



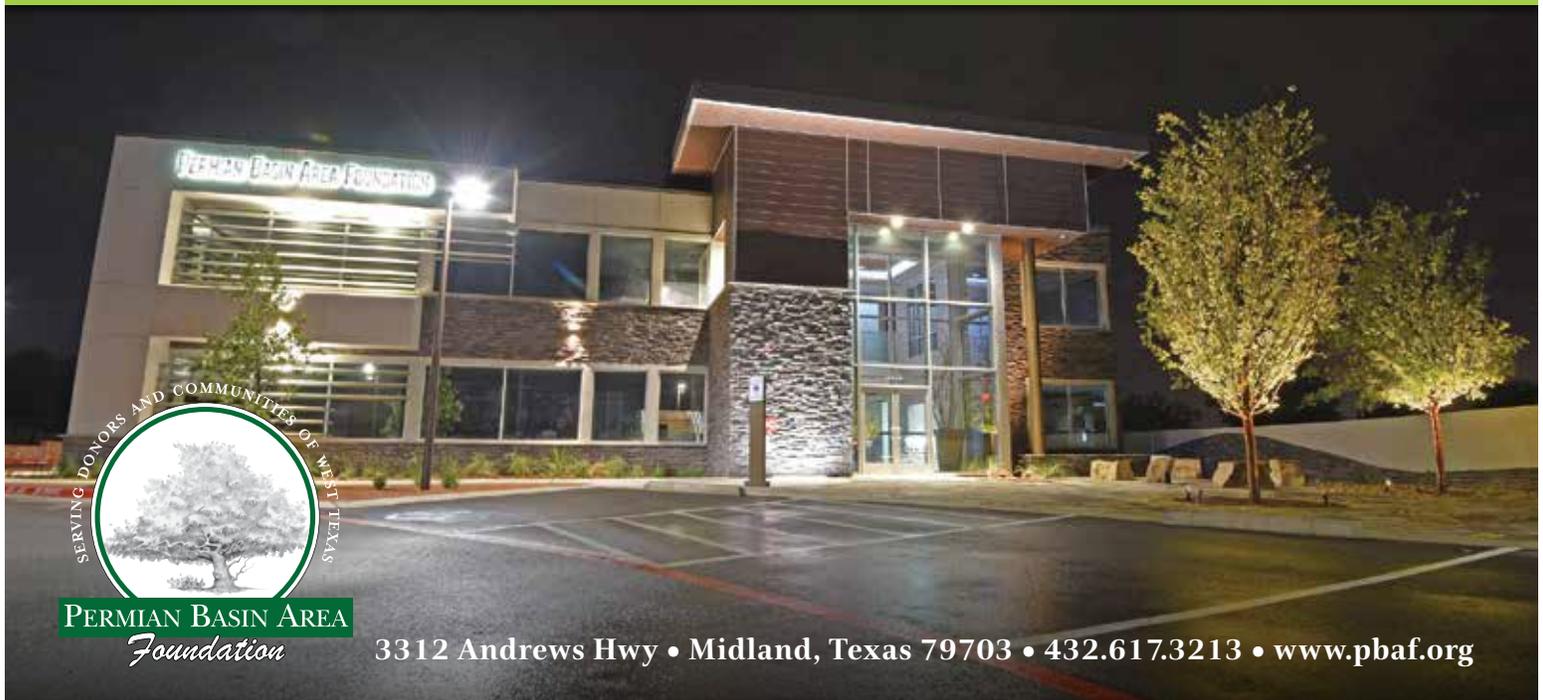
# TUMBLEWEED

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*Happy Holidays from all of us at Midland College*

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# TUMBLEWEED

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## TUMBLEWEED STAFF

**EDITOR**

AMBER HOELSCHER

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

JAIMEY SLOAN WARREN

**REPORTERS**

MICHELLE CASH  
BRITTANY CROWLEY  
SHELBI CUDE  
CRYSTALE GALINDO  
ASHLEY MORALES  
REBECCA PROCTOR

**PUBLIC RELATIONS VP**

SUZY PRUCKA

**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE  
OF MIDLAND, INC.**

902 West Dengar Avenue  
Midland, Texas 79705  
432-682-4732  
FAX 432-682-4788  
www.jlmidland.org

**DESIGNER**

Haley Buckles  
haleybucklesdesign@gmail.com

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



It feels as though the 2019-2020 League year has just begun, yet we are already wrapping up many of our fall community projects.

Over 80 junior high girls joined our Face the Race program this year and learned about topics like self-esteem, self-defense, and goal setting – all while training to run a 5K race. They completed this race on November 16 – it was such a delight to see these girls achieve their goal.

Suits with Skills concluded its first year at our new location, Centers for Children and Families. We are ecstatic about this new partnership and appreciate Kristi Edwards, CEO of Centers for Children and Families, for all of her support. The women participating in this program walked away with a wealth of new knowledge

to prepare themselves for the workforce as well as a new wardrobe to help them on this journey.

Our Reading Olympics program graduated their participants at the Boys and Girls Club Half Park location. More than 50 children participated in a new book adventure each week and added 12 books to their home libraries. The Junior League donated nearly 700 books this fall to help foster a love of reading.

Our newest project, Pink Pantry, is off to an incredible start. Our community has embraced this new project and we are so appreciative of all the generous donations from both the community and our members. Miss Cayce's Christmas Store held a donation drive for the League on November 5 and Midland Women's Clinic donated boxes upon boxes of feminine hygiene supplies. Thank you for helping us get these products into the hands of girls and young women who need them!

Our League hosted two public training events this fall in response to the horrific mass shooting over Labor Day Weekend – Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) and Stop the Bleed - both taught by Battalion Chief Jayme Farmer of the Midland Fire Department. These events were attended by community and League members alike. We are so thankful Chief Farmer imparted his knowledge with us; these trainings were outstanding.

All of the projects and trainings offered by the Junior League of Midland are provided by people who care deeply and sacrifice their time and talents to give to others. I am indebted to each person who commits their time to help improve our community and I am in awe of this organization that helps make these projects a reality. I wish you all the best this holiday season; it truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

MARINA STANALAND

PRESIDENT

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND, INC.

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### ON THE COVER:

Sights and scenes from the 12th running of Junior League of Midland's Face the Race 5K.

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# PBAF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## *Permian Basin Area Foundation Awards Two Students with the Junior League of Midland's Morrow GEM Scholarship*

Permian Basin Area Foundation honored 296 students on June 27 during their annual scholarship dinner. Students pursuing higher education or vocational opportunities were awarded almost \$600,000 in scholarships from generous Permian Basin donors and nonprofit agencies. On behalf of the League, PBAF awarded The Junior League of Midland Morrow GEM (Giving, Empowering Member) Scholarship to two recipients. This year's recipients were Kaitlyn Grigsby and Ashlyn Willhite, who are both attending Texas A&M University.

