

The National Charity League

Compassion in action,
across generations

Last spring, the National Charity League, Inc. (NCL). Austin Chapter hosted its beloved 25th annual tea party. The tea itself is a warm invitation: steeped with tradition, sweetened by laughter, and stirred with purpose. But beneath the lace and laughter lies something deeper: a mission to strengthen the mother-daughter bond through shared service, cultural appreciation, and leadership. This isn't just an event—it's a living symbol of what NCL stands for. As

mothers (Patronesses) and daughters (Ticktockers®) pour tea and stories alike, they're also pouring into their communities, fueling compassion and building lifelong connections. Welcome to an organization where elegance meets empowerment—and every sip tells a story.

Beginning in 7th grade and continuing through senior year, NCL's unique mother-daughter membership structure fosters growth



WRITTEN BY
KAARE REVILL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
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during some of life's most formative years. Through mentoring, leadership development programs, and hands-on service, mothers and daughters build lasting bonds while strengthening their local community. It's this blend of personal connection and public contribution that sets NCL apart—where every project is a lesson, every hour a gift, and every shared moment a step toward a more compassionate future.

In 2024–2025, NCL members nationwide logged more than 3 million service hours, with Texas chapters representing a significant share of that impact. Today, Texas is home to 112 NCL chapters and remains one of NCL's fastest-growing states.

Many NCL chapters participated in NCL's National Day of Service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2025, aiming to advance literacy and honor Dr. King's legacy while advancing



NCL's mission of leadership, philanthropy, and service. Nancy Dean, the CEO of NCL, Inc., reports that the Post Oak Chapter collected over 2,300 books on January 11 during their book drive. These books were donated to Family Point Resources, Literacy Now, and the little libraries at William P. Hobby Airport in Houston for distribution to children in need, sparking a lifelong love of reading.

Dean also shared, "In July, devastating floods swept through Central Texas, leaving many in crisis. Many of our members acted swiftly, offering help and finding meaningful ways to assist those in need. The San Antonio Rose Chapter, for example, organized Ticktocker-led food drives to collect donations and deliver them to the San Antonio Food Bank. Twelve NCL chapters from across the country participated, collecting 7,009 pounds of food, which is equivalent to 5,840 meals for families. The San Antonio Food Bank fulfilled short-term emergency supply needs in Kerr County, and is committed to helping in the Hill Country in the long-term as they continue to repair from the floods. Texas chapters collectively contributed hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours, partnering with local nonprofits to address food insecurity, education gaps, housing, and health services."

In addition to service, NCL develops women with the skills and confidence to lead. NCL empowers women

using a unique mother-daughter membership model that shapes the organization's culture. This culture of connection across generations with mothers (Patronesses) serving as advisors and mentors to their daughters, while daughters (Ticktockers®) take on elected chapter positions, inspire new ideas and gain hands-on experience, education, and cultural awareness through the values of service and community engagement modeled by Patronesses. This power-dynamic is paired with an equally impressive leadership training program that equips mothers and daughters with modern skills: including strategic planning, virtual collaboration and technology-driven project management, creating effective and adaptable leaders. The result is a legacy of empowered women and families who are not only helping others today, but are shaping compassionate, effective, community-minded leaders for the future by connecting hearts, hands, and minds, ensuring that every community thrives.



Dean explains, "When hearts, hands, and minds come together, NCL fosters communities where service, leadership, and compassion work in harmony — ensuring that every community thrives not just today, but for generations to come."

Innovation is a key contributor to the engaging culture of NCL, where members are encouraged to be curious, creative, and collaborative to help their communities thrive. For 100 years, NCL has honored a proud tradition of empowering mothers and daughters to serve their communities together. That legacy of service remains at the heart of everything NCL does — yet the organization continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of families and the world around them.

NCL's Linda Martens Ticktocker Inspire Innovation Fund provides grants to NCL members to develop creative, community-driven projects that reflect fresh ideas and modern solutions to local challenges. Meanwhile, NCL Everywhere, a program of NCL, Inc., extends the opportunity to participate in NCL's mission to families across the country who may not have access to a local chapter — ensuring that service, leadership, and connection are accessible to all.

Many chapters continue to celebrate cherished traditions such as annual Teas and Senior Recognition events — traditions that have evolved to reflect the values and voices of today's members. Through this thoughtful balance of heritage and innovation, NCL continues to honor its past while inspiring the next generation of women leaders to think creatively, serve inclusively, and carry the organization's philanthropic spirit into the future. Come join National Charity League and be a part of this empowered future.