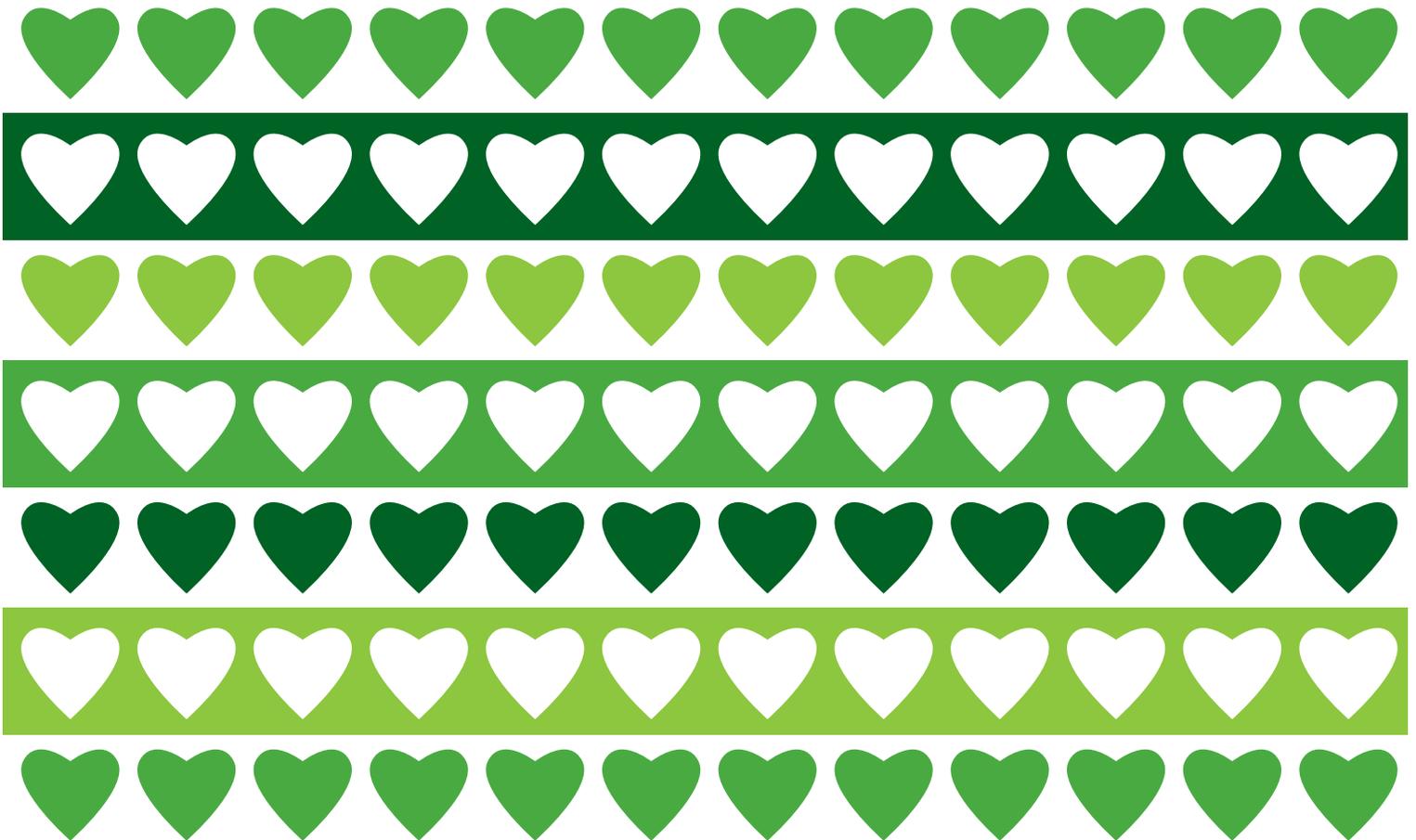
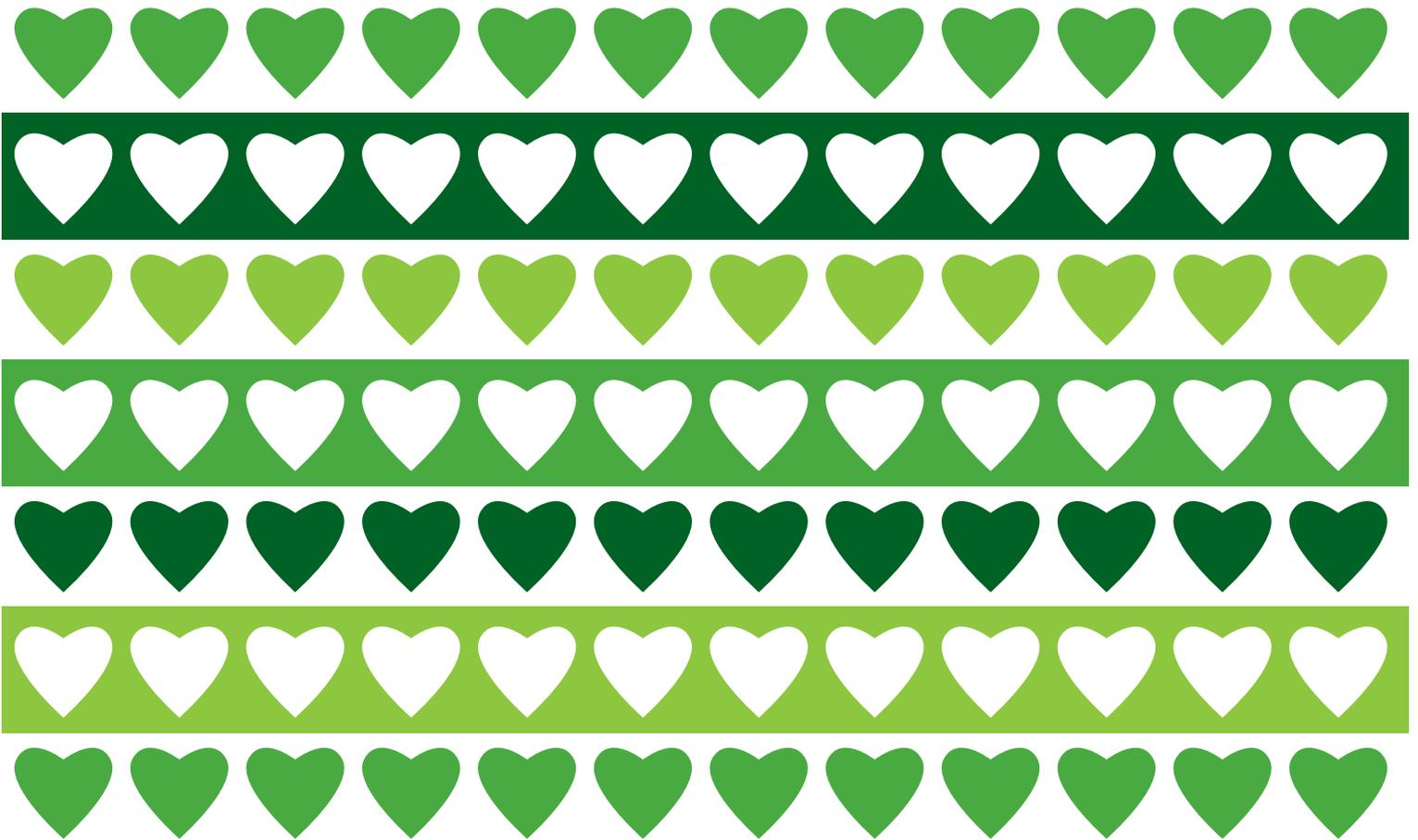




