

# SERVICE LEAGUE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

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ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



## 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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President	Amanda Speights
President-Elect	Marcey Stein
Past President	Lori Karnes
Community Service	Rachel Ashe
Corresponding Secretary	Gwen Green
League Historian	Julia Aubin
League Publicity	Stephanie Barber
League Resources	Teresa Henry
Parliamentarian	Ashley Carlile
Recording Secretary	Becky French
Webmaster	Nichole Parks
Treasurer	Melissa Wehunt
Ways and Means	Katie Smith

## 2022-2023 ACTIVE MEMBERS

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Ashley Adams	Amanda Day	Laura Killen	Courtney Robertson
Stacy Arnold	Terri Diamond	Anna Lamprey	Marcelle Robustelli
Jennifer Arp	Amber Domino	Julie Little	Mary Roehl
Rachel Ashe	Allison Estapa	Kathy Maher	Emili Roman
Julia Aubin	Becky French	Regina Martin	Kelly Scott
Stephanie Barber	Danielle Gantt	Leigh McCord	Jaimie Sims
Tracy Barre	Katie Garrison	Kim McCrary	Jill Smallwood
Brandie Bennett	Amanda Gauthier	Mary Beth McInvale	Katie Smith
Rachel Blackman	Carol Goodreau	Shelley McNellie	Sarah Smith
Leah Bleisath	Gwendolyn Green	Carolyn Moraniec	Alison Smock
Sara Bobo	Ashley Harwell	Jodi Morgan	Amanda Speights
Sarah Bowen	Angie Hathcock	Megan Morgan	Marcey Stein
Erika Bryant	Alison Hendrix	Laura Nicholas	Kelly Street
Neely Bursmith	Teresa Henry	Nichole Parks	Allyson Tanner
Ashley Carlile	Savannah Holcomb	Tricia Parks	Katlyn Thacker
Gwen Chambers	Kristin Johnson	Amy Priest	Angela Trethaway
Brandi Clotfelter	Lori Karnes	Maggie Reams	Elizabeth Wall
Jennifer Connelly	Amy Kesler	Jennifer Reynolds	Melissa Wehunt
			Trayce Williams

## 2022-2023 PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

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Lindsey Bishop	Danielle Garner	Michell Houston	Kasey Ross
Ashley Cagle	Jennifer Ghorley	Beth Rogers	Rachael Sanford
Tiffanie Cromer	Allison Hawkins		



# THANK YOU FOR TEN YEARS OF SERVICE



For ten years, these ladies have served and led the League. They have served as League presidents, board members, and committee chairs. They have given their time and hearts to the children of Cherokee County! Overall, these ladies have helped to raise over \$1,000,000. Congratulations on becoming honorary members and "white shirts"!



Jennifer Arp



Jennifer Connelley



Katie Garrison



Angie Hathcock



Alison Hendrix



Lori Karnes



Julie Little



Shelley McNellie



Courtney Robertson



Elizabeth Wall



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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For 87 years, the Service League has quietly improved the lives of children in Cherokee County. The 2022-2023 League year continued that tradition. Between May 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023, League ladies volunteered over 8,400 hours. The willingness of ladies to take so much time away from their jobs, families, and routines to work to improve the lives of children in our community is a true inspiration.

Our volunteer efforts resulted in a resounding success for our fundraisers. The Golfing for the Children golf tournament continued to grow and thrive under the guide of Kelly Scott and Kelly Street. Riverfest, under the leadership of Rachel Ashe, went off without a hitch. The Reindeer Run for the Children 5k once again brought Christmas cheer to the community under the leadership of Becky French. The Annual Gala & Benefit, chaired by Amber Domino and Gwen Green, grew its mission to bring together community leaders and league members to celebrate the work of the League. Through collaboration and teamwork at our various fundraisers, League ladies succeeded in raising over \$145,000 to support children in our community this year!

The funds raised went back into our community in the form of casework, Christmas presents, scholarships, grants, and community service initiatives. Last summer, the scholarship committee, led by Brandy Bennett, distributed over \$15,500 to local graduates to support their education. Thanks to a conservative budget and successful fundraisers, this spring we were able to extend our reach in the community to support ten different non-profits through \$30,000 in grant funding.

A challenge for the League has always been sharing the work of the League with the community while protecting the privacy of those we serve. Families are often struggling when they turn to the League for support. One of the greatest accomplishments over the past year was a League video which brought together outgoing League members and an honorary member to share with the community who we are and what we do. The video is now featured on our website, and we hope future ladies and sponsors will be inspired to come join us in our mission.

