STANDARDS AND PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION OF THE
LOUISE ESKRIGGE CRUMP CHILD WELFARE AWARD
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Junior Auxiliary of Oxford
Post Office Box 1897
Oxford, Mississippi 38635
Submitted by Amery Moore via ameryewing@gmail.com on 3/15/16

POPULATION CATEGORY 15-29k

NAME OF PROJECT Adopt a Family

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF CHAPTER 64

NUMBER OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING 100%

TOTAL HOURS OF SERVICE GIVEN BY MEMBERS 750 +

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED 3 with special needs

AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT $300

Adopt a Family, is Junior Auxiliary of Oxford’s National Project. We serve a family in our community who is in need, in the past these needs have been strictly financial. This year we have been blessed and challenged with a unique situation. Natasha Crenshaw and her three boys are our official Junior Auxiliary Adopt a Family and they literally have some special needs. The boys are all under the age of 12 and are all severely autistic. The Crenshaw kids need love and attention and to give their mom a break every once in awhile. We are spending time with the boys outside and providing essentials for their family along with celebrating their birthdays and providing weekly meals and home visits. We are also currently trying to help with their special needs in speech, neurology, and with resources for the autistic.
This is our third year working with The Crenshaw family and they have become a major part of what we do within our service projects in JA. This family will always have needs and we feel privileged to be working with them. Our chapter has a long term leadership goal that will see the boys through the next six years providing ongoing support and resources.

We were able to identify this family through an autism support group and saw their great needs and daily struggle. Our members have stayed involved with the family and we have coordinated further assistance from our local community without which we would not have been as successful. It has worked out so well because everyone has helped, including the family themselves. Our goals have been focused on teaching and building relationships so they will one day be able to share their experience and help others in similar circumstances.

The project is ongoing, however, we constantly see milestones with the boys and their mother. The youngest boys are now out of their wheelchairs. Her oldest and highest functioning son was named citizen of the month and is excelling in his SPED program at school. Natasha Crenshaw is an inspiration and leaves us feeling encouraged to provide support and love to this family. The community has given to them in ways that we are already seeing positive and gracious results.
Natasha can relate to the feeling of being overwhelmed and alone in her daily struggle. There is just only so much one person can do. We are offering her our support, no better equipped to provide the information, education and tools the family needs to grow and thrive. This project is about providing so much more than just basic needs. We are creating a community in which The Crenshaws feel safe and connected. She recently shared a bible verse with me, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out- plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." Jeremiah 29:11