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**PACT**

**BORROW**

**ODAY**

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## *Advocacy in Jacksonville*

The weekend of July 18th found Boca Raton State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) delegates in Jacksonville, Florida at the first Advocacy conference of the year. Delegates included Yvette Drucker, Stefanie Moon, Fran Sharon, Kirsten Stephenson, and Kate Trimble.

The State of Florida boasts 25 Junior Leagues, with combined membership of over 11,000 women. Each Florida Junior League that chooses to participate in the advocacy process sends delegates to state meetings and conferences throughout the year to research and debate the issues of the day. Participation has grown to encompass almost all Leagues across the state, regardless of how small they are.

The welcome reception took place on the pool deck at the Omni hotel downtown, where delegates from all over Florida reconnected and discussed the upcoming conference and session updates.

Saturday morning during breakfast at the Jacksonville League office, delegates were welcomed by Jacksonville president Karen Smith and 2014-2015 SPAC Chair Kathleen Pollack from the Orlando League. Legislative analysts Erin Choy (Tallahassee) and Gina Evans

BY KIRSTEN STEPHENSON

(Tampa) provided a comprehensive update on bills that SPAC was championing during last year's session, and issues that are going to be highlighted by this year's legislative body. This included legislation on unaccompanied youth, the ID safety Act (introduced by Agricultural Commissioner Adam Putnam it is an issue that Florida's SPAC brought to the attention of SPACs throughout the country), and booster seat legislation (that has finally passed and been signed into law), in addition to other issues that had been on the radar.

April Patterson (President elect for the Jacksonville League and conference chair) again welcomed the group and gave an overview of how the conference would unfold.

SPAC advisor Kirsten Stephenson (Boca Raton) gave a SPAC 101 speech discussing the history, processes, and goals of SPAC.

Jacksonville Councilwoman Lori Boyer focused her highly informational lecture around training in best practices for advocacy.

Leagues then spoke about their individual projects or issues supported, and how they approached those issues. Many Leagues across Florida are transitioning from project based to issues based volunteer work. Fort Myers detailed for the group a concept they are putting into practice regarding a bus full of fresh healthy food that would go around to food deserts in the area providing this food, and Tampa talked about a huge Human Trafficking campaign that started locally and has grown statewide. Orlando was also working (through SPAC) with their legislators to help craft legislation to tackle food deserts, and spoke about a mapping program to show where these food deserts are located, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of this summer. Orlando spoke about their issue of tackling poverty, as they felt that many other important issues stem from poverty. They had also brought in a consultant to evaluate how their community viewed their League, as opposed to how the League viewed itself.

The legislative analysts promised to send out our new

legislation delegation list (both federal and state) after the elections in November.

Throughout the working lunch, speaker Dr. Anne-Marie Kent Willett (doctorate in educational leadership) talked about educational strategies that universities are using to broaden their impact in the community. The mayor of Jacksonville has someone on loan from the local university serve as a liaison to his office, with the task of meeting with the city council representatives and determining best ways to offer education to the most needy and difficult group to reach – single mothers in poverty. They have made excellent inroads in helping these women achieve a college degree. It's an example of a public / private partnership that has been highly successful for their community. She also talked about best processes for obtaining grants for these types of projects.

After lunch, the delegates moved to the auditorium, and Melissa McKinley (Palm Beaches) spoke about her campaign for county commissioner, and all the challenges and joys that it entailed. She got her start as SPAC chair years ago and has gone far in her political career and enjoyed every minute of it. Mary Ellen Collins (Tampa) talked about the new website Florida SPAC is creating, and asked for feedback and information.

A panel composed of four executive directors of strong



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area nonprofits with values similar to SPAC was convened, and an informational session was conducted followed by a lively question and answer period. SPAC delegates are not shy about their opinions!

After a board meeting, the delegates adjourned and met again for the cocktail legislation party at the River Club, an old established restaurant located at the top of one of the highest buildings in the city.