Throughout this past year, League ladies came together in fellowship, collaboration and service to achieve the League's work. As an all volunteer organization, the accomplishments over the past year are astounding and set the ground work for continued success not only for year 88, but for many generations to come.

AMANDA SPEIGHTS  
*President, 2022-2023*

# OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

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**Money Spent on Casework, Christmas Gifts, Grants, Donations & Scholarships**

\$144,476.88

**Children helped through Casework, Christmas Gifts, and Scholarships**

478 children

**Families assisted through Casework, Christmas Gifts, and Scholarships**

282 families

**Hours Volunteered by League Members**

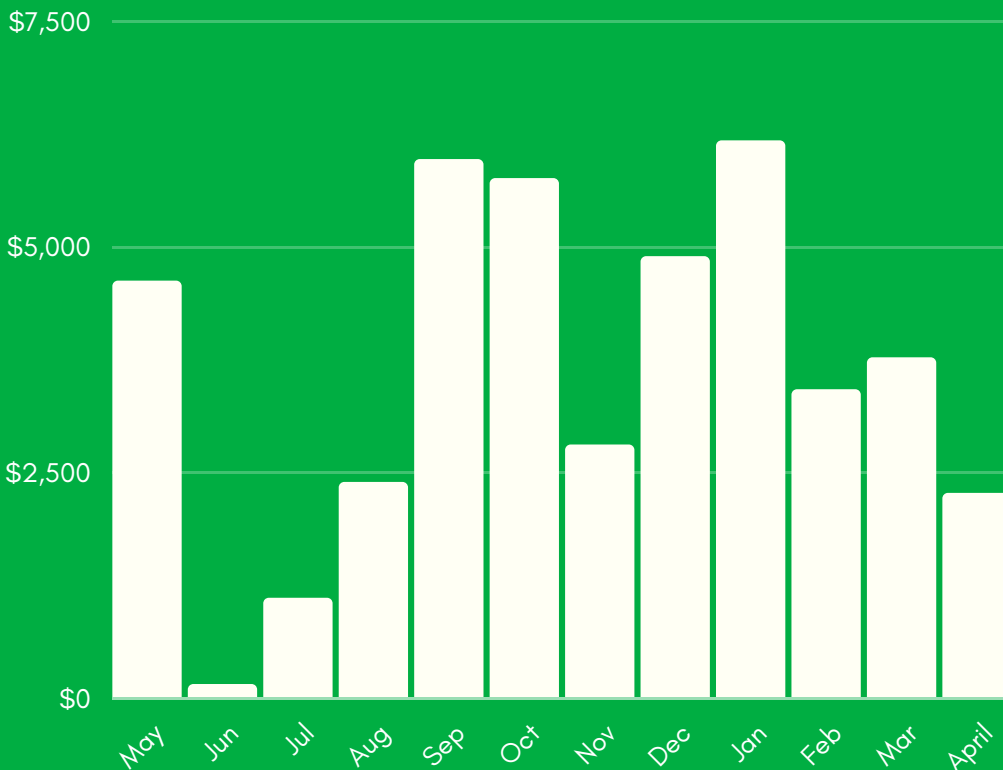
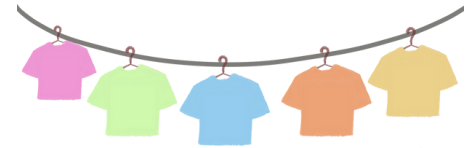
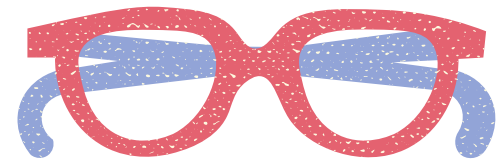
8,376 hours

# CASEWORK

Each year the League receives numerous requests from school social workers and counselors to help meet the basic needs of the children in Cherokee County. This year was no exception as we received over 180 requests. Our Caseworker and President-Elect, Marcey Stein, vetted each one to determine how the League might be able to help. This year we provided emergency dental care, over 50 pairs of eyeglasses, beds, rent, utilities, medical care and several other basic needs that so many often take for granted. In total we provided for 287 children and 139 families.

The stories we hear from these requests are heartbreaking. One family in particular is at the top of the list. This family had been experiencing homelessness for many months and was at a breaking point. Other community agencies had been able to help previously, but they needed one more week in a hotel before being able to move into transitional housing. The Service League was their last hope. We were able to meet the family's need and pay for a full week's stay in a hotel. In turn, this student is graduating in May. Without our support, this would not have been possible.