The Junior League of Midland's Morrow GEM Scholarship was created in honor of Kay and Paul Morrow and their dedication to community and voluntarism. Scholarships are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Graduating Senior from a Midland County high school
- Show dedication to his/her community, as demonstrated through active volunteer service
- Write a short essay on the impact that participating in community volunteer activities has had on the applicants' life

Kaitlyn Grigsby is at Texas A&M University pursuing a degree in Business. In her essay, she stated that, "without community service, I feel that we as a community are missing the point. One thing my mother's story taught me is that extravagant demonstrations aren't necessary, but little acts of service are. They mean much more than we can know."

Ashlyn Willhite is also at Texas A&M University, pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She stated in her essay that "My involvement in community organizations that highly value service, has presented me with diverse community service opportunities over the years. These experiences have shown me the importance of giving my time and serving others, expecting nothing in return. Experiences such as these have allowed me to see beyond just my small corner of the world, but rather look at life through a larger, less introspective lens. Not only have these opportunities pushed me to see beyond myself and my needs, but they have also spurred my desire to continue to serve my community as I move on to college and throughout my life."

The Junior League of Midland, Inc. congratulates our 2019 scholarship recipients and hope that they choose to continue to develop their potential as civic leaders and volunteers.



# MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

By Rebecca Proctor

## What Does it Mean to “Bloom Where You are Planted”?



**Diana Martin**  
**Executive Vice President**  
7th Active Year

The individual who “blooms where they are planted” makes the most of every situation. They see the glass as always half-full, no problem too difficult to conquer. This person is not idealistic, but instead approaches life with an unshakeable positive attitude. The world can use more of us who “bloom where we are planted.”



**Heather Martin**  
**Executive Vice President-Elect**  
7th Active Year

The individual who blooms where they are planted seizes any opportunity for growth. They make the most of what they are given and capitalize on their strengths and talents regardless of circumstance. We are often planted in situations that make us uncomfortable. It is important to remember that when we are planted, God has prepared the soil for us to thrive.



**Suzy Prucka**  
**Public Relations Vice President**  
11th Active Year

Junior League is about learning new skills and honing existing ones for the betterment of the community and your potential as a civic leader and volunteer. To bloom where you are planted means to take advantage of committee placements outside of your comfort zone, to network with new people, and to be the change you want to see.



**Myra McKinley**  
**Public Relations Vice President-Elect**  
7th Active Year

Blooming where I am planted means finding growth and opportunities in all situations. Junior League has allowed me to learn new skills and make new friends which helps me to be more rooted in the Midland community.



**Sarah Semer**  
**Membership Vice President**  
7th Active Year

For Junior League, I believe blooming where you are planted means making the most of the placement you are in for the time that you have it. I think many may find things in the League that they become passionate about that they did not expect. Serving as part of the League’s membership for the last three years has helped me to bloom where I was planted in a number of ways. It

has helped me grow as a leader, shown me how to be more empathetic, and understand where to plant our members in the best role so they too can bloom. Membership has also been a great reminder for me to see how far a little encouragement of your peers can help them grow to their own potential.



**Leslie Whitehead**  
**Membership Vice President-Elect**  
4th Active Year

This year’s theme is one that has resonated with me lately. As women in a world inundated with everyone else’s highlight reels it is often hard not to fall prey to the comparison trap. Seeing another woman further along in her career, further along in her motherhood journey (toddler moms-you will survive!) or endless posts of happy couples on their first or second honeymoons can start to wear on a woman feeling stuck.

Blooming reminds me of the seasonality of life. Flowers are dormant through the long winter before they grace us with their beautiful blooms in the spring. Trees provide us with much needed shade for the hot summer and show us the beauty of change and letting dead things go in the fall. Life is full of seasons; some full of growth with miraculous colors for all to see and some full of growth underground that looks pretty unimpressive to a passerby. Whatever season we are in and whatever type of growth we are experiencing, it’s all important and it’s all productive. I hope we can all appreciate the season we are in and bloom when it’s our time to bloom while appreciating the beauty around us.



**Melanie Shackelford**  
**Management Member-at-Large**  
 4th Active Year

To me, it means being present and looking for the good in every situation. Be grateful even if it's not where you want to be at the moment. Make the best of life where you are.



**Casandra Maher**  
**Management Member-at-Large**  
 7th Active Year

Blooming where you are planted helps you discover talents that you may not have known existed. It can help you get out of your comfort zone because someone may see something in you that you don't see in yourself.



**Evelyn Serrano**  
**Community Vice President**  
 3rd Active Year

Blooming where you are planted means that you embrace your role and responsibilities and nurture and grow your skills within your placement. You leave it better than it was when you received it. I believe that this allows for growth and change for the positive!



**Thuy Baumstimler**  
**Finance Vice President-Elect**  
 3rd Active Year

To me, that means to live in the moment and make lemonade with what are given. Even in the driest of places, there are great opportunities for growth, it's all about courage and perspective.



**2019-2020 MANAGEMENT TEAM - (Back Row, L to R)** Sarah Semer, Casandra Maher, Diana Martin, Melanie Shackelford, Suzy Prucka; **(Sitting, L to R)** Leslie Whitehead, Thuy Baumstimler, Heather Martin; **Not Pictured:** Evelyn Serrano, Myra McKinley.

# TUMBLEWEED REPORTERS

## Introduction of 2019-2020 Tumbleweed Reporters



**Amber Hoelscher**  
**Editor**

Amber serves as the Editor of *Tumbleweed* for the 2019-2020 League year and has served as a Assistant Editor and reporter in prior years.

Amber is a Licensed Professional Counselor and works for Superior HealthPlan as a Behavioral Health Service Coordinator. She assists members with behavioral health struggles from the comfort of their homes with coordination of physical and behavioral health services. Amber is married to Aaron Hoelscher and they have two children, Raelye (11) and Heston (7).

While living in Belton, Amber decided to join The Junior League of Bell County. Amber quickly found her place in Project Prom. In three years of working with Project Prom, Amber was able to increase the number of young ladies served and offer them a whole prom experience including dress, shoes, jewelry, make-up, salon services, and dinner options for prom night. Amber even secured 3000 dresses to be added to the closet. Amber transferred to The Junior League of Midland in summer 2015. Since transferring, Amber has found projects that help sustain the League to be most suited for her.

She has enjoyed being connected in this placement with all projects and seeing her work and decisions in print.