# A HERITAGE OF HELPING CHILDREN

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





A HERITAGE OF HELPING CHILDREN

Annual Report 2015  
[serviceleague.net](http://serviceleague.net)



January 2016

Within this annual report, we hope you will learn something new about the Service League of Cherokee County. We want to make every effort possible to illustrate to the supporters of our fundraisers, our gracious sponsors, and our community the impact we strive to make by working together as a team for the children!

Most of our work is done quietly as we preserve the privacy of the families with children we assist. Our primary mission is assisting with the daily needs of a child; the things that many of us take for granted. The hope is that a child will feel the love we pour into our work. After we lend a helping hand during a tough time, the families assisted are able to get back on track. Many times, the families we help are getting assistance for the first time. Behind every casework report is a child smiling so keep in mind when you see the charts and amount spent that the true meaning of those numbers go far beyond a dollar sign. For a child who receives a scholarship, they feel a sense of pride that goes deeper than the check amount. A local non-profit organization awarded special project funds feels a greater sense of community support. Sponsors who partner with us get the satisfaction of knowing every penny donated stays right here in Cherokee County. Community Impact Grant winners are granted a financial gift to make a difference in the lives of children.

The countless volunteer hours behind every dollar raised is given freely without any expectation. We ladies of the Service League do not want recognition for our work because the reward comes in knowing we are helping children right here in our own hometown. Our joy comes in being trusted to help those who can't help themselves. The blessing is in doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do. For me, being part of this dedicated organization has allowed me to see not only the painful side of those in need but more importantly the positive side of being able to help them. I have been honored to serve as President this year and will hold the families with children we served dear to my heart.

