### **Sarah Doyle- VP Fund Development**

This year marks my 12th year in the League. I Googled impact and came up with several definitions. My favorite was "the striking of one thing off another". To elaborate, I think about what results when one thing strikes off another. I have been positively "struck" time and again as a Leaguer by incredibly strong, bright, fearless women. The "impact" is that each year I've dedicated more time to the League and as a result to our mission. I'm most looking forward to seeing the impact our President, Andrea makes this year because I think she is helping guide JLBR to unchartered and amazing places!

### **Jackie Reeves- VP Personnel**

To me "impact" means the effect to have on another. The JLBR has had and will continue to have an


enormous "impact" within our community. There are numerous times that I will casually comment to another person that the League helped get that organization started or spearhead their renovations etc.. Interestingly the return question is often: what hasn't the League impacted? I am looking forward to getting to know our Provisionals and implementing more and more THANK YOUs to our members.

### **Jennifer Gene- Nominating Placement Chair**

I'm a modern Boca mom. I work full time as a real estate agent, I volunteer as a Guardian Ad Litem, at the JCC and a few other organizations around town but most importantly I am a wife and a mother. Sometimes there aren't enough hours in the day but when there are a few extra you might find me at a poker table! This year, I'm looking forward to streamlining the process that we use to help our members develop their own career path within the league. I would love to see more women thinking ahead to roles they would like to fill or committees they would like to sit on. We could then have more time to help train our future leaders and prepare our committee members for what they will be doing next year! To me, "impact" means making a tangible difference: one that can be felt with your heart, seen with your eyes or heard from others praise. Some of my greatest moments as a Junior League member have been when people came to me to share stories about how the league affected their life, their work or their community.

### **Melissa Whelchel- Recording Secretary**

This year as the recording secretary, I am looking forward to recording and telling the tale for years to come with the Junior League of Boca Raton. I have the opportunity to record the meetings, discussions and planning that we are working on today to impact the future. "Impact" is not something that we should focus on just for this year; this year is just the tip of the iceberg and we have so much to look forward to with impacting individuals in the league and the community!

**There you have it. A multitude of fantastic ways our Board members plan on making an "impact" in their new roles this coming league year. You don't have to be exceptionally powerful or even wealthy to make a positive social impact in your community. What one person can do may seem insignificant but if done properly and with the right intentions, a single act of kind-heartedness can have a domino effect and eventually, it may even turn your entire community around. So with this said, I ask you: What is your "impact" going to be? Go out and make it happen!** 



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