**Shelbi Cude**  
**Reporter**

Shelbi moved to Midland in 2014 with husband, Travis Cude. Shelbi has been active in the Junior League since 2016. Her involvement included two years on the Shotguns and Stilettos Bash committee and last year she was the Bash Coordinator.

Shelbi spends the majority of her time raising their infant son, Easton, and occasionally remembers to pay attention to her dogs, Graham and Indie. In her spare time, the Cudes enjoy being active in the community with their adopted Midland family.



**Jaimey Sloan**  
**Assistant Editor**

Jaimey Sloan Warren is the Assistant Editor for the *Tumbleweed* for the 2019-2020 year and served as a reporter last year for the publication. As a third year Active, she is excited to serve on a committee that showcases the community service and partnerships the Junior League of Midland has developed

to impact the city of Midland.

Originally from San Antonio and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, she has enjoyed a career in the film industry and currently the produce industry. After graduating college, she worked on multiple film and television projects in the costume department including a series run with *Friday Night Lights*. After deciding to expand her family, she transitioned into a career in the produce industry at Produce Alliance, a produce management company. She works with restaurant chains to develop produce programs on a national level. She is married to Trey Warren, a landman, and has four children ranging in ages from 15 to 1. Yes, that is right a teenager and a toddler!

After moving to Midland in 2015, she quickly sought out the Junior League of Midland as initially an opportunity to meet women in a new city and develop a relationship with those active in the community. Over the last four years, she has seen the League's impact not only in the community but in the individual lives of those assisted through volunteerism and social initiatives. She is extremely proud of her time and commitment to the League and hopes to further her role in the League and the city of Midland.



**Crystale Galindo**  
**Reporter**

Crystale joined the Junior League of Odessa (JLO) as a Provisional in fall of 2016. She served on the JLO Community Research and Development Committee in 2016 and 2017. Crystale transferred to Junior League of Midland in 2017. She has served as a reporter for the *Tumbleweed*

from 2017 to present. Crystale works full-time on the marketing team for First Basin Credit Union. Her duties include managing media inquiries, interactions, and interviews. This includes writing

press releases, managing content for the credit union in all aspects for digital and collateral material, and for internal and external advertising.

Crystale is also a freelance writer for "With You in Mind Publications," who creates Odessa Living and Midland Living Magazine. Crystale graduated from Odessa College with an Associate of Arts in Broadcasting in 2002, and from UT Permian Basin with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication in 2003 and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership in 2005. Crystale has two daughters, Nikkie, 18, and Adrienne, 7.



**Michelle Cash**  
**Reporter**

Michelle grew up in Midland and attended Midland High School. She attended Texas Tech University where she studied Exercise Sports and Science. Michelle earned a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman's University and currently

works at Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center. She loves working with children and seeing the progress they make! Michelle is also the Lead Equine Therapist at MCRC through their hippotherapy (horse therapy) program. Michelle served on the Reading Olympics and Suits with Skills committees prior to being a reporter. She and her husband, Wilson Cash, had a beautiful baby boy named Hudson in May. They also have a Miniature Australian Shepherd named Addie. Michelle loves traveling, reading, and spending time with her family.



**Brittany Crowley**  
**Reporter**

Brittany is originally from Houston but relocated to Midland with her husband David's job. She completed her undergraduate studies at Sam Houston State University and later pursued a post-baccalaureate in Communicative Sciences and Deaf Education through Utah State University. If being a

professional student were an option, that's exactly what she'd do! Brittany shares her love of learning, reading, and writing with her seventh-grade students at Nimitz Middle School in Odessa. She loves giving back to her community through the many volunteer

opportunities the Junior League of Midland offers and is enjoying her role in documenting and celebrating the many ways in which the League gives back to our community.



**Ashley Morales**  
**Reporter**

Ashley was born in Midland but shortly after, relocated with her family to Fort Payne, Alabama. She spent many years there before returning back to Midland in the late 90's. She graduated from Midland Lee High School in 2007 and landed a job with Dawson Geophysical, where she had been working as an

Accounting Specialist for 10 years. In 2018, she left Dawson to join her husband, Chris Morales, and father-in-law in their family restaurant business. Ashley enjoys the new and unexpected tasks that come from day to day operations. Ashley was always looking for ways to get involved in the community, when one day a friend mentioned that she should go with her to a meeting at the Junior League. This was just what Ashley had been looking for. She enjoys the opportunities the League gives for those with a heart of service and plans to stick around for a long time.



**Rebecca Proctor**  
**Reporter**

Rebecca Proctor was born and raised in Charleston, Missouri. After graduating high school in 2006, she attended the University of Mississippi where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. She continued to live in Oxford after

graduation working as a graphic designer. She married Leyton Proctor in 2013 and moved to Midland for Leyton's job in the oil industry. She has enjoyed working at Leslie Hendrix Wood Interiors since moving to Midland.

Rebecca joined the Junior League in 2014 and has loved becoming more involved in the community through the many volunteer opportunities the league provides. Before serving as a reporter, she spent three years as a Suits with Skills mentor and graphic designer on the public relations committee.

Rebecca enjoys traveling and spending time with friends, family, and her sweet pup, Jax. Most of all, she and her husband are overjoyed to welcome their first baby this December!

# STANDARD SALES

Standard Sales Company, L.P. is a company with a proud heritage of supporting and serving worthy community projects and events in the counties it serves. We are honored to support the Junior League of Midland and the efforts they make to improve the lives of people in the Permian Basin. Cheers, to JLM and to another 70 years of community service!



# SHOTGUNS & Stilettos

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Annual Luncheon  
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Midland County Club



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*By Shelbi Cude*

## September Sustainer Luncheon

On September 3, Elizabeth Hartman opened her home for the Sustainer Luncheon. The tables were adorned with extraordinarily beautiful fresh fall floral arrangements with warm rich colors. The dining room was set with a buffet of finger food and tiny desserts. Elizabeth was such a gracious hostess and her backyard was like being in an exclusive resort. Every room was full of chatter from all of the ladies who attended. Several new and returning members were welcomed to the Second Tuesday Club. Michelle Dinger was the chairman for this event.



## October Second Tuesday Club

The Second Tuesday Club met at the JLM headquarters on October 8 for a delightful program, "Put Your Best Face Forward", presented by Ashlee Rice. She spoke candidly about her life experiences and how she has learned to put her best face forward with make-up and her trust in God. Following her talk, she demonstrated different make-up applications on her models, Katherine Prementine and Iris Foster. She was delightful as well as very informative. Helen Shelton and Vicki Donnell were the co-chairs for this meeting. The tables were decorated with fall décor and pumpkins.

