



Collective Action

ADVANCING WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP THROUGH
SERVICE IN CENTRAL TEXAS

— THE — JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AUSTIN ★

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Since February 9, 1934, the Junior League of Austin (JLA) has worked to unite Central Texas women passionate about leadership and service. Today, JLA boasts a membership of more than 2,300 women who care about their community and volunteer their time to the League. Currently, JLA is the fourth-largest League in the world. League members dedicate their time to funded projects

as well as other community placements annually. The women collectively provide thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars in community funding each year to local initiatives.

Each year, the current serving JLA President chooses a theme. The 2025-26 League Year, JLA President Amy Settemeyer Miller, who has served in the League since 2016, leads the organization with a theme: “Purposeful Passion, Passionate Purpose.”

“Through the theme ‘*Purposeful Passion, Passionate Purpose*,’ we are encouraging members to reconnect with why they joined the League and how their individual contributions advance a shared vision of impact,” Miller explains. By aligning personal purpose with collective action, JLA members create ripple effects that lead to lasting, positive change across the Austin area.

Julia Null also serves on the Board of Directors this year and has been a member since 2010. “It has been one of the most rewarding and meaningful parts of my life,” Null emphasizes. She believes that “contributing to projects that directly improve the lives of families across Austin” is one of the best parts of being a member.

The League’s fierce commitment to addressing critical community needs is most exemplified through its three signature programs, which focus on supporting children and families in the Austin area. These programs are Coats for Kids (CFK), Food In Tum mies



LAURA THOMAS, MARY GRACE MOONEY, KACIE GIURINTANO, AND
HAYDEN BLOOD PRESENTING ABOUT KICS



(FIT), and Kids In Cool Shoes (KICS).

CFK provides winter coats to children in need across central Texas, with JLA's long-standing partners, Jack Brown Cleaners, iHeartRadio, and KVUE. CFK is a true community event. Austin area residents can not only sign up to receive a coat if their kids are eligible, but can also volunteer for sorting shifts, where coats are organized in preparation for distribution. Local companies often sign up their entire staff to volunteer for a sorting shift to engage the workforce in giving back to the community. Children can also sign up to volunteer, with parent supervision. This year, the event will be chaired by League member Jessica Spencer. "Everyone wants to make sure CFK is successful," Spencer said. "CFK is a great example of our mission to support women's leadership collaboration, and the great Austin community."

FIT focuses on food insecurity by delivering healthy food for the weekends to children

who rely on school meals for nutrition during the week. Every week during the school year, JLA volunteers commit over 200 hours to packing and delivering food bags. Each food bag also includes an educational flyer (in both English and Spanish) with a recipe and tips for staying healthy. FIT is committed to providing food and education, including parent cooking classes. League members recognized the need for the FIT program after reviewing research showing that hungry children cannot focus in school. League members learned that children who don't receive proper nourishment over the weekend often don't recover from their hunger until Wednesday, meaning they cannot focus attentively in school until then. FIT bridges the hunger gap between Friday and Monday.

Schools benefiting from FIT have reported to JLA that they have noticed a positive improvement in students since the program's inception.

Carolyn Ragsdale, a current League board member and former FIT chair, strongly believes in the impact FIT has on families and members. "Through FIT, you see members leading with heart and building meaningful relationships, both with each other and the schools we served."

Since 2018, through KICS, JLA has provided new, appropriately fitted athletic shoes to over 10,000 children across over 20 schools in Austin. "It fills a real gap for families and has become an integral part of how our community cares for one another," said board member Lindsay Sims.

These three programs highlight the League's commitment to serving the community through compassion, dedication, and purpose.

Through these programs and other service efforts, JLA continues to build on its legacy of service, always adapting to meet the city's evolving needs while upholding its mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