As we reflect on the past with a sense of pride, we tip our hats to the honorary members who laid the groundwork for our rewarding work today. We look toward the future with great optimism, knowing that with God's grace the League will continue to expand to accommodate our growing county and the deserving children who are our future!

Blessings,

Bonny Spears  
President 2015-2016

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Bank of North Georgia



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS  
CHARITIES



Grant Design  
Collaborative

# SPONSORSHIP

*Giving locally ensures your sponsorship dollars are going right back into your great community!*



# WHAT IS THE SERVICE LEAGUE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY?

Founded in 1935 during the height of the Great Depression, the Service League of Cherokee County is the oldest volunteer service organization in Cherokee County, Georgia. With its deep roots and rich heritage of caring for families with children who are in need, the League has grown from its first 9 charter members to today's membership of 100 volunteer women, each of whom has committed to 10 years of active membership and a minimum of 50 hours in volunteer service each year.

Collectively, the women who comprise the Service League contribute in excess of 10,000 hours each year in volunteer service to the most vulnerable of our society. As a 501c(3) non-profit organization, the money raised through the Service League's various fundraising efforts goes directly back into the community to provide food, clothing, rental and utilities assistance, medical and dental care, eyeglasses, scholarships, and much more to identified children in need.



*A lot has changed in 81 YEARS, but some things stay the same.*

*We are 100 WOMEN who love children and want to serve them by helping meet their needs.*

**WE ARE THE SERVICE LEAGUE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY.**

# 2015 FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



## GATHERINGS & TRADITIONS COOKBOOK

Cookbooks have longed played a vital fundraising role throughout the history of the League. As the fifth cookbook published in the 81-year-history of the League, the newest cookbook, Gatherings & Traditions, debuted at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Riverfest Arts and Crafts Festival to rave reviews and continues the League's legacy of sharing our unique brand of Southern hospitality with tried and true go-to recipes for any event.

## RIVERFEST ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

The cornerstone of the Service League's fundraising efforts is the annual Riverfest Arts and Crafts Festival. The 31<sup>st</sup> Riverfest was held under beautiful, sunny, fall skies on the weekend of September 26–27, 2015, and earned a record-breaking sum of \$86,288.87 for needy children in Cherokee County. Created in 1984, Riverfest has earned a notable reputation throughout the past 31 years with vendors and patrons alike for showcasing the finest arts, crafts, entertainment, activities for children and festival fare the southeast has to offer, all in a family-oriented atmosphere overflowing with Southern hospitality.

## ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING

In addition to its large fundraising events, the Service League also sponsors several smaller fundraisers throughout the year. These include the sale of reusable, eco-friendly tote bags, live poinsettia and fresh greenery wreaths during the holiday season and GloryHaus Purchase for a Purpose event. Money raised from these special fundraisers allows the League to devote funds toward specific projects, including the purchase of Christmas gifts for the needy children in our community.