## Upcoming Second Tuesday Events

### **January 14** *Second Tuesday Club*

Mary Lou Cassidy's Rendition of "Being Dead is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Southern Funeral" by Gayden Metcalf and Charlotte Hays  
*(wear funeral attire)*

*11:30 am*

*at*

*The Branch at NPW  
3800 N. Big Spring Street*

### **February 12** *Second Tuesday Club*

Check out Midland's newest museum, the Midland County History Museum, and maybe add something to the archives with Executive Director Jim Collett

*11:30 am*

*at*

*Midland County History Museum  
200 N. Main Street  
Downtown Midland*

Second Tuesday Club has a few openings and welcomes all Sustainers who might be interested. Please contact Chairman Kay Baker at (432) 770-2043 or at [kaybaker32@gmail.com](mailto:kaybaker32@gmail.com).

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## Tanya Bidwell

Tanya Bidwell grew up mainly in Midland. She was born here and then moved briefly to Oklahoma and Houston. Her father was an engineer, so that is what brought her back to Midland when she was nine. She attended Midland Lee High School, then went on to study accounting at the University of Arizona. From there, she went to law school at Washburn Law School and earned her Master's Degree in Tax Law from the University of Florida. She is now a tax attorney working for Kirk & Company. She loves to travel as much as possible and loves exploring new places and meeting new people.



Tanya joined the Junior League in 2015 as she was wanting to get more involved in the community and also to meet new people. She would like to leave a lasting impact on the League by helping to facilitate changes to move the League forward and also to make sure that each member receives valuable training to help them down the road. Tanya loves the sense of community and the amazing women in the League. Everyone is supportive and helps to lift each other up all while improving our community. Tanya is currently Historian for the 2019-2020 League year.

## Krishna Vasquez



Krishna Vasquez serves as one of the Junior League of Midland's Face the Race Assistant Co-Chairmen for the 2019-2020 League year. She has been a Junior League member since 2016.

Krishna grew up in Midland, attending Odessa College where she studied paralegal work. She married her college sweetheart, Nate, in 2014 and together welcomed their first baby girl, Kendall, in 2019. Krishna currently works at La Bebe Boutique, which she promises is the best job she has ever had.

A fun fact about Krishna is that she comes from a very large family. She is 1 of 14 siblings. Outside of the Junior League, Krishna serves on the fundraising committee for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and is currently working on her lineage and family history application for the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Krishna joined the Junior League to be a part of a giving group of women, find new ways to give back to the community, and learn to step out of her comfort zone.

## Roberta Stewart Aldridge

Roberta Stewart Aldridge was born in Houston, but moved to Midland with her parents as she began her 7th grade year at San Jacinto Jr. High. Her family opened a furniture store and she graduated from Midland High School. She then continued her education at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and graduated in 1958.

Roberta married Charles Aldridge, who she had met at SMU, and following graduation, they moved to Santa Maria, California where Charles was an Air Force attorney at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Roberta began her teaching career while they lived in Santa Maria. They later moved back to Midland when her husband joined a local law firm, and Roberta began teaching at Hillander School. She taught 6th grade there for several years and loved every minute of it! She still enjoys seeing her many wonderful students that stayed in Midland.

After a few years, Roberta retired from teaching to become a stay at home mom to her three children, Craig Aldridge, Claire Heck, and Alyson Trevino. She also began an active volunteer schedule in Midland and with the Junior League, and deeply valued the leadership opportunities that she had as a member. According to Roberta, her favorite placements were Next to New, Charity Ball Invitations, Placement Chairman, and being a docent at the Museum of the Southwest.

Her daughter, Claire, remembers sitting under the board table playing with dolls during Roberta's Junior League meetings, as well as helping to fold and stuff envelopes for the Charity Ball. As it still is for many League members, it was a family affair for Roberta and her family.

Roberta said she values her experiences tremendously, and they also helped prepare her to enter the workplace again later in her life. Real estate became her calling and she began a second career path as a sales agent for Langston Realtors. Following those years, she became a broker and helped found her current firm, Real Estate One. Today, Roberta is looking forward to her full retirement in December after serving family, friends and Midlanders for over 30 years. This truly has been her life's passion, and she is so grateful to all of the people she has worked with over the years.

Roberta enjoys her three grandchildren, traveling, her two pet Cavalier Spaniels, and her wonderful friends here in Midland.



## Lauren Johnston



Lauren Johnston grew up in east Texas and moved to Midland in the 6th grade. She attended Midland Lee High School but actually graduated from Nacogdoches High School in 2001, due to her dad being in the oil/gas industry.

Lauren attended Texas Tech University, where she was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Development and Education. Upon completing college, she returned to Midland and taught kindergarten for four years. Lauren then began a career in real estate and has been selling real estate for nine years. She works for The Jeanene Pruitt Team at Pine and Beckett Realtors and loves her team. Lauren has three amazing kids, Addey (11), Dub (9), and Boone (6).

Lauren joined the Junior League in 2008 to meet new friends and help out in the community. She learned so much in her role as the Silent and Live Auction Chair for the Buckshot Bash that she has used her skills to help fundraise for other local nonprofits.

Her favorite things about the League were getting to see dear friends one Tuesday evening a month and all of her placements (in-league and out-league), which she said each role helped her grow to be a better person. Lauren is now a Sustainer but loves still being involved whenever possible!



# SHOTGUNS & Stilettos

*By Shelbi Cude*



The Shotguns and Stilettos Committee is hard at work planning a fantastic trio of events for this spring. The League's signature fundraiser, including the Annual Luncheon, Clay Shoot and Bash, is planned for March 19-21, 2020. The proceeds from these events underwrite the Junior League of Midland's operations and mission-based programs, such as I.M.P.A.C.T., Face the Race, Pink Pantry, Reading Olympics, and Suits with Skills.

The Annual Luncheon will once again be held at Midland Country Club on March 19, 2020. Shotguns and Stilettos Chairman Casey LeBlanc is pleased to announce this year's Luncheon speaker is fashion designer Rebecca Minkoff. An industry leader in accessible luxury handbags, accessories, footwear and apparel, Minkoff's playful and subtly edgy designs can be spotted around the world on young women and celebrities alike. After developing an affinity for design while in the costume department in high school, Rebecca Minkoff moved to New York City at only 18 years old to pursue her dream of becoming a fashion designer. She launched her career in 2001 with a designer version of the "I Love New York" t-shirt. She designed her first handbag in 2005, and returned to her roots of apparel design in 2009. In September of 2018, she established the Female Founder Collective, a network of businesses led by women that invests in women's financial power across the socio-economic spectrum by enabling and empowering female-owned businesses.