The following morning, delegates met at the warehouse of the Jacksonville League's signature project, Rethreaded. It is a business staffed almost exclusively with former human trafficked women putting their life back together. Products were offered for sale to delegates, and tours given. Delegates were broken up into smaller groups with the purpose of sharing best practices within their own leagues.

SPAC conferences take place at different leagues across the state, and are full of training opportunities, speakers, idea sharing, brainstorming, and relationship building. The rewards for participating leagues are exponential, and the group has developed quite a following over the years.


The first meeting of the year takes place during

the summer and in addition to training, issues are presented for discussion and investigation from Leagues across the state, starting the process of selecting the issue(s) that SPAC will support for the upcoming legislative session. The fall conference is when the actual voting takes place. Delegates then work with their local legislators to advocate for the selected issue(s), and the final conference takes place

in Tallahassee in the winter, and includes more meetings with legislators.

The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee has been the advocacy arm of the Junior Leagues of Florida for nearly 50 years, monitoring the state legislative process and

addressing issues of political importance to the members of the Junior Leagues.

The Junior Leagues of Florida have weighed in on various topics, including bicycle helmets for children under 16, the Environmental Growth Management Act of 1995, the '911' Emergency Medical System, child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile justice, and education foster kids aging out of the system, hunger, human trafficking, cyberbullying, sexual predators targeting children, incarcerated female youth, and numerous more. 



*Kirsten Stephenson, second from left, Yvette Drucker, second from right, and other members of the JLBR SPAC committee in Jacksonville.*

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**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
BOCA RATON**

*Women building better communities*

*Woman Volunteer of the Year*  
**27th ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

SAVE THE DATE  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2014**  
**BOCA WEST COUNTRY CLUB**

MARTA BATMASIAN, HONORARY CHAIR  
YVETTE DRUCKER & KIRSTEN STEPHENSON, CO-CHAIRS

For event information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact  
561-620-2553 or visit [www.jlbr.org/wvoy](http://www.jlbr.org/wvoy)



The Junior League of Boca Raton, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The Junior League of Boca Raton qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of the official registration, no. CH2459, and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll free 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



# *Actions* **Speak Volumes**

A Spotlight on Woman Volunteer  
of the Year Nominee, Mary Csar

BY DELIA WEISS

Despite the fact that Mary Csar has been tirelessly involved in Boca Raton community volunteerism for 36 years, she was completely caught off guard by her nomination for the Boca Raton 2014 Woman Volunteer of the Year (WVOY) award. Mary Csar is currently the Executive Director of the Boca Raton Historical Society. She was born in Monticello, Florida, a small town 28 miles outside of Florida's capitol city, Tallahassee. She is a seventh generation Floridian, and deeply rooted in local history and culture. Mary was introduced to volunteerism and strong family values as a way of life during childhood. Her parents actively volunteered in Girl and Boy Scouts, 4-H Club, church, local Historic Preservation and Landscaping work, amongst other volunteer jobs.

Mary's hometown, Monticello, is the third largest National Historic District in Florida behind only St. Augustine and Pensacola. Monticello has over 600 historic buildings built before 1930, many built before 1900. Mary fondly recalls her school days at Jefferson County High School. Formerly Monticello High School, built circa 1852, it is a quaint, one-room schoolhouse, with tall white columns in the Greek Revival architecture style. Jefferson County High School is on the National Register of Historic Places along with 21 other properties and districts in Jefferson County.

Mary moved to Boca Raton in 1978 when it was still a small town, but growing fast. She immediately joined the Boca Raton Historical Society due to her interest in historic preservation. She admired and learned from many other community workers in her early years at the Boca Historical Society.