# SERVICE LEAGUE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

## MEMBERS 2015-2016

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Bonny Spears*

PRESIDENT

*Patti Martin*

PRESIDENT-ELECT

*Melissa Whatley*

PAST PRESIDENT

*Liz Spell*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Betsy Graham*

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

*Michelle Bowden*

LEAGUE RESOURCE

*Jaimee Moss*

PARLIAMENTARIAN

*Stephanie Bagwell*

RECORDING SECRETARY

*Barbara Jacoby*

TIMEKEEPER

*Gini Mizelle*

TREASURER

*Shannan Cagle*

WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN

### PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

*Leah Bleisath*

*Cecile Henley*

*Mary Roehl*

*Allyson Tanner*

*Gwen Chambers*

*Kathy Maher*

*Stacy Sinclair*

*Lauren Thomas*

*Terri Diamond*

*Laura Nicholas*

*Marcelle Strong*

*Katlyn Thacker*

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

*Ashley Adams*

*Deanna Adkins*

*Jana Anderman*

*Jennifer Arp*

*Melissa Auringer*

*Stephanie Bagwell*

*Tammy Beasley*

*Brandie Bennett*

*Stacy Benson*

*Shiela Benz*

*Michelle Bowden*

*Leslie Bowers*

*Kelly Brannam*

*Anne Burke*

*Neely Bursmith*

*Crystal Butler*

*Shannan Cagle*

*Ashley Carlile*

*Nicole Carnes*

*Heather Cato*

*Renee Cavan*

*Millie Cline*

*Brandi Clotfelter*

*Jennifer Connelly*

*Beth Cornelison*

*Lori Davis*

*Amanda Day*

*Paula Evans*

*Allison Faucett*

*Kimberly Fowler*

*Katie Garrison*

*Lindsey Garrison*

*Kristin Gauthier*

*Betsy Graham*

*Hillary Hall*

*Angie Hathcock*

*Alison Hendrix*

*Allie Hill*

*Deidre Hollands*

*Jenny Hopkins*

*Amy Howell*

*Kelley Hyde*

*Susan Ikerd*

*Barbara Jacoby*

*Emily Jobe*

*Taylor Johnson*

*Lori Karnes*

*Terry Lee*

*Julie Little*

*Amanda Locke*

*Beth Major*

*Patti Martin*

*Robyn McEntyre*

*Mary Beth McInvale*

*Shelley McNellie*

*Molly Mercer*

*Gina Mickler*

*Phyllis Miller*

*Gini Mizelle*

*Jaimee Moss*

*Brandy Murphy*

*Julie Pennington*

*Julie Peppers*

*Cindy Prien*

*Charlee Renfro*

*Jennifer Reynolds*

*Tracy Roach*

*Courtney Robertson*

*Melissa Roper*

*Stacye Rubelsky*

*Ashley Rusbridge*

*Kelly Scott*

*Jodi Sears*

*Katie Smith*

*Natalie Smith*

*Bonny Spears*

*Liz Spell*

*Laura Stanley*

*Emilie Steele*

*Erin Thomas*

*Elizabeth Wall*

*Amy Wallace*

*Beth Watkins*

*Michele Webb*

*Melissa Whatley*

*Dixie Williams*

*Angela Wilson*

*Lisa Woodruff*

# JOIN THE SERVICE LEAGUE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

Women interested in membership in the Service League are encouraged to volunteer at one of our annual fundraisers.

Membership is open each January to women between the ages of 25 and 55 who live and/or work in Cherokee County.

More information outlining the eligibility requirements of applicants and the responsibilities of active members is available online at [serviceleague.net](http://serviceleague.net).

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Members of the Service League of Cherokee County who are currently serving their 10-year term are considered "active" members. Those members who are currently serving in their very first year of service are considered active "provisional" members. Those women who have completed their 10-year commitment and have rotated out of active service are considered "honorary" members, and enjoy a life-long relationship with the Service League that no longer requires active service.



*Service League of Cherokee County 2015-16 Executive Board*



*Service League of Cherokee County 2015-16 Outgoing Members*



*Service League of Cherokee County 2015-16 Provisional Members*

### **DANCING FOR THE CHILDREN**

Our Annual Ball “Dancing for the Children” celebrity dance challenge and 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Service League Ball was held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 where a packed house of more than 500 guests cheered local “celebrity” dancers and helped the League raise over \$40,000 through event ticket sales, dancer sponsorships, event sponsorships and silent auction items.

### **RUN FOR THE CHILDREN REINDEER RUN 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN**

The 13th annual Run for the Children 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run was held of Saturday, December 5, 2015, where the League hosted over 300 participants in the holiday-themed started by none other than jolly old St. Nick himself. The Run was held in a new location at Canton’s newest community recreation area, Etowah Park. The event raised over \$7,000. Sizes Elementary was awarded a \$1,000 prize for the most run participants from a single school.



# DID YOU KNOW?

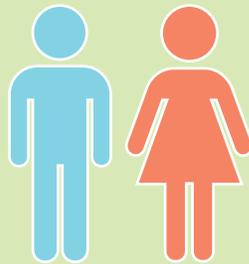


In 2015, the Service League was able to provide over **200 CHILDREN** with gifts on Christmas morning.

Service League members (also known as “Green Shirts” because of the signature green shirts they wear at most fundraising events) are unpaid volunteers who commit to **10 YEARS** of active League service and a minimum of **50 VOLUNTEER HOURS PER YEAR**.

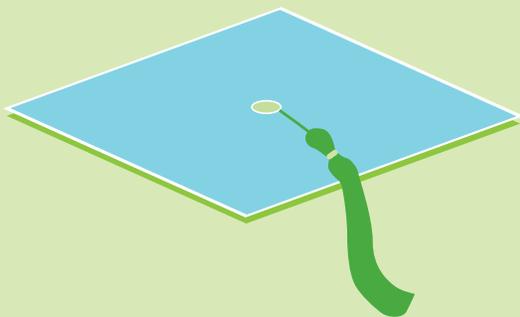


# 1,300



In 2015, more than **1,300 CHILDREN** were assisted with basic necessities such as food, clothing, eyeglasses, dental or medical care, utilities and rental assistance and much more through the League’s casework and special needs referral program.