The 19th Annual Clay Shoot will take place Friday, March 20, 2020, with both morning and

afternoon flights available at Windwalker Farms. Shooters can also try their luck at the gun boards and with raffle prizes! Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all shooters. After 19 years, the Clay Shoot is more popular than ever. Be sure to sign up quickly when registration opens.

And to conclude a fabulous weekend, the ever-popular Bash will be at Petroleum Club of Midland Saturday, on March 21, 2020. With a theme of A Southern Soiree, a do-not-miss dinner, dancing and a spectacular silent and live auction to conclude the weekend of events. Live auction items include an Argentine Stag hunt, a getaway to Fredericksburg, Texas and more! All the way from New Orleans, Louisiana Music Hall of Fame band Bag of Donuts will provide rocking entertainment well into the evening. Remember to save room at the end of the evening for a late-night snack of beignets!

Sponsorship and ticket information for all events is now available on our website and through your favorite Junior League member!

*For more information or questions regarding sponsorship or underwriting,  
please email Shotguns and Stiletto's Chairman Casey LeBlanc  
at [ss@jlmidland.org](mailto:ss@jlmidland.org).*





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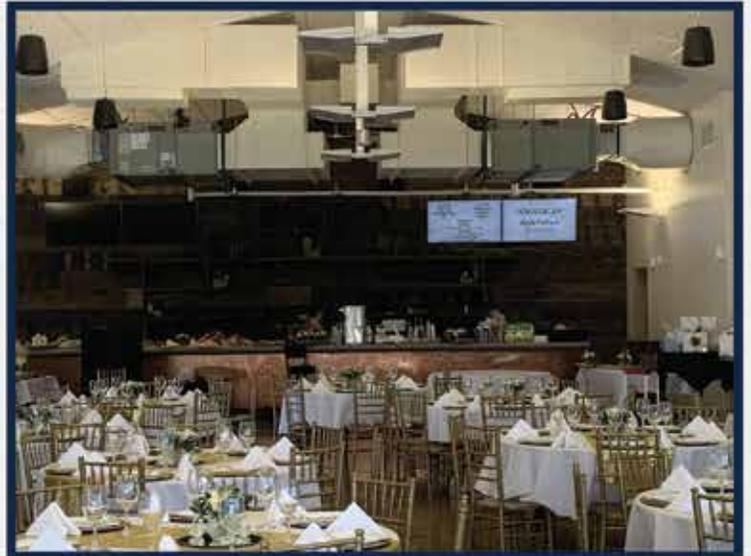


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# FACE THE RACE

By Brianna Bertleson

Face the Race is an eight week after school mentorship program put on by Junior League of Midland at Abell Junior High School, Alamo Junior High School, Goddard Junior High School, and San Jacinto Junior High School. This year, 84 junior high girls participated in the program focused on goal-setting and self-esteem. The program culminated with the Face the Race 5K where the program participants showed off their hard work and did their best to meet their goals.

This year's focus was on goal-setting. Every participant completed a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely) Goals worksheet for what they wanted to get out of the program. Each Monday after school, program participants heard from speakers on topics such as women's health and wellness, nutrition, self-awareness, cyberbullying, women in the workforce, as well as others. A special thank you to Dr. Reagan Viney and Dr. Beverly Yee from Midland Women's Clinic, Paula Cox with Midland Rape Crisis and Child Advocacy Center, and the Midland Police Department on alcohol awareness. In addition to hearing from local speakers, participants trained with their mentors for a 5K race, walking and running each week to build endurance and get closer to achieving their goals. Blair Sullivan, Alamo Junior High School Mentor, said of the program, "Seeing the girls come together to work hard and encourage each other makes the experience special. We see these girls overcoming challenges to complete the race and hope that they can take these skills with them into other aspects of their life."

By completing the Face the Race program, each participant received a brand new pair of running shoes, a long sleeve shirt, a tank top, an athletic headband, a pair of socks, and leggings, as well as a reusable bag to take it all home in. At the last session before the race, the junior high girls made tutus in their school colors to wear to the race as they began the 5K altogether.

Fifty-nine program participants, along with 151 members of the community, competed in the Face the Race 5K, held on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Monica Tucker, a JLM Sustainer, spoke before the race start to share her experiences of being a competitive athlete and motivate the girls to continue their journey with setting their own personal goals. The top finisher from each junior high school received a gift card for more running gear at Midland Athletic Company and the top three finishers from each school received a Face the Race 5K medal. The top male and female runners each received a medal and a gift card to Midland Athletic Company. The top finishers in each age and gender category were awarded with a medal. Congratulations to Ashley Warne, the fastest Junior League member to participate in the 5K!

Junior League of Midland would like to thank First Basin Credit Union for their generous sponsorship, as well as the many individual donors who helped provide the running gear for all of the program participants! Brianna Bertleson and Elizabeth Wales, the Co-Chairmen of Face the Race, would like to thank their Assistant Co-Chairmen, Krishna Vasquez and Anne Marie Jones, and the School Coordinators and Mentors that dedicated their time and energy to making each afternoon session and the 5K race so successful! None of this would be possible without the passion of volunteers!





*Junior League of Midland Active and Sustaining members continue to offer the community value through their experience, volunteerism, and dedication. These three women continue to be agents of change within the Midland community through judicial and educational directions. They abide by the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."*

## Anita Gamertsfelder

Junior League of Midland has been Anita Gamertsfelder's League home for 11 years as an Active member, and now six years as a Sustainer. For Gamertsfelder, her tenure with JLM began when the ladies in her Sunday School class invited her to join.

"I am thankful for Christine Foreman and Bonnie Squire for being my sponsors," she shared. "I can trace almost all of my close friends in Midland back to a Junior League connection – these are the ladies who have supported and encouraged me over 17 years."

Gamertsfelder said she loves working with JLM members on committees because they know how to get things done. "My friendship connections and the training I have received gave me the opportunity to serve Midland in ways that would have never been possible on my own," she explained. It was during a JLM training that Gamertsfelder first heard the quote "To make a great community, plant a tree whose shade you know you will never sit under."

"This simple truth is something we can all learn from to make Midland a wonderful place for the next generation," she said. "The most important thing is to have a can-do attitude and take action where there is a need."

Gamertsfelder said she still passes by and checks on the house she helped build for Habitat for Humanity through JLM. "The teamwork of working alongside the homeowner and the spirit of everyone giving 100% for a house they would never live in, truly taught me a valuable lesson of service to others," she shared. She continues her service to others through her full-time job position as the director of the Midland Education Foundation, where she raises funds for Midland Independent School District teachers' innovative ideas and scholarships for students.