She joined The Junior League of Boca Raton in 1982, when meetings were being held at the Boca Raton Hotel. Mary quickly became immersed in Junior League volunteering and took advantage of membership training to learn how to become a good volunteer and work well with others. The Migrant Health Fair, held during the League's early years, stands out in Mary's mind as one of many important Junior League projects. Mary recalls experiencing a powerful force generated when needy and volunteer women united to reach common goals



*At left: Mary Csar and Bacchus Award Winnie Bobby Campbell at Boca Bacchanal. This page, from top: Mary with the Countess De Hoernle on her 95th birthday; Mary with Junior League members Susan Saxton and Pattie Damron at the AJLI Conference in 1991; Mary accepting a custom monkey logo for the Boca Raton Historical Society from artist Mort Walker.*

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during the Migrant Health Fair. The Migrant Health Fair blossomed into an ongoing League commitment and spawned programs to serve the migrant community and benefit many families.

The Boca Raton Community Redevelopment Agency hired Mary part-time during an exciting period of downtown development and Mary applied herself to the task of helping to build a community in Boca. Mary's background in historical preservation, her Economics Masters degree and teaching experience all allowed her to contribute to the redevelopment of downtown Boca Raton.

In 1990, Mary served as President of the Junior League and gave up her paying job to devote herself fully to Junior League activities and volunteerism. Mary's volunteerism has included work with Singing Pines Children's Museum, The Cartoon Museum, Boca Raton Downtown Advisory Board, Cultural Council of Palm Beach County and other community work.

Over the past four decades, Mary's volunteerism has positively impacted many lives including young school children, high school and college students, migrant families, local business owners, and citizens enjoying Boca Raton history, culture

and community.

Under Mary's Directorship, the Boca Raton Historical Society started the Boca Bacchanal event to fund education programs for children, and also completed the Boca Express Train Restoration project. Mary has maintained a vigorous volunteer commitment which brings together her professional life, her interest in history, and her continued interest in volunteerism. She has dedicated her time to improving Boca Raton and feels fortunate to witness the evolution of our modern community in Boca.

Mary continues to volunteer her efforts to help the needy and as a Junior League sustaining advisor. She credits Junior League training with building her into a helpful volunteer. When asked about future plans Mary said: "I don't think I will ever stop volunteering. I feel very strongly that we must give back. This is what makes our communities strong!" Mary said she will continue on her journey of community volunteer work "... as there is always something to be done."

While Mary feels honored and grateful to be nominated for the 2014 Woman Volunteer of the Year award, for Mary volunteerism is simply a lifestyle she knows and values which began as a youngster and will never end. 🇺🇸





# OUT & ABOUT



# A Worthy Cause

## Making an Enormous IMPACT

BY KIRSTEN STEPHENSON

As Leaguers, we love to brag about all the wonderful improvements we make to our community, all the fantastic community leaders we grow, advocacy efforts we work hard to educate our world about, and – truly – women and children that we simply help when they find themselves in a position where they require it. It feels good to do good and to constantly search for how to better make a difference in lives. We roll up our sleeves and work, we teach, we grow, we negotiate, we read aloud, we pack backpacks, we encourage, and we strategize on how to do all this even more efficiently.

We also raise money to pay for all this.

Fundraising can be a scary prospect. To many Leaguers, it is a calling that comes late in their League career and can be quite intimidating. Here in the Junior League of Boca Raton, we put on a major fundraiser in the fall (Woman Volunteer of the Year), another smaller fundraiser in the spring (Flavors of Boca, formerly Chocolate Decadence), and we dedicate an entire committee to looking for smaller opportunities around town. The money that it takes to run our League comes almost exclusively from these efforts.

Woman Volunteer of the Year is a luncheon that honors a select group of women nominated by non-profits all over Palm Beach County that have excelled in their efforts to help the community.

A panel of judges is selected by our awards sponsor, the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation, led by Jan Savarick, a good friend to the League. This panel selects a winner in two categories: Nominee, and Lifetime Nominee. Nominees are well taken care of throughout the season by WVOY committee member Laetitia Reino and her warm team.

