

TALK OF THE LEAGUE

News and Happenings from the Junior Women's League of Smithfield

Sponsor a Blessing Box

Hunger Is Real— Let's Stock the Blessing Boxes Together! The 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment confirmed a child food insecurity rate of 13% in the county - Per the Johnston COUNTY 2024 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT published May 2025.

Junior Women's League of Smithfield is asking local businesses, organizations, and neighbors like you to help us keep our Blessing Boxes stocked with nonperishable food items. Every donation, no matter how small, helps put food on the table for someone in need.

Contact us if your family or business are interested in adopting a blessing box at jwlsmithfield@gmail.com. JWL will help support your passion.

What to Donate:

Canned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, shelf-stable snacks, and more.

(Please, no fresh produce, dairy, meat, or bread.)

Head over to www.jwlsmithfield.com/food-insecurity-resources and you can make a donation or shop amazon wish list.

Blessing Box Locations - [Click to view Map](#)

Find one near you at 10 Johnston County Fire Departments:

Benson | Clayton (Stations 1 & 2) | Kenly |

Meadow | Archer Lodge (North Side Station 1)

Thanksgiving | Pine Level | Selma | Smithfield



IN THIS ISSUE

[WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT](#)

[BIG NIGHT OUT BINGO 2025](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[2024-2025 IMPACT REVIEW](#)

[10 YEARS OF SERVICE](#)

[MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS](#)

[JOIN JUNIOR WOMENS LEAGUE](#)



JWLSmithfield



Stay Connected



JWLSmithfield@gmail.com



A WORD FROM MARIA PITRE-MARTIN, PRESIDENT

The Junior Women's League of Smithfield is proudly preparing to celebrate its 11th year of service to the Johnston County community. What began as a shared vision has grown into a strong and compassionate network of women dedicated to voluntarism, civic engagement, and uplifting those around us.

We are united by our passion for service and our unwavering enthusiasm for the betterment of Johnston County. As one of the fastest-growing counties in North Carolina, Johnston County offers tremendous opportunities—and we are committed to being part of its continued growth and success.

Through meaningful initiatives like our annual Big Night Out fundraiser, the family-favorite Touch-A-Truck event, and the maintenance of 10 Blessing Boxes stocked with essentials throughout the county, we are creating real, lasting impact. These efforts, not only strengthen our community but also help fund vital scholarships and grants that support local students and organizations.

As we look ahead to the upcoming year, we are filled with excitement and renewed purpose. We remain dedicated to building relationships, creating positive change, and ensuring our community continues to thrive—for today and for generations to come.



JWLSmithfield



Stay Connected



JWLSmithfield@gmail.com



We hope you were one of the lucky attendees at the Junior Women's League of Smithfield's inaugural BNO BINGO Fundraiser—a night to remember! Held on the evening of April 5th in the Paul A Johnston Auditorium at JCC, this exciting event brought together 240 enthusiastic participants for an evening filled with energy, laughter, and community spirit.

Thanks to the overwhelming support from attendees, sponsors, and volunteers, we are thrilled to share that over \$13,000 was raised—funds that will be reinvested directly into initiatives supporting Johnston County. The generosity and involvement of our community made this night not only possible but truly unforgettable.

There was something for everyone—from 20 thrilling BINGO games with cash prizes to a lively basket frenzy and a suspenseful 50/50 raffle. The room buzzed with excitement as winners were called, baskets were claimed, and neighbors cheered one another on.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible sponsors, whose contributions played a vital role in the success of this fundraiser. Their belief in our mission to serve and uplift Johnston County is what allows us to continue creating meaningful impact.



JWLSmithfield

**Stay Connected**

JWLSmithfield@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Are you interested in voluntarism, community service, and developing your leadership potential?

*Join the
Junior Women's League!*



NEW MEMBER Interest Meeting

When: Sunday, August 17th 2-4pm



Located @ Draft & Vine
9096 Cleveland Rd., Clayton

Membership is open to all women ages 21 and older who have an interest in serving Johnston County.
For more information or to join, visit www.jwlsmithfield.com.