"I love using community connections that were made through my JLM service and being able to help our students and teachers learn, grow, and excel," Gamertsfelder said.

It is of utmost importance to Gamertsfelder to go above and beyond her job description and finds it a privilege to currently be a coach and a steering committee member for the Midland Values Program. This program provides a two-day training for all MISD employees to connect with values and improve workplace culture. "I love how this is a community funded program by the Warren Charitable Foundation and more than 30 people volunteer to lead these trainings to make MISD a great place to work," she explained. "It is a true example of people helping address a need!"

As a Sustainer, Gamertsfelder continues to be dedicated to serving the community and invites others to do the same. "JLM is such a great training organization – learn all you can about best practices for an organization, and how to be an engaged committee and board member, and then go out in our great community and use your training!" she said. "Say 'yes' when you are asked to be on a board – our community needs you – and always be the person who volunteers to take the minutes!"



## Sharon Hatten



Junior League of Midland has had the privilege of enjoying the membership of Sharon Hatten for 12 Active years and 11 years as a Sustainer. "First and foremost, I credit my family upbringing that made me realize the value of giving back," Hatten shared. "My parents taught us the importance of investing in our community."

Hatten became familiar with the good deeds of JLM and the reputation of the organization through her colleagues at work and other nonprofits. She said it was a very easy decision for her to join when she was invited to apply. "Giving back provides a sense of purpose and makes us all better and stronger individuals," she said. "It is very gratifying helping others succeed and building better and safer communities."

Hatten feels volunteering brings out the best in everyone. "The more you volunteer, the more

benefits you will experience," she shared. "You will connect with the community and feel happier and healthier in doing so." Throughout her tenure with Junior League of Midland, Hatten has identified her favorite traits of the organization. She shared the camaraderie and the privilege of being part of such a distinguished and talented group of women are at the top of her list.

Hatten continues her dedication to the community through her work in public service. "Though recently completed, the design, construction and leading the transition into a new municipal court building was a special five-year project I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of," she said. "I consider it one of the highlights in my 27 years in public service as a City of Midland Municipal Court Judge."

Hatten shared the dramatic improvements to the appearance and proficient functionality of the court, along with its unique design, not only enhanced security but also energy efficient features. "Midland Municipal Court will continue serving as a model court to other municipal courts in Texas, which is important to Midland's image and reputation as a world-class city," she explained.

She also served on the State of Texas Education Committee for Municipal Court judges for more than 20 years. "This was important to me for the significant role it plays in protecting the public's confidence in the fair and impartial administration of justice," she said. After a combined total of more than 29 years in public service, Hatten retired in October and is currently enjoying a "travel sabbatical" to visit various places around the world.



Sustainers Sharla Hotchkiss and Sharon Hatten have both serviced as members of the Junior League of Midland and the city of Midland in various capacities over the last 30 years.

## Sharla Hotchkiss



Sharla Hotchkiss fondly looks back at the Junior League of Midland as her League home. She joined in 1973, served as an Active member for 13 years, and went Sustainer in 1986 – she has now been a Sustainer of JLM for 34 years.

"I was new to Midland and joined to meet people and make friends," Hotchkiss shared. "My mother-in-law was a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston and had enjoyed it, so I felt it would be a positive experience for me." Hotchkiss shared in 1973, membership to JLM was selective and secret, and a team had to sponsor you. "The candidates didn't know they were being considered, so it was a surprise when the committee showed up at my doorstep and invited me into the League!" she explained.

As a part of JLM, Hotchkiss enjoyed community placements where she worked with school children. She had the opportunity to be a docent at the Museum of the Southwest, take puppet shows to the schools, and teach CPR. "In-League placements on committees and the board were challenging," she shared. "I took every training I could fit in my schedule and all these opportunities – especially Placement Chairman – helped me when I became President."

Hotchkiss' commitment to the community has taken her on a journey to help make a difference in almost every aspect of the City of Midland. She serves on the Midland City Council and has been appointed by the Mayor to represent the council on eight boards. She also serves as the City Council Liaison to the City Secretary. "I am also a member of two state boards – I was appointed by the governor as the vice chair of the Texas Workforce Investment Council," she said. "I am also the Keep Texas Beautiful Director Emeritus (past chair)."

In addition to these responsibilities, Sharla is a member of Keep Midland Beautiful, TreeKeepers, League of Women Voters, Midland County Republican Women, Permian Basin Master Gardeners, a proud member of First Methodist Church, and an active member of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission as part of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Regional Review Committee.

Hotchkiss said being a volunteer has made her a better person and enriched her life. "I was raised by volunteers in a small town – my parents taught me the importance of giving back," she shared. "I have seen the difference made by volunteers who are dedicated to making positive change."

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL SPOTLIGHT *By Brittany Crowley*

## *Rebecca Bell*

As Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and the Midland College Foundation, Rebecca Bell oversees the development office, public relations, marketing and communication for Midland College. For nearly three decades, she has held various positions administering classes in the continuing education department, teaching business courses, serving as director of a statewide project, directing the Midland College Advanced Technology Center during the first 10 years of its operation, as well as serving as Dean of Community Relations.

Rebecca Bell has served on the Community Advisory Panel for seven years. As a member of the Panel, she works on behalf of Midland College with the Junior League of Midland partnering to serve our community. The League's work to empower women through various projects that aid in increasing self-esteem and career preparation is of particular interest to Rebecca.



"For me, the League's largest impact in the community is its ability to get things done. Members see a need in the community and then join forces to take care of that specific need in an efficient way."

Although not a native Midlander, Rebecca Bell is a native Texan who has called Midland her home for approximately 30 years. She attended Texas Tech University for her undergraduate degree and received her master's degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University.

"I love living in Midland, and one of the main reasons is the wonderful community outreach that is accomplished through organizations such as the Junior League of Midland."

The Community Advisory Panel is comprised of a diverse group of community leaders who support the Junior League of Midland by acting as a sounding board to the Board and Management Team. These individuals represent a full spectrum of professions and levels of community engagement. Semiannually, the League hosts meetings to update the Panel on the happenings in the League and seek their perspectives on how the League can improve or meet identified needs within the Midland community. Our current panel is comprised of ten community leaders who volunteer their time to help the Junior League of Midland engage with other nonprofits and organization to support and enrich our community.

Members of the 2019-2020 Community Advisory Panel include Rebecca Bell, Teresa Cain, Kevin Foreman, Alice Freidline, Jay Hendricks, Laurie Johnson, Mark Palmer, Dr. Eileen Piwetz, Melissa Wicker, and Holly B. Williams.



Crystale Galindo was one of the 20 individuals recognized as an Odessa Under 40 honoree. Odessa Under 40 honors individuals under the age of 40, whom excel in their professions and contributions to the Odessa community.



