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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DALLAS ANNOUNCES MARY M. JALONICK AS ITS 2025-2026 SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR

DALLAS – June 16, 2025 – The Junior League of Dallas (JLD) proudly announces that **Mary M. Jalonick** will receive its 2025-2026 Sustainer of the Year award, which will be presented at the fifteenth annual *Milestones* Luncheon set for April 10, 2026, at the Fairmont Dallas. *Milestones* Luncheon Co-chairs are **Krystle Craycraft** and Sustaining Chair **Diana Hamilton**.

“This year, we are leaning into connection, innovation, and community impact more than ever before. It’s an honor to celebrate women like Mary Jalonick, whose leadership legacy is a testament to what’s possible when women come together to lead, to serve, and to uplift Dallas,” said Lindsay Davis, Junior League of Dallas 2025-2026 president.

Following 30 years as President & CEO of The Dallas Foundation, Mary retired in 2017. During her tenure at The Dallas Foundation, she was instrumental in the formation of Early Matters Dallas to raise awareness about the importance of high-quality early childhood education. Mary also played a pivotal role in establishing the Women’s Philanthropy Institute to educate, inspire and empower women at every stage of their philanthropic journey.

“Mary stepped into her role at The Dallas Foundation already equipped with the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to make an immediate impact – thanks in large part to her training with the Junior League of Dallas. There was absolutely no learning curve. She understood what needed to be done to help people in Dallas, and she built systems that went on to influence foundations across the entire nation. To say she has used her Junior League training might be an understatement,” said Lydia B. Addy, chair of The Dallas Foundation Board of Governors.

Mary has been a dedicated Junior League of Dallas member for more than 55 years serving in an abundance of roles including: Treasurer, Provisional Committee Chair, Research and Development Committee Chair, and Member at Large to the Board. As a JLD Sustainer, she has served as a Trustee of the Headquarters Endowment Fund and member of the Community Advisory Board.

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“Mary was a national leader among community foundations, and her guidance continues to be sought after by families and entities who care about thoughtful philanthropy. Her calm and thoughtful demeanor made her sometimes radical ideas palatable to others less willing to take risks,” said former Sustainer of the Year Regen Horchow. “Mary is the consummate Sustainer and a model for other Sustainers as she continues to be engaged and involved in Dallas years after her retirement.”

Currently, Mary is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation, the Dallas College Foundation, Child Care Group and Social Venture Partners Dallas. Mary is also a member of the Advisory Council of the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin and the Executive Board of Southern Methodist University’s SMU-in-Taos Program.

Mary has chaired the boards of The Hockaday School, Girl’s Adventure Trails, Educational Opportunities, Charter 100 and Philanthropy Advocates (previously known as Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium).

“Throughout her career, Mary has been a trailblazer in the nonprofit sector, consistently striving to make a positive impact on the community around her. Her passion for philanthropy is truly inspiring, and her tireless efforts have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals,” said Lyda Hill. “She brings people together and rallies support for the causes that matter most, making her more than deserving of Sustainer of the Year award.”

In addition, Mary has been recognized with numerous awards for her outstanding service including the 2012 Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contributions in Philanthropy presented by the Dallas Historical Society, Dallas Business Journal’s Women in Business Award in 2013, the establishment of the annual Mary Jalonick Changemaker Award by Early Matters Dallas in 2016, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas’ Education Award in 2017, the 2018 Texans Care for Children, Founder’s Award, and in 2018, the Board of Governors of The Dallas Foundation announced the establishment of the Mary M. Jalonick Women’s Philanthropy Institute Endowment.

“Mary epitomizes what the Junior League is all about – women who have developed their potential and improved the community through effective action and leadership,” said Linda McFarland, a previous Sustainer of the Year recipient. “Her reputation as a leader, her tireless dedication to nonprofit service, and her impact on early childhood education make her more than worthy of this award.”

The *Milestones* Luncheon is an annual fundraiser benefiting the Junior League of Dallas Community Service Fund, which supports organizations working to combat critical issues affecting the Dallas community. Proceeds from the *Milestones* Luncheon allow the JLD to annually grant approximately \$1 million to partner agencies and signature projects, building a stronger community through leadership development, civic education, and hands-on service.

The *Milestones* Luncheon will take place April 10, 2026, at the Fairmont Dallas. Sponsorship and further luncheon information will be available soon. Please visit <https://www.jldallas.org/milestones-luncheon/>.

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ABOUT JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DALLAS

The Junior League of Dallas cultivates women leaders who collectively address the critical needs of the community. Founded in 1922, JLD is one of the largest Junior Leagues in the world, as well as the largest and oldest training organization for women in Dallas. Active members range in age from 22 to 49 with approximately 85% of women employed outside of the home. The JLD provides leadership opportunities to approximately 4,000 women each year through more than 17,000 cumulative hours of experiential and formal training. Uniquely member-run, JLD provides approximately 100,000 hours in volunteer service and more than \$1 million in funding to area nonprofits each year. For more information, please visit www.jldallas.org or Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.