Stories like these are why we do what we do. We are excited and honored to continue the League's tradition and heritage of helping children.



*Our team is extremely grateful to the Service League for assisting our School Counselors and Social Workers in serving our students and families in times of need. Without their support, help would not be possible.*

-CCSD Social Worker

FIGURE 1.

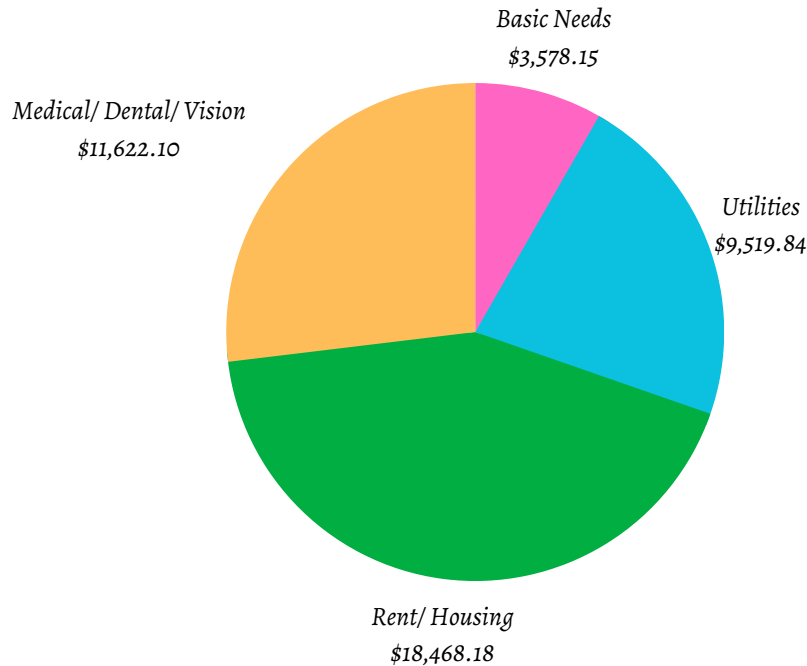
CASEWORK TOTALS BY MONTH

May 2021-April 2023

# CASEWORK BY THE NUMBERS

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Casework addresses children’s needs ranging from housing, to utility assistance, to medical/dental or vision care. Housing, including emergency housing in hotels, formed the largest part of the League's work. This year, the League spent \$43,188.67 on casework helping children in need of Cherokee County.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS & DONATIONS

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The League was pleased to award \$30,000 in community impact grants to assist other child focused organizations seeking to support the children of Cherokee County. Thanks to the success of the League's fundraisers over the past year, the League was able to use its resources to extend its reach in the community.

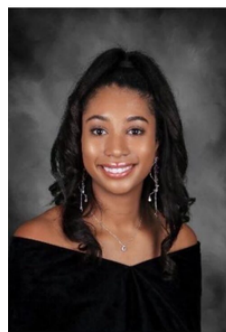
The grants were awarded to organizations seeking to help children in Cherokee County remove barriers so they could grow and prosper. The grants will provide children with scholarships for summer camps, provide long term housing for children, assist single mothers with transportation and childcare, and provide medical care for children. This year's 2023 recipients included: Cherokee Homeless Coalition, Must Ministries, Love Like Reed, Cherokee Youth Foundation, Forever Fed, Bethesda Medical Clinic, Hidden Acres, Camp Gideon, 4-H Club, and Ferst Readers.


In addition to community impact grants, the League made donations throughout the League year to other non-profits in our community including Must Ministries, The Children's Haven and the Sheriff's Department Christmas Joy Program totaling over \$14,500.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

In May 2022, the Service League continued our history of providing need-based scholarships to seniors graduating from high schools in the Cherokee County School District. The scholarships are awarded based on need, academic success, community involvement, and extra-curricular activities.

The scholarship committee carefully reviewed each application, placing an emphasis on the need of the scholarship applicant. A total of \$15,500 was awarded. All applicants selected by the committee represent some of the best and brightest from Cherokee County.




ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL 

*Annabeth Albertson*



*Thene Sturdivant*




CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL 

*Aden Diaz*



*Mirielle Noguis*




CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL 

*Holli DeBord*



*Caroline Kaiser*




CREEKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL 

*Michael Pena*



*Jeb Stewart*




ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL 

*Amiya Tibbetts*



*Davielle LaDuca*




CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL 

*Janet Reyes*



*Darion Deriez*



RIVER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL 

*Mary Fressie Polk*



*Trent Smith*

ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL 



*Logan Belleza*





# CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

One of League's favorite things to do every year is shop for kids at Christmas. Children who receive these gifts are identified by school counselors and social workers who work with families to complete a Christmas wish list of needs and wants. The needs were basic everyday items from blankets and towels to underwear, shirts, pants, coats, and socks.