Mary Katherine Nix Bergman married Drew Bergman March 16, 2019, at The Cooper Estate in Homestead, Florida.



Kelsey Estes and husband Jace welcomed their son Reid Henry Estes on July 12. He weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and measured 20 inches.

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## *The Museum of the Southwest and the Junior League of Midland*



Mrs. Joe Burks and daughters, Sandy, Sharla, and Susan, visit the Student Art Festival, late 1960s.



Museum of the Southwest, Mrs. Earle C. Craig, docent chairman, 1966, giving a tour of the "Echoes of Texas" exhibit to 7th graders from San Jacinto Junior High School.

One of the longstanding institutions founded by Junior League of Midland that continues to this day is the Museum of the Southwest. Incorporated in 1965 and officially opened in 1966, the League worked closely with the newly formed museum's Board of Trustees and pledged support, both in manpower and financially with \$55,000 in order to establish the facility. The League pledged five years of support when founding the institution, and in a mutually beneficial manner, the first Junior League of Midland office was established in the Museum's building and remained there until a separate headquarters was built in 1980. In order to facilitate the support needed to launch such an institution, a Museum committee began in the 1960s that provided such vast support such as docents for guiding visitors and educating visitors, publicity for the institution, exhibit installation, and putting on the student art festival.

By the 1970-1971 League year, just four years after Museum of the Southwest opened its doors, community support and external volunteers were so great that the Museum itself assumed many committee roles previously fulfilled by the League, such as coordination of the Student Art Show, and docent tours now being primarily coordinated by an auxiliary group, Los Manos. Each successive year showed increased community involvement, and so the League's role began to recede while the Museum thrived and grew into the cultural and educational institution it is today.

Additionally, the League formed a Children's Museum Committee in 1985 in order to assess feasibility and desire of opening a Children's Museum in connection with the Museum of the Southwest. With great support for the idea and ensuing project, and through the dedication and donation of Fredda Turner Durham, the Children's Museum opened in 1989.

Today, Junior League of Midland maintains a representative on the Board of Directors of the Museum of the Southwest and assists with volunteer needs, primarily through the Volunteers in Midland committee. Development and growth of the Museum from the early stages is indicative of the League's continuing commitment to substantially contribute to bettering the Midland community and serving its people.

# LEAGUE CALENDAR



Mrs. Watson LaForce, Jr. in 1967, acting as docent to Mary Clifton LaForce, and Mr. and Mrs. Watson LaForce, Sr.



Mrs. Reagan Legg and Mrs. Bill Kennedy at the Charity Ball, 1968, held at the Museum of the Southwest building shortly before before the museum was moved to the Turner Mansion.

## January 21

General Meeting

7:00 pm at JLM Headquarters

## February 18

Placement Fair

7:00 pm at JLM Headquarters

## March 17

General Meeting

7:00 pm at Location TBD

## March 19

Shotguns & Stilettos

Annual Luncheon

11:30 am at Midland Country Club

## March 20

Shotguns & Stilettos

Clay Shoot

9:00 am & 1:00 pm

at Windwalker Farms

## March 21

Shotguns & Stilettos

Bash

6:00 pm

at Petroleum Club of Midland

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TEXAS WORK

## *Fall Sweeps Event and Truck or Treat*

Volunteers in Midland has been quite popular this year! It is always exciting to see the number of volunteer opportunities that are available in our community and the fact that we have the means to be able to provide volunteers is a blessing.

I have always had a heart for volunteerism which is what drove me to join the Junior League of Midland in the first place and I am always pleased to see the number of our members who sign up to serve at our events. It is clear that I am with a group of women who share this same love of giving back to our community in the best way possible, with their time and unique set of skills they can provide.

Over the summer, VIM was able to provide volunteers for Midland Teen Court which has a year- round need. Teen Court's hope is to help interrupt developing patterns of criminal behavior by increasing self-esteem, motivating youth for self-improvement, and developing healthy attitudes toward authority.

When the school year began, volunteer opportunities became available with organizations that JLM has partnered with in the past. These include Mission Agape where volunteers help in the delivery of weekend food bags to several local schools, Kid's First, and the Jubilee Center.

Our newest partnership is The Cimarron Senior Living Center. Volunteers serve in their activity room two days a week leading Seniors in bingo, puzzles, and a variety of different crafts.

For Habitat for Humanity, volunteers tackle a variety of different needs within the homes such as painting or tacking trim. Sign-ups will be available for the Habitat project in January.

VIM will be adding a new opportunity with an organization called Sharing Hands A Respite Experience (SHARE). SHARE is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to caring for families whose children have special needs. League members will be volunteering during Mom's Night Out and Father's Network so these parents can have an evening of fun and support with other parents.

VIM is always looking for opportunities for members! If your organization is in need of volunteers, please email [vim@jlmidland.org](mailto:vim@jlmidland.org). Please keep in mind, VIM is not able to guarantee the number of volunteers available nor provide volunteers for fundraising events.



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[www.macharter.org](http://www.macharter.org)

By Brittany Crowley

# FALL SWEEPS EVENT

## Keep Midland Beautiful

On October 5, 2019, ten volunteers, plus a few extra little helpers, met at Junior League of Midland Headquarters to participate in the Keep Midland Beautiful Fall Sweeps event. These volunteers cleaned the area around the JLM Headquarters, working their way south to a neighboring church and the Girl Scouts facility grounds, and finished off the event cleaning Tumbleweed Park.

“It was a great way for us to spend a Saturday morning getting to know each other a little better all the while helping our community in an impactful way,” said Crystal Rau, Volunteers in Midland Chair.

At the end of the day, volunteers collected a total of 15 bags of trash, making the area much more presentable and cleaner for the children and families who use these facilities daily.



By Brittany Crowley

# TRUCK OR TREAT

On Saturday, October 26, 2019, the Permian Basin’s finest ghouls and goblins gathered to celebrate another spooktacular season at Midland Fire Department’s annual Truck or Treat event. Since 2014, MFD has hosted this family-friendly event to provide a safe environment for trick-or-treating, games, and refreshments. Through this event, MFD also aims to teach fire prevention, showcase their equipment and emergency vehicles, as well as demonstrate lifesaving skills.

For the third consecutive year, the Junior League of Midland partook in the festivities by hosting the cupcake walk. Members interacted with community members of all ages as they walked and danced to spooky tunes in hopes of winning a deliciously sweet cupcake. A candy drive was held by members at the October General Meeting to add extra sweet treats to the festivities.



