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DALLAS JUNIOR FORUM CONTINUES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS NON-PROFIT AGENCY PARTNERS WITH “SERVICE FROM THE HEART”

Because the global pandemic has impacted the ability to gather in person, Dallas Junior Forum (DJF) has adapted their fundraising and volunteer service so they may continue to meet the needs of the non-profit agency partners which they serve.

This year’s annual fundraising auction, originally scheduled for spring, became a virtual live and silent “Rising To The Challenge” auction held October 22. Chaired by DJF Development Vice President Bonnie Cameron, the event virtually featured Scott Murray as keynote speaker. Registered guests bid on a curated offering of auction and raffle items assembled by Chair Bonnie Cameron and her team. Registrants were able to view the event from the comfort of their homes and bid by phone on hundreds of items that included shopping sprees, restaurant gift cards, spa packages, wine tastings, dream vacation resort travel, sports collectibles and entertainment packages.

“Even though new to us, the virtual auction was a great success,” Cameron said. “Bidding and donations raised over \$60,000 and all proceeds from the auction will support the agencies served by DJF.” These include Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center, The Ebby House, Family Place, Juliette Fowler Communities, Hope’s Door New Beginning Center, Network of Community Ministries and The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas.

DJF is a 100 percent non-profit volunteer organization of women and is one of nine chapters of Junior Forum Texas-based service organizations originating in Texas in 1959. The Dallas chapter was formed in 1977 to create greater interest in civic, education and philanthropic endeavors in the North Texas community through volunteer work focused on children, families and the elderly. Since it began over 40 years ago, DJF has donated more than \$1 Million in direct grants and non-grants to worthy non-profit organizations throughout North Texas. In 2018/2019 members provided more than 13,600 hours of volunteer service to agency partners.

“Even though COVID has cast its shadow, DJF members are committed, continuing to meet the needs of our agency partners,” DJF President Julie Crowley said. Ongoing efforts include a “Fill the Truck” event for The Family Place; staffing of The Trains at NorthPark for The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas; a pajama drive for children served by Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center; meal service deliveries to Hope’s Door and The Ebby House; and virtual Toyland Express staffing for Network of Community Ministries. Members also continue to find additional ways to serve by writing letters of cheer to Juliette Fowler residents in lieu of in person visits.

“Although we miss the personal contact, DJF will find the means and the hands to reach out with Service From The Heart,” Crowley said.

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www.DallasJuniorForum.org

*Dallas Junior Forum is a 501c (3) non-profit organization and has earned the 2019 Gold Seal of Transparency on Guidestar.