This year, the League shopped for 176 kids, committing to spend \$200 per child. Because of our community's donations, sponsorships, and participation in fundraising events, we were able support the requests for big ticket items like bikes, tablets and laptops to help make Christmas extra special. In total the League spent \$39,763.31 for children at Christmas.

We are grateful for the donations from Fowler and Donegal Insurance Agencies, the Blue Ridge Bar Association, and Cobb EMC Community Foundation to make this all possible. We are also grateful to Safe Kids Cherokee who provided helmets for all children who requested bikes or scooters.



# 176

CHILDREN PROVIDED FOR

# \$39,763.31

DOLLARS SPENT

*"We cannot express enough the gratitude we have for the Service League of Cherokee County. Families are incredibly thankful for the generous help and support they receive, especially when going through such challenging times during the holidays."*

-CCSD SOCIAL WORKER

# Golfing FORE! The Children

JUNE 20, 2022  
EAGLE WATCH GOLF CLUB



## 4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Service League hosted the fourth annual Golfing FORE! The Children golf tournament in the summer of 2022 at Eagle Watch Golf Course in Woodstock.

Over 100 golfers drove and putted their way through 18 holes all in support of the children of Cherokee County. Thanks to the purchase of extra mulligans, several golfers had holes-in-one. Golfers were treated to breakfast. They had several raffle baskets to bid on, and were provided with swag bags from our wonderful sponsors.

The golf committee did an amazing job organizing and hosting the event! The golf tournament was a great success and raised \$15,430.36 for the children of Cherokee County.

**5th Annual Golfing FORE! the Children will be June 16, 2023 at Fairways of Canton!**



# Riverfest Arts & Crafts Festival

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2022  
ETOWAH RIVER PARK



For the 38th year, League ladies, sponsors, vendors, entertainers and volunteers convened at Etowah River Park to showcase the beauty of Canton in the fall at the 38th Annual Riverfest Arts & Crafts Festival.

More than 25,000 patrons attended. The festival featured over 150 arts and crafts vendors. Sponsors, who are essential to the festival's success, greeted patrons as they entered the park. The event also featured food trucks and concession vendors to feed the attendees. The family friendly event featured a large children's area and a variety of local entertainment. Scarecrows and fall decor set the scene for a fall festival unlike any other in our community.



As the flagship fundraiser for the League's work, the festival raised \$106,427.45. The Service League volunteered more than 4,000 hours planning and hosting this event.

**Riverfest 2023 will be held at  
Etowah River Park on  
September 23rd-24th, 2023.**





# Reindeer Run for the Children 5K

DECEMBER 10, 2022 | ETOWAH RIVER PARK

The 19th annual Reindeer Run for the Children 5k was held on December 10, 2022. We hosted a fun run and a Peachtree qualifying 5k. Thanks to the support of our sponsors and community, the event raised \$14,690.42 to meet the needs of children in our community.

Avery Elementary School chorus added a festive feel with holiday carols. Many League members and participants also dressed in holiday attire.

Each year the League awards \$1,000 to the top participating school in the County. This year's recipient was Cherokee High School.

Thank you to all the runners and sponsors.



# Gala & Benefit

JANUARY 28, 2023 | TIMBERS ON ETOWAH

The Service League's Annual Gala and Benefit was held on January 28, 2023. A portion of the evening's proceeds benefited The Children's Haven. Over 150 guests attended the event. Synovus Bank again served as the event's presenting sponsor.

In addition to dinner and dancing, the evening's program recognized our sponsors, educated attendees about the League's work over the past year, and honored League members who have committed ten years of service to children in our community.

The second Heritage of Hope Award was presented to Judge Jennifer Davis for her commitment to improving the lives of children in our community. In addition to the winner, other finalists, including Josh Bagby, Julie Darnell, and Michele Prance were recognized at the event.

Thanks to the hard work of the Gala Committee and support of our sponsors, this year's Gala & Benefit raised \$21,635.91 and resulted in a donation of \$7,211.97 to The Children's Haven.

