



RESIDENTS EMPOWERING

Themselves, Others Through Service

woodforest residents
making a difference

Written by
Resident
Julia Byrd

The Junior League, founded in 1901, is a charitable nonprofit organization that develops women into civic leaders through service. With more than 150,000 members nationwide, the organization has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many; the Junior League of The Woodlands, Inc. (JLTW) is no exception.

Sarah Paul, the JLTW's vice president of communications, describes the Junior League as "a service organization for women that empowers them through service and volunteer opportunities." Kim Dupaquier agrees. She joined the organization as a way to meet other women, build relationships, and help others.

One project JLTW is involved with is supporting the Giving Gown Foundation, which provides dresses, makeovers, and self-esteem classes to girls who might not normally be able to attend prom. Emily Wilcox says, "It gives you a chance to be a fairy godmother for these girls." Member Sara Gibson echoes that sentiment. "Seeing girls light up with their new dresses and jewelry is one of the best things I've experienced." And when you "see girls stand up straighter," Paul says, you know you've had a hand in creating a physical transformation as well as an emotional one.

From giving prom makeovers to passing out new books to young students, the JLTW's impact on the community is obvious. Member Janet Lipari says, "When we told kids they can pick out two books [at the Literacy Carnival], you can just see the light in their eyes—they're so happy with a simple book."

And at the JLTW's major fundraisers—Giving Goes Glam and the Holiday Market—attendees get to have fun while they give back. And they give back in a big way. After its fourth year, the Giving

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE WOODLANDS



tunities for personal and professional growth—all while contributing to and improving this part of the world we call home.

Goes Glam fashion show and luncheon raised more than \$275,000 for JLTW and Interfaith of the Woodlands organizations within the community. And the Holiday Market shopping extravaganza (scheduled for Nov. 18-20, 2016) features more than 100 merchants, with all proceeds benefiting communities in suburban North Houston. It has raised more than \$2.4 million during its 14-year history.

The benefits members experience are wide. Wilcox says, "Volunteering teaches you how to be a leader—that skill, plus others, transfers to the business world." Others agree. Paul uses her newly earned skills every day, and the JLTW has given her the opportunity to do things she wouldn't ordinarily have the chance to do.

With a wide range of available opportunities and no set volunteer hour requirements, the JLTW provides a wealth of oppor-

With a focus on serving women, children, and families, some of the JLTW's programs include:



- Kids in the Kitchen—teaches the importance of making healthy food choices
- HAPPY Backpack Program—provides weekend meals for children in need
- Healing Hearts Hospital Committee—helps make hospital experiences less stressful
- Junior League Literacy Carnival—promotes the importance of literacy

To learn more about the JLTW, visit jlthewoodlands.org.



If you would like to feature your organization or nonprofit, please contact Tammy at tammy.trevino@n2pub.com.

Make a Splash in Woodforest!

 We spent months interviewing and questioning different pool companies. When we met Bill Shields with Innovative Pools and Landscaping, we knew that he was who we wanted. From day one of our build, he was involved, available, and invested. No detail was too small to get done right. Throughout the process, he worked hard to make sure we were pleased. I never worried that his bottom line would drive daily decisions. Our pool was finished quickly and on budget. I highly recommend Innovative Pools and Landscaping! And the best part is that he is a Woodforest Neighbor. 

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