This year, Saks Fifth Avenue Boca Raton (with leadership from Heather Shaw, Vice President / General Manager and Stacy Atwater, Marketing Director) is graciously putting on a fashion show with a fabulous twist: they are bringing in an exclusive designer from New York – Stacey Bendet (*inset at right*), founder and creative director of Alice + Olivia clothing line! The cost of putting on a fashion show is astronomical and Saks, as

well as our former fashion partners, has been quite generous to the League.

Former Mayor of Boca Raton and sustaining Leaguer Susan Whelchel spoke in a prior Bridge article about the importance of non-profits and how their efforts relieve the community from performing the same service at taxpayer expense, “By non-profits spearheading much of the humanitarian and cultural efforts in our town, this takes that burden off of the city funding these efforts. These entities are critical to our community and I have always recognized that. The relationship between the non-profits and our city are invaluable, and we need to remember that and be more in tune with the needs of the non-profits and how the city can support their efforts.”

The luncheon will welcome approximately 700 of Boca’s most prominent and generous citizens, starting at 10:30am with complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, with a dazzling array of silent auction items and raffle opportunities. Part-



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# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON'S 27th ANNUAL WOMAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

## WVOY 2014 NOMINEES

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc. (AVDA)  
Marina Morbeck

American Association of Caregiving Youth®, Inc.  
Laura S. Clarkson

Best Foot Forward Foundation  
Kelli-Ann McLeod

Boca Ballet Theatre  
Valentina L. Martinez

Boca Helping Hands, Inc.  
Margi Cross

Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum  
Robin Deyo

Boca Raton Museum of Art  
Peg Greenspon

The Caring Hearts Auxiliary of the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center at the FAU Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing  
Evelyn (Evie) Zimmerman

C.R.O.S. Ministries (Christians Reaching Out to Society, Inc.)  
Tiffany Rodriguez

Debbie-Rand Memorial Service League, Inc.  
Mildred Strom

Florence Fuller Child Development Centers, Inc.  
Kathy Adkins

Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce  
Marysol Gonzales

HomeSafe  
Debora Kellogg

Impact 100 Palm Beach County | Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties  
Tandy Robinson

Junior League of Boca Raton  
Mary Csar

Junior League of the Palm Beaches  
Laura Wissa

KidSafe Foundation  
Wendi Lipsich

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc.  
Bettina Young

National Society of Arts & Letters | Florida East Coast Chapter  
Shari Upbin

Place of Hope at the Haven  
Laura Campbell-Held

Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park  
Donna Robins

Soroptimist International of Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach  
Mariela Montgomery

South Florida Women's Executive Club  
Marilyn M. Wilson

Spirit of Giving Network  
Ann Rutherford

Unicorn Children's Foundation  
Michelle Yellin

### *Lifetime Achievement Nominees*

Boca Raton Woman's Club, GFWC  
Helen Babione

Caridad Center  
Connie Berry



nering with the League is an excellent way for sponsors and donators to put themselves and their businesses in front of some of the most powerful members of our community.

Many pre-events line up to set the stage for a sensationally visible luncheon. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Boca Raton Museum of Art lit up brilliantly for the official kick off party of the Woman Volunteer of the Year Season. Committee members Erica Reuter and Marianne Levy partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and Bell Rock Capitol, and courted some of the best restaurants in Royal Palm Place to provide a "Taste of Royal Palm Place" event in honor of the luncheon on August 15<sup>th</sup>. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, lovely Honorary Chair Marta Batmasian will welcome nominees and their non-profit executive directors to an exclusive and elegant soiree at the top of the Waterstone Hotel (formerly the Bridge Hotel). 1971 Society Members are also warmly welcomed.

The final event leading up to the luncheon is a two day shopping opportunity at Saks Fifth Avenue Boca Raton on Wednesday and Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> whereby 10% of sales up to \$1500 are donated back to the League. Wednesday night, Saks is hosting an exclusive cocktail party at their location for a select few, including nominees and 1971 Society Members.