## HERITAGE OF HOPE AWARD



Four finalists pictured left to right:  
Michele Prance, Julie Darnell, Jennifer Davis, Josh Bagby

  
Service  
League  
Gala &  
Benefit

Presenting Sponsor

**SYNOVUS**<sup>®</sup>

Table Sponsors



Gold Sponsor



Silver

Family Life Publications

Bronze

North Georgia Angel House



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

## 2023-2024 Provisional Members

In March, the League welcomed 23 new members who will serve the next year as provisional league members before being voted to full membership. We appreciate these ladies' commitment to serve the children of Cherokee County for the next ten years!



Lindsay Baker



Lexi Barnes



Kristine Corona



Danyel Edwards



Jen Garijanian



Tammy Griffin



Lis Hames



Jessi Kessock



Stephanie O'Rourke



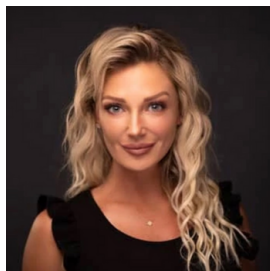
Brittany Page



Melissa Pavsner



Jenny Purvis



Autumn Ransom



Jenna Roberts



Nicole Ross



Amy Rowan



Melissa Sneed



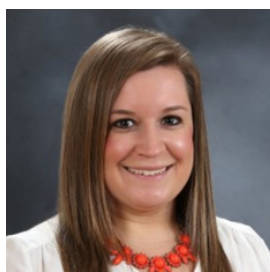
Lauren Thomas



Beth Timothy



Angie Trimbach



Megan Wallace



Rebecca Ward



Diane Worley



# SPONSOR RECOGNITION



Sponsorships enable the Service League to maximize funds raised at our events. All sponsorship dollars remain in Cherokee County. The positive impact our sponsors make to our mission improves the lives of children all throughout our community.

## RIVERFEST ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

### *Gold*

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Canton Tourism, Family Life Publications, Cherokee Tribune, and A-JAC Electricians

### *Silver*

Knox Bridge Dental Care, Publix Super Markets Charities, NMT Sports, 10.10 Construction, Renasant Bank, Cherokee Charter Academy, Leaf Guard, Wellstar Health System, Lyndon Academy, Gunnin Land Survey, Around About Local Media, and Barr Cabinets

### *Transportation*

Page Relocation

### *Bronze*

Amicalola EMC, Kesler Law Firm, Harmony Orthodontics, Cherokee Children's Dentistry, Grisham Poole & Carlile, and Cobb EMC Foundation, Waste Management, and CATS

### *Children's*

ProntoTrack, Three Sisters, T-Mobile, Sequoyah Library System, and Chick-fil-A

### *Riverfest Associate*

Georgia Mountain Dermatology, JP Haynes Lumber Co., Nesnick Chiropractic, Canton First UMC Preschool, Scentbound, and Rising Hill Church

## GOLF FORE THE CHILDREN

### *Gold*

Express Oil Change, The Kesler Law Firm, P.C., Scott Huskins Funeral & Cremation, Fowler Insurance, Buck, Allstate Insurance, Speights Law, PC

### *Silver*

Focus 1 Associates, MAYNT LLC, Amplify Roofing

### *Bronze*

LGE Community Credit Union, Harmony Orthodontics, Tin Cup Realty

### *Hole*

Corrective Chiropractic Woodstock, Walmart Health, Nesnick Total Health, IceBox Woodstock, Yawn Publishing, LLC, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Bojangles, Longhorn, IceBox

## REINDEER RUN FOR THE CHILDREN 5K

### *Runner Recognition Sponsors*

Northside Hospital, Kesler Law Firm, Byrd Insurance, Etowah Construction

### *School Presentation Sponsors*

Allstate - Kelly Scott, Credit Union of Georgia, Cherokee Children's Dentistry, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, H&H Electric and Security, LLC, Family Life, Around About Local Media

### *Mile Marker Sponsors*

Relentless Sports Academy, Harmony Orthodontics, Club Pilates Canton

### *Starting Block Sponsors*

Knox Bridge Dental, Orange Theory, Mid City Pharmacy, Dan Patterson DDS

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Service League greatly appreciates every organization who has supported our work. Generous sponsors are essential to our work and enable us to continue to serve the children of Cherokee County.

## CORPORATE SPONSOR



## 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Melissa Wehunt  
Amanda Speights  
Becky French  
Kim McCrary  
Allyson Tanner  
Stephanie Barber  
Erika Bryant  
Teresa Henry  
Gwen Green  
Sarah Smith  
Ashley Carlile  
Alison Smock

[www.serviceleague.net](http://www.serviceleague.net)