JWLSmithfield



Stay Connected



JWLSmithfield@gmail.com

JWL 2024 - 2025 Impact in Johnston County



**2024-2025
YEAR IN REVIEW**

2,443 **HOURS VOLUNTEERED**
A value of \$80,313.33



13,736

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS FUNDED

453



LETTERS FROM SANTA
Mailed to Children in 29 States



550

AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS
DONATED TO BOYS & GIRLS
CLUB OF JOHNSTON
COUNTY (300), AND
BACKPACK BUDDIES (250)



\$3,000

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED TO 4 GRADUATING,
FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



312

WINTER COATS
DONATED TO CHILDREN

(1) \$1,000

SCHOLARSHIP
TO SINGLE MOTHER ATTENDING
JOHNSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



60

MEMBERS
committed to promoting
voluntarism | developing the
potential of women |
improving the community
through the effective action
and leadership of trained
volunteers



475 **MEAL &
DESSERT
NIGHTS**
SUPPORTING
SECU HOSPICE HOUSE
LASAGNA LOVE



10

BLESSING BOXES

MAINTAINED AND STOCKED

PROUD COMMUNITY PARTNER OF:

Boys & Girls Club of Johnston County | Cleveland Area Backpack Buddies | Johnston County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 88
Johnston Health Foundation | Isaiah 117 House Johnston Co NC | Lasagna Love | Me Fine Foundation
Miracle League of Johnston County | Partnership for Children of Johnston County | Period Kits North Carolina | OneCompassion
The Salvation Army | SECU Hospice House | With Love from Jesus



JWLSmithfield



Stay Connected



JWLSmithfield@gmail.com



10 Years of Service

Sarah Edwards

Austin Yansom

Dana Peterson

Amy Plant-Perdue



Congratulations, Jennifer Petit

We are thrilled to announce that Jen has been honored with the JWL Rising Star Award in recognition of her outstanding first year with the Junior Women's League. Jen consistently goes above and beyond, showing unwavering support for the Johnston County community.

She's been an enthusiastic participant in events like TAT and BNO BINGO, and whenever there's an opportunity to lend a hand—Jen is there.

This year, she has taken an even bigger step by joining several committees, and we can't wait to watch her continue to grow and shine as a leader.

Thank you, Jen, for your dedication, energy, and heart. The future is bright with you in it!

Congratulations, Marsha Wolk



We are proud to recognize Marsha as the recipient of the JWL Outstanding Committee Service Award! Her exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and passion played a key role in the incredible success of Basket Frenzy during BNO BINGO, helping to raise an impressive \$2,960 in support of our mission.

Marsha's commitment to service continues to inspire, and we're excited to announce that she will step into a new leadership role as Vice President of Community Outreach & Engagement for the 2025–2026 League Year. We can't wait to see all she will accomplish as she continues to lead with heart and purpose!



JWLSmithfield



Stay Connected



JWLSmithfield@gmail.com

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

LISA BLAND

A TRUE EMBODIMENT OF STRENGTH, COMPASSION, AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION, LISA HAS EARNED THE TITLE OF WOMAN OF THE YEAR THROUGH HER EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND DEEP-ROOTED COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY. KNOWN FOR INSPIRING OTHERS WITH HER "WONDER WOMAN" ENERGY, SHE LEADS WITH GRACE, PURPOSE, AND A HEART FULL OF SERVICE. WHETHER ORGANIZING EVENTS, MENTORING OTHERS, OR LENDING A HELPING HAND WHEREVER IT'S NEEDED, SHE CONSISTENTLY UPLIFTS THOSE AROUND HER. HER ABILITY TO FOSTER MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND SPARK LASTING CHANGE IS A TESTAMENT TO HER IMPACT. LISA DOESN'T JUST GIVE BACK—SHE BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER, CREATING A RIPPLE OF POSITIVITY THAT STRENGTHENS THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY.



Junior Women's League of Smithfield

Sisterhood



We are a Unit

When one of our members, Emily, reached out for volunteers to support her week-long residential leadership program for rising female seniors, the Junior Women's League responded without hesitation. This impactful program empowers young women to learn how government works by designing and running their own mock government. At JWL, we pride ourselves on being a sisterhood of support—always just a message away. We are deeply grateful for the meaningful relationships we continue to build, all with the shared goal of strengthening our community.



next-level
goals



JWLSmithfield



Stay Connected



JWLSmithfield@gmail.com

First Row

President, Maria Pitre-Martin, PhD

President-Elect, Braxton Moody

VP of Community Outreach & Engagement, Marsha Wolk

Second Row

VP of Public Relations, Beth Sanders

VP of Membership, TBD

VP of Fund Development, Carrie Carter

Third Row

Treasurer, Jami Thompson

Recording Secretary, Kaitlyn Sproles

Past President, Dana Peterson



Welcome 2025-2026 JWL Board Members

Are you interested in voluntarism,
community service, and developing your
leadership potential?

*Join the
Junior Women's League!*



**The Junior Women's League of
Smithfield is accepting NEW Members!**

Membership is open to all women ages 21 and
older who have an interest in serving
Johnston County.

Provisional enrollment is open until February 28, 2026

For more information or to join, visit
www.jwlsmithfield.com



Touch-A-Truck



Membership Meetings



Miracle League



Cleveland Area
Backpack Buddies



Big Night Out



JWL Blessing Boxes



JWLSmithfield



Stay Connected



JWLSmithfield@gmail.com