The luncheon itself, taking place again at Boca West Country Club – one of only two locations in town that can accommodate the sheer number of people that normally attend – always falls on a Friday morning and is one of the social highlights of the season.

Everything leading up to the event is an amazing time for everyone involved, but at the end of the day, it all comes down to dollars raised. Every year while events are occurring, chairs work tirelessly behind the scenes to court donors and sponsors, building relationships and nurturing existing ones. This arduous and often overlooked task takes up the majority of chairs' time and resources, while committee members are busy planning parties. Fundraising is absolutely critical to the future of the League, and

many future community projects and generous acts of assistance are totally dependent on these dollars. How generous the League can be with its resources in the community the following year depends very much on the efforts of the fundraisers the prior year.

It is fundamental that donors fully understand all that they are contributing to. Once that understanding occurs, the sell is easy. One enormous and often unmentioned benefit to the Boca community is the sheer number of future leaders we grow and then send out into society. Many executive directors of local non-profits were once Leaguers, who without invaluable training and guidance provided by the League would not have had the vision to start or lead additional non-profits.

An enormous number of non-profits in the community were started by the League, and that applies to cities all across the country and their respective Leagues.

One of the great joys of chairing this event is the relationship building with both sponsors and donors, and with partners in the community, our committee and advisor and honorary chair. It really translates to treasured memories for chairs – we develop these personal relationships and truly care about these people’s lives and experiences. It’s not just about money, it transcends far beyond that. Also, the support received when tackling an event of this magnitude is incredible. All previous chairs rally around the current chairs to assist and guide during the process. It really epitomizes what the League is all about.

In conclusion, the impact of orchestrating a fundraiser of this magnitude is critical to the League’s impact of making our community a much better place. We must first raise the dollars that we then wish to put back into our community. Luckily, we have the good fortune to live in a quite caring and generous town, and the blessings of a talented and caring group of women who wish to see us succeed. 🍷

*Clockwise from top: Pat Thomas and Jan Savarick; runway models; Mayor Susan Whelchel and Marie Speed; group at the WVOY luncheon.*





Save the Date!

Delray Beach Library's  
3rd Annual  
Girls, Pearls, Hats & Heels

Thursday, October 2, 2014

11 am – 2 pm

at The Delray Beach Club

Join us for an afternoon of shopping for the latest fashions in clothing, shoes and accessories.  
Lunch will be served and complimentary bubbly will be flowing.  
Proceeds benefit the Library and the Bethesda Hospital Foundation.

Event Chairs: Nancy Dockerty and Caron Dockerty

Honorary Chair: Kate Toomey

Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door.

For tickets and information, please visit our website at [www.delraylibrary.org](http://www.delraylibrary.org) or phone 561-266-0799.

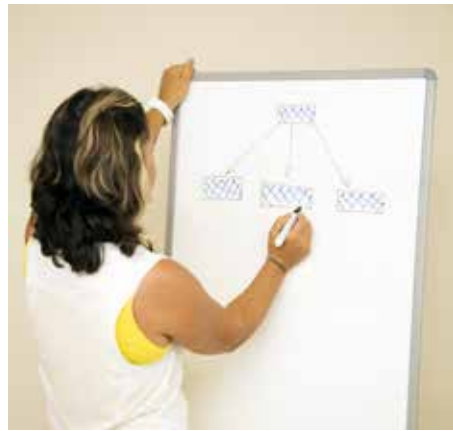
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- #4 **Understand how design affects cost.** Designs that have processes such as folding, die cutting, and foil stamping would add cost to your project.
- #5 **When doing your own design work, submit a print-ready PDF file.** There may be extra costs if we need to fix images and make adjustments.
- #6 **Use industry standard sizes and paper.** These standards are very efficient for production.
- #7 **Provide inputs by the date requested.** To hit your deadlines, we need all information from you, for example info that only you know (dates, places, time) for an invitation package that we are designing.