In 2015, there were close to **25,000 ATTENDEES** at Riverfest Arts & Crafts Festival.



In 2015, League members donated approximately **11,000 HOURS** of community service serving children in Cherokee County.

In 2015, **\$24,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS** were awarded to deserving local high school graduates throughout Cherokee County.



# WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

EVERY DOLLAR raised by the Service League of Cherokee County STAYS IN CHEROKEE COUNTY.

## CASEWORK

“Casework,” as it is called, is the heart and soul of the League. Hard-working families often find themselves living in difficult situations, and the League is equipped to lend them a helping hand, whether it be assisting with groceries, providing medical care, purchasing clothing or providing shelter and warmth, just to name a few. Many of the situations encountered through casework referrals are heart-breaking, but the League exists for the express purpose of bringing much-needed relief in each and every difficult situation.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

A portion of the funds raised by the League are utilized to provide support to other organizations throughout the county that also serve children, such as BEATS, Boys and Girls Club, Camp Gideon, Celebrate Recovery, CFUMC, Cherokee County 4H, Cherokee County Health Department, Cherokee Thanksgiving, DRMS - Journey Club, Elm Street Cultural Arts Center, Forever Fed, Goshen Valley Foundation, Healing Hands Youth Ranch, Heritage Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, Johnston ES, River Ridge HS - CTI, RM Moore ES, Sequoyah Regional Library, Woodstock ES, and YMCA.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & OTHER PROGRAMS

Other funds are distributed by awarding \$1,000 scholarships each year to deserving high school students throughout the county. The Service League’s annual program to provide

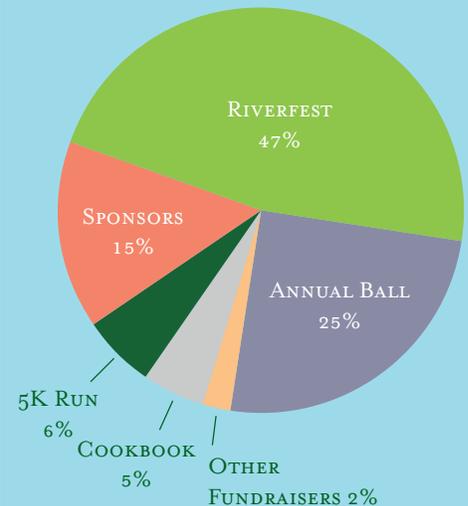
Christmas presents for children in need gives League members an opportunity for hands-on involvement in touching the lives of children in need throughout Cherokee County. Armed with a child’s Christmas wish list, each and every gift is purchased by a League member using great thought and loving care to ensure that the child’s Christmas morning is very merry and bright.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

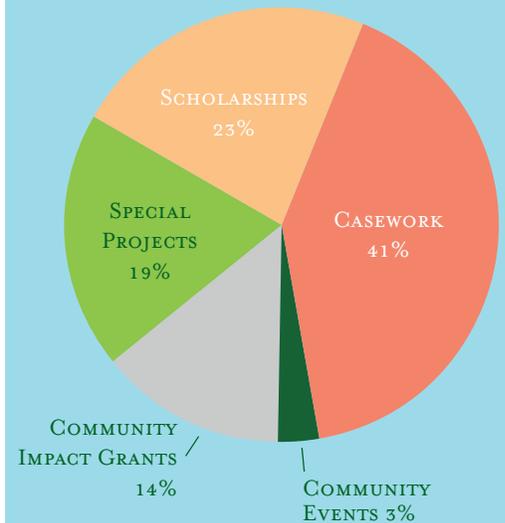
The Service League of Cherokee County awarded a total of \$50,000 to eight local charities and organizations in Cherokee County during their Fall 2015 Community Impact Grants Program. The application-based program encouraged local groups and organizations to submit proposals for new ideas and projects aimed to serve children in Cherokee County. Like the Service League, each of these organizations work diligently to serve the needy children of this community.

Grant Recipients Include: Boy Scout Troop 241, Cherokee County Farm Bureau, Cherokee County School District - Educational Programs, Creekview High School, Goshen Valley Foundation, Hasty Elementary School, Heaven’s Gait Therapeutic Riding, Living Bread Ministries, North Georgia Angel House, Inc., and Upper Etowah River Alliance

## INCOME SOURCES



## PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



## 2015 CASEWORK

