

MAY 2016

absolutely!

MEMORIAL

C O M M U N I T Y M A G A Z I N E

**National
Charity
League, Inc.:**
**Making Memories for
Mothers and Daughters**

**Purrfect
PUZZLE**

**absolutely!
Senior Living**

**4 KIDS'
Safety
Rules**

**Mother's Day
GIFT GUIDE**

Paige, Candace
and Claire Reed.
Photo by Michael
Martinez Photography.



National Charity League, Inc: Making Memories for Mothers and Daughters

I have enjoyed volunteering over the years with numerous worthy non-profit organizations in our great community. I also make it a point to include my children in most of my volunteer endeavors. When I heard about an organization called the National Charity League, Inc. (NCL, Inc.) where mothers serve alongside their sixth to 12th grade daughters, I knew I wanted to inform our readers about it.

NCL, Inc. is a non-profit national organization of mother and daughter members in chapters across the United States. Before NCL, Inc., National Charity League was established in 1925 by a group of women in Los Angeles. They supported the American Red Cross by making layettes and assembling food baskets for the hungry during the holidays. The women engaged their daughters, and by 1938, the daughters formed their own group.

In 1947, all groups united to become the nation's first mother-daughter charity. National Charity League expanded its program beyond philanthropic work to include educational

and cultural activities and was reorganized and incorporated to become NCL, Inc. in 1958.

NCL, Inc. currently has 215 chapters nationwide in 25 states. Texas alone claims 66 chapters, and 30 of those chapters are located in Houston and its surrounding areas. The Memorial and inner loop area is home to the following chapters: Bayou City, Bayou Villages, Bright Star, Heart of Texas, Houston Hearts, Memorial, Post Oak, Texas Sage and West Houston.

NCL, Inc. membership opportunities are dependent on chapter openings and its membership selection process, which occurs once each year. The or-

ganization is committed to the development of mothers and daughters as leaders and is dedicated to improving local communities through hands-on volunteerism. Mothers, referred to as Patronesses, and daughters, or Tick-tockers, participate in a six-year core program of community service, leadership development and cultural activities.

For the community service pillar, each NCL Inc. chapter promotes social awareness by considering the local community's needs and selecting appropriate non-profit organizations to serve. Each chapter then supports its philanthropic partners through hands-on volunteer activities. Some of the areas supported by local chapters include agencies for disadvantaged children, food pantries, performing arts institutions and programs for the disabled, senior citizen programs, children's hospitals, women's health initiatives and military veterans organizations.

For its leadership development pillar, each chapter offers opportunities for members to engage in experiences by having jobs within the chapter, which build essential skills, such as confidence, consensus building, team building, conflict resolution, event planning, meeting etiquette and parliamentary procedure.

The final pillar, cultural experiences, is where the chapter promotes cultural values and traditions that are essential to the organization's role in



Candace and Paige Reed volunteering at a Houston Food Bank event in February 2011.



Claire and Candace Reed at Claire's new member meeting in March 2015.

the community. Each chapter holds an annual Chapter Tea and celebrates the culmination of its graduating class by hosting a Senior Recognition event.

Although all chapters operate under the same pillars and goals for their members, each chapter does things a little differently. At its core, all members generally have a financial obligation, which can include annual dues and special event fees. In addition, members are required to work a certain number of hours for their chapter's approved philanthropy partners each year and to attend a monthly chapter meeting. In most chapters, prospective members should also anticipate holding a job with the chapter each year.

The President of the Bayou Villages Chapter Candace Reed offered her vantage point on NCL, Inc. and her experience with her daughters, Paige, who is a senior at Memorial High School, and Claire, a seventh grade student at Memorial Middle School.

absolutely! Memorial: Why did you decide to participate in NCL?

Candace Reed: Honestly, it was "mom peer pressure" initially. I knew from friends with older children that Paige would need a philanthropic component for college resumes, and I liked the moms who were joining Bayou Villages that year.

AM How did your perception of NCL differ from reality?

CR My first inclination was that NCL was something I was doing for my daughters. It was something that would benefit them. I never thought about what it would mean for me.

AM What have each of your experiences been?

CR Well, Paige's experience was phenomenal. Throughout the six-year journey, she was able to serve her Ticktocker class as the communications chair, historian, president, a member of the nominating committee and most recently as the special events chair.

What that means in real life terms is that she has a skill set that many people her age might not have. She can write an agenda. She can send a well-written, informative e-mail to a group. She understands parliamentary procedure and the role of a nominating committee, and she is capable of standing in front of a ballroom of 350 people and emceeding an event with poise and confidence. So far, Claire has been communications chair for her class and served on the nominating committee. She takes her job seriously.



Ticktocker classmates Morgan Vicknair, Amy Drews and Paige Reed received the Mission Bell Award at the 2015 Awards Night for working at least 70 hours for the year, of which 50 hours were for one philanthropy partner.

AM What have you gotten out of it?

CR The most valuable thing, bar none, is precious hours with my girls volunteering and sharing our gifts with others. I don't have to tell you how fast life is and how easy it is to disconnect. With NCL philanthropy opportunities and the chapter events, my girls and I get hang out, work together and really know what it means to invest our time where it matters. The other positive for me was the opportunity to serve on the board for the past three years and most recently as

president. I never considered myself a "board" kind of girl, but I love it.

AM What advice would you give someone considering NCL or looking for philanthropy opportunities to share with their daughters?

CR My greatest advice for someone considering NCL is to learn about the program and decide for yourself and your daughter if you want the "whole package" that NCL offers. NCL is not just about doing philanthropy with your daughter, although that's a big part of it. Both Patronesses and Ticktockers have a meeting requirement each month and other chapter required events, and many chapters like Bayou Villages require members to have a chapter job.

AM If you had to do it over again, would you?

CR Well, I kind of am doing it over again. Paige just finished, and Claire is just starting. I will have 11 years invested in Bayou Villages when we are all done. Do I think it will be worth it in the end? Absolutely. My sweet friend Darla Baerg spoke at one of our Patroness meetings one month about how we can look at things in life like a "to do" list. A person can choose to look at things like something they "have to" do or something they "get to" do. NCL will always be a "get to" for us.

For more information on NCL, Inc., visit www.nationalcharityleague.org. ☑



Claire, Candace and Paige Reed.
Photo by Michael Martinez Photography.