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# Transcending a Mission to Future Generations

BY LISA MILLER


This year marks the 11th Anniversary of the JLBR Endowment Fund. It's an "impactful" effort developed by generous donations from community philanthropists, league sustainers and active members as well. Over the last decade, the fund has raised more than \$1.1 million dollars. Considering the money is raised through events and annual donations, Fund leaders say this is quite an achievement for only a decade long project. The plan over the next few years is to double the money already raised and help the JLBR make an even greater "impact" in this Boca Raton community.

For those who may not know, the Endowment Fund supports the operation and maintenance of the Vegso Community Resource Center and furthers the mission of the Junior League of Boca Raton. The Vegso Community Resource Center has served over 500 area non-profits and offered hundreds of programs and trainings since its opening. The Endowment Fund has provided financial support for the programming and resources that help non-profits enhance their missions and meet their goals.

The Junior League of Boca Raton Endowment Fund is a separate 501(c)(3) and is essentially charged with taking care of expenses, above and beyond what it would have cost

The League to continue renting. The Endowment Fund donates approximately \$35,000 per year to The League. The JLBR Endowment board consists of active and sustaining members who work in committees to further the mission of the board. There are many ways to give to the Endowment Fund. Take a look and a few below and you can make an "impact" in your community today!

- ∞ **A Gift of Cash:** A cash donation may be deductible from your income taxes.
- ∞ **A Gift of Securities:** An alternative to cash, a gift of securities, may allow you to avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated assets and take a tax deduction.
- ∞ **A Matching Gift from your Employer:** Many employers offer matching gifts to charitable donations. Check with your employer for their plan detail and you may be able to double your impact.
- ∞ **A Gift in Memory:** A gift in memory of a loved one is a lasting way to pay tribute. Both the family and donor will receive acknowledgment of this thoughtful gift.
- ∞ **Restricted & Unrestricted gifts**

To inquire about making a pledge, you can also call 561-620-2553 or send an e-mail to [info@jlbrendow.org](mailto:info@jlbrendow.org). All gifts are deeply appreciated! 

# IMPACT



# KITCHEN Selfie contest

**And the winner is...  
BARBARA SAGEMAN!**



*What grabbed your attention about the FB post?* I like contests! It is a fun way to get members involved.

*Do you like to cook?* I enjoy cooking for others and getting a new recipe to make.

*Was this new for you?* This was not new for me. I have loved those cookies ever since I was a kid.

*Is this a special recipe?* I would say that it is special to me because of all the memories associated with making them with people I love.

*What's your favorite food?* Sweets!

*What social media contest would you like to see in the bridge next up?* I think it would be fun to see how many places across the country our Bridge magazine travels. Have members take pictures when they are traveling for work or vacation and submit. Another one I think would be great is to have people do a random act of kindness and post about it. It could be feeding the homeless or something as simple as paying for the person behind you at a drive through.

*Photo: Barbara, center, with Dr. Peter Ricci (Director Hospitality Management Program, FAU), Craig Martin (General Manager, St. Andrews Country Club), Jay DiPietro (General Manager, Boca West Country Club), Eben Molloy (General Manager, Woodfield Country Club), and Michael McCarthy (General Manager, Addison Reserve).*

**W**e are kicking off our September issue with our 1st of many social media contests here at the Bridge Magazine. It's our effort to "bridge" the gap so to speak between these pages and the social media world. It's no surprise to hear Junior League ladies love volunteering and cooking! Hence this is where we got the idea for our first "Kitchen Selfie Contest." When it was all said and done, one winner stood out above the rest! Congrats to Junior League member Barbara Sageman. Her Good Old Fashion "Hot" Chocolate Chip Cookies were a huge hit with Bridge staffers. I sat down with Barb to get to know about her skills in the field and in the kitchen!