# OUTSIDE SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

*By Michelle Cash*

I had the opportunity to speak with several women who devote their time not only within Junior League of Midland, but also in other community organizations. Membership Placement Advisor Allison Tull, has volunteered for Rock the Desert Ministries, Inc. (RTD) since it began in the year 2000 and has had the privilege to serve as a staff member for the last seven years. RTD started with the vision of reaching youth through Christ for those who do not necessarily feel welcome at a traditional church. Rock the Desert Ministries, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that prides itself on being able to reach out to young families and youth through creating safe, welcoming environments where all can gather to listen to Christian music at the Rock the Desert Christian Music Festival and preach the message through skateboarding at the RTD Skate Park. "I love what our mission stands for and am so encouraged hearing how RTD has transformed families and individuals across the country," stated Allison. Her parents, Doug and Marcy Tull are some of the original founders of the ministry.

The Aphasia Center of West Texas board is another community organization and Membership Vice President-Elect Leslie Whitehead serves on their board. She gained this privilege after completing the Generations Training through the Non-Profit Management Center as a Junior League representative. Leslie reported, "As a former Speech-Language Pathologist, I have a passion for restoring quality of life to those who have experienced Aphasia." Aphasia is a loss of language due to a neurological event- most commonly stroke or traumatic brain injury. The extent of the loss of language varies, but for some the loss is complete and happens in an instant. These individuals have not lost their intelligence, but they have lost their most common means of connecting with the world around them.

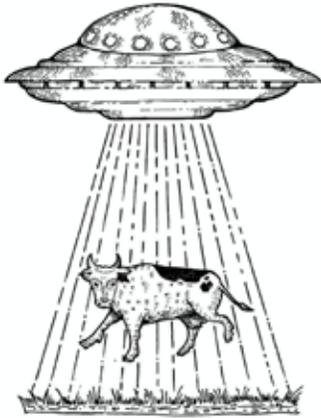
The Aphasia Center of West Texas is dedicated to restoring quality of life for these individuals and their families. Members and their families are invited to participate in programming developed by Beth Crawford, their lead Speech-Language Pathologist. The programming focuses not only on restoring their communication that is sometimes lost forever, but on learning new strategies to restore their participation in life.

Attending the Generations Training as the Junior League representative was an invaluable experience for Leslie. She is finishing her second year on the board and is serving as the Nominating Chair this year. Leslie described her experience thus far as "I have served on this board along with incredible individuals who truly exemplify serving the marginalized in our community."

Lastly, I had the opportunity to speak with Claire Ramirez and Mandy McCabe who are currently serving on the committee for Steers and Stars, which is a fundraising event for Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center (MCRC). This biennial occasion is MCRC's largest formal fundraising event used to fund operational expenses and to support critically needed therapy services for children.

For over 60 years, MCRC has been changing the lives of children by providing neurological and orthopedic therapy, in a compassionate environment, regardless of a family's ability to pay. The facility does not charge for its services, nor does it receive any state or federal funding. It solely operates on foundation grants and individual donations. Midland Children's Rehabilitation Center offers occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and dyslexia tutoring. MCRC is the only clinic in the area that provides clients with the opportunity to participate in hippotherapy (horse therapy), therapeutic riding, and aquatic therapy. MCRC is an essential service to children in the community and attempts to accommodate as many children as possible. There is an ongoing cumulative waitlist amongst all therapy disciplines due to a high demand for services.

Claire and Mandy dedicate time to searching for live and silent auctions for the Steers and Stars event that will take place on February 29, 2020. They are proud to be a part of this committee "in an effort to help raise money for this much needed nonprofit organization" stated Mandy. In regards to The Junior League of Midland, Inc., Mandy serves on the Board as the Nominating Chairman and Claire is the Shotguns and Stiletos Luncheon Coordinator this year.



**Flying Cow Tallow** opened on November 11. They offer whole, organic products for face and body including healing balms and moisturizers made to help with acne, eczema, rashes, anti-aging, and gentle formulas for babies.

*Open from 10 am to 6 pm  
Monday thru Friday*

*Open 10 am to 4 pm  
Saturday*

*Located at  
4425 W. Wadley, Suite 180*



## HONEY Donuts

**Honey Donuts** opened November 5 and is located in the new Kimber-Lea Plaza at 3408 N Midkiff Road. They provide donuts, kolaches, beverages, and their speciality - dipped and sprinkled donut holes! Honey Donuts is open seven days a week and offers drive thru window service.

*Open from 10 pm to 1 pm  
Daily*

*Located at  
3408 N. Midkiff Road*



**Tall City Brewing** opened their doors November 15 at 3303 W. Golf Course Road. Their current selection of beers all have a namesake to Midland and include Five Hour Drive Honey Blonde Ale, Haboob Hefeweizen, 2 Degrees of Separation American Amber, and Bird Lady American Pale Ale.

*Open from 3 pm to 9 pm  
Thursday and Friday*

*Open from 11 am to 9 pm  
Saturday*

*Open from 12 pm to 5 pm  
Sunday*

*Located at  
3303 W. Golf Course Road*

## Suits with Skills

The Suits with Skills Buckner placement will start in January with the participants graduation slated for the beginning of March 2020.

## Volunteers in Midland

Beginning in January, the Mission Agape will expand their weekly meal delivery program to area elementary schools with an expansion into 4 additional secondary schools. With this increased reach into more schools, there are more volunteer opportunities for all Junior League of Midland members.

## Growth Groups

Growth Groups will be held on January 16 and February 27.

Email [MMALS@jlmidland.org](mailto:MMALS@jlmidland.org) for details.



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND FACE THE RACE 5K

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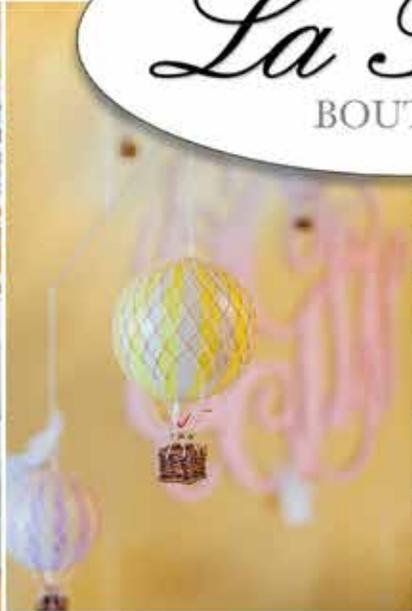
Special thanks to those who  
helped make our Face the Race  
mentoring program a success:

Midland Independent School District  
Midland Police Department  
Brad Barnes/Midland BJJ • Midland YMCA  
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Paula Cox/Midland Rape Crisis and Child Advocacy Center  
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