*How many years have you been in the Junior League of Boca Raton?* 4 years

*What made you join?* I moved to Florida from Michigan and wanted to get involved in the community. The first thing I did was join the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce and it was during the Boca Leadership Class that I met Jackie Reeves and she recommended I join the Junior League. After reading the mission and seeing all the amazing projects completed by JLBR I joined immediately.

*What has been your best experience in the league thus far?* I loved my provisional year! We had such an amazing group of ladies that really worked well together.

**BY SHAWN SHERLOCK**



LET'S GET COOKING

# **Barb's Good Old Fashion "Hot" Chocolate Chip Cookies**

**2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**      **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**  
**1 teaspoon baking soda**            **2 large eggs**  
**1 teaspoon salt**                        **2 cups (12-oz. pkg.)**  
**1 cup (2 sticks) butter,**            **NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE®**  
**softened**                                **Semi-Sweet Chocolate**  
**3/4 cup granulated sugar**           **Morsels**  
**3/4 cup packed brown sugar**

**Take all the ingredients and mix them in a large baking bowl.**

**Use a regular cookie bake tray.**

**Scoop the mixed dough into one inch cookies .**

**Bake at 375 degrees for 8-12 minutes (time may vary).**

**Let cool on counter or a cooking tray.**

**EAT AND ENJOY!**

# Making an IMPACT...

## *One Bottom at A TIME!*

Imagine everything it takes to be a mother. Now imagine it without one of the most essential items...diapers. The diaper need in South Florida is a growing and the Junior League of Boca Raton is here to the rescue. This year's mission for the Junior League of Boca Raton is to focus on impact and it is clear that the Diaper Bank Committee is up to the task.

Leading the committee is Diaper Bank Chair, Aimee Gilligan. Her right hand co-chairs are Meg Fielder and Cristy Stewart-Harfmann who are equally dedicated to the cause. When asked about why the diaper bank is of personal importance to her Aimee replied, "I have two children in diapers now and I am constantly changing them. Diapers qualify as a basic human need. Families can focus on love when basic needs are met and scarcity is not a factor".

As the only diaper bank in Palm Beach County, The Junior League of Boca Raton Diaper Bank distributes more than 20,000 diapers per month to more than 15 local agencies. 40,000 diapers were distributed in the month of July alone. This puts the organization well on a target to dispense a goal of 360,000 diapers to agencies

BY CATHERINE DRETMANN



across the county this year, a 20% increase from last year.

22% of all babies are born into poverty in America leaving 1 in 3 mothers in this country struggling to fulfill the diaper needs of their children. “We get about 2-3 requests a day asking for diapers” Co-chair Cristy states, “and the stories are very similar”. On average diapers cost a family \$25 a pack. That is roughly \$100 a month if not more for a family.

Government assistance is very limited when it comes to basic baby needs. Food stamps categorize diapers in the same group as pet food and alcohol. Which means mothers who rely on food stamps cannot use them to purchase diapers. Without diapers babies cannot be put into daycares which require a mother to provide a full days’ worth of diapers. Without childcare parents cannot go to work which only adds to the stress and financial woes of the family unit.

There is certainly is no diaper fairy distributing diapers to the needy. The success of the Diaper Bank is through the hard work of many Junior League members who are committed to providing all the infants and toddlers of Palm Beach County with diapered bottoms. This year’s committee has had their first meeting and already and it looks as though there will be many exciting changes to come.

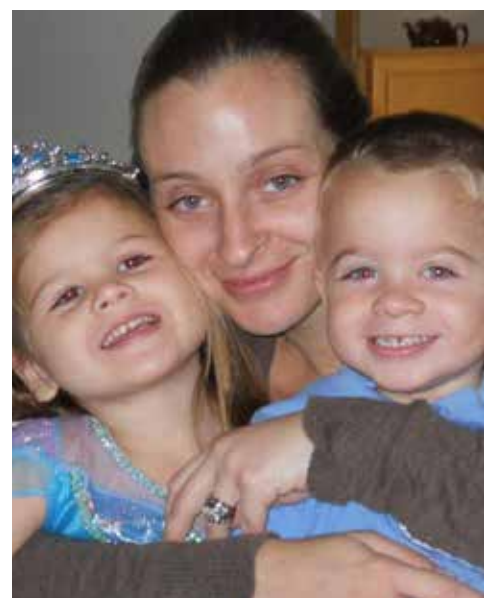
The newly updated inventory system launching this year will greatly improve the diaper distribution. One of the greatest features of this new system is the landing page that requires agencies to enter information on all the children that have received the diapers from the Diaper Bank. They must

record what size, how many given, and the dates they received them in the previous month. That is a key component in reporting back to the National Diaper Bank the numbers and reviewing the impact in the community.

When talking about the importance of reporting the numbers, co-chair Meg stated, “It’s not only that we’re giving diapers to children. Now it’s saying 300 children who didn’t have diapers before have them now and are attending daycare with the diapers the junior league is providing. And taking it a step further is getting those impact statements from agencies that we are distributing to”.

One of the 15 agencies that the Diaper Bank distributes to is Family Promise, a sheltering program for children and their families that are experiencing homelessness. Executive director, Kokie Dinnan, expressed her gratitude to the JLBR Diaper Bank saying, “We have been so blessed to have diapers not only for our families but for other families in the community”. Since being appointed with the diaper bank, Family Promise is now also distributing to three other agencies as well, growing the impact of the Junior League of Boca Raton. As of today’s date, Family Promise has distributed 26,018 diapers from the diaper bank.

The Diaper Bank distribution is supported by approximately 240 JLBR volunteer hours per year (average of 6 volunteers + 4 committee members X 12 months for 2 hours). Diaper distributions, held on every third Saturday of the month at the diaper bank are hard work, fun, and rewarding. The storage facility, donated by



Rosemurgy Properties, houses the diapers where volunteers from agencies from across the county come to pick them up.

The JLBR receives 200,000 diapers from the National Diaper bank. This leaves a need of over 100,000 diapers to be either donated or paid for. Diaper drives are extremely important for this reason alone. The outreach to different businesses, civic groups, churches, schools not only raises awareness for the cause but is an essential source of diaper donations to the bank. It is a goal of the committee this year to support 15 or more diaper drives.

The Dr. Seuss birthday party event is also a huge undertaking of the diaper bank. Last year's event collected over 20,000 diapers. This year's goal is to increase that number and encourage the agencies to be involved, encouraging those who benefit from the diaper bank to attend.

With so many exciting changes and goals the JLBR Diaper Bank is not only a flourishing but is becoming one of the signature committees of the Junior League of Boca Raton. But it all boils down to impacting to community where help is most needed, our children's well being. 📌



Previous page, from top: Bailey Ann Harfmann, daughter of JLBR member Cristy Stewart-Harfmann; the Diaper Bank banner; a family impacted by the diaper drive. This page: recipients and volunteers from the Diaper Drive.

# MAKING THE MAGAZINE



**10 Writers Assigned**



**7 Articles Featured**



**62 Pictures Taken**



**2 One-on-One Interviews**



**10 Cups of Coffee**



**2 Charity Events**

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# what's next...



**A Bridge Spotlight** with Elizabeth Kelley Grace...She's one woman definitely making a huge IMPACT in her community!



**Our Selfie Contest Winner...**  
Will it be you?



We take a closer look at the **FAMILIES** impacted by our League mission.



It's our **2nd Annual Holiday Gift Guide**...you won't want to miss this!

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next contest:

## ON THE TOWN Selfie

**Snap a shot** of you and your crew out and about in Boca!

Post to JLBR's Twitter or Facebook page by **October 5th!**

**Win** a gift card to Oceans 234 for \$25 and your photo in our "Out and About Section"!