NORMA DeLONG EDUCATION AWARD
2015-2016

CHAPTER NAME JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF MONTICELLO

CHAPTER ADDRESS Kelli Jo Pierce
President
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POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE: MARCH 15, 2016

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POPULATION CATEGORY Under 15,000

COST OF PROJECT $0

NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS INVOLVED 11

NUMBER OF ACTIVE CHAPTER MEMBERS 33

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED 10

Follow outline exactly in making award presentation.

I. How was the need for the project/program determined? (100 words or less, DOUBLE SPACED; WRITTEN IN THE SEQUENCE AS LISTED BELOW) Send one digital photo per entry either email or on disc.

II. Summarize Project — 1000 words or less
Include the following:
1. Complete description of project and how it was carried out.
2. Population of area
3. Number of Active members in Chapter
4. Number of members planning and hours spent in planning
5. Length of actual program/seminar, etc.
6. Number of Chapter members attending
7. Age range of participants
8. Utilization of NAJA Resource Center (if applicable)
9. Number of people served.
10. Public Relations information for project.

III. Project Evaluation — (300 words or less, DOUBLE SPACED; WRITTEN IN THE SEQUENCE AS LISTED BELOW)
1. Feed back from participants
2. Impact on community
3. Applicability of program to other communities
4. Worthiness to present to other Chapters
5. Plans to expand into the community and/or presentation by other organization(s)
6. Plans to repeat program/project

IT IS UNNECESSARY TO SUBMIT ANY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL. THE AWARD WILL BE JUDGED ON THE NARRATIVE ONLY.
According to studies, children who read at grade level in elementary school are more successful in later grades, more likely to graduate high school, and more likely to attend college. A 2009 study showed that only 1 in 4 forth grade students were currently reading at grade level. One of the ways that children master literacy is by reading aloud. Foster children are at particular risk for literacy problems because of their circumstances. These students are far more likely to fall behind in their education when they are removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Junior Auxiliary of Monticello sought to remedy that with a guided reading program called “Read With Me.”

Our members volunteered time to listen to students read in a one-on-one setting that these children rarely get to experience. We let the students choose the book and read for at least 20 minutes each. These sessions were conducted in an area where students could feel comfortable and receive instruction without feeling self-conscious about any struggles.

Our chapter serves the area of Drew County, with a population of approximately 19,000. There are 33 active members in the Monticello chapter. A committee of six members planned and organized the event, and five other members assisted in the actual reading program. The program was carried out over three days for two hours each day by a total of 11 members. The students who participated ranged in age from kindergarten to 5th grade. A total of 10 students participated in the program. The committee interacted with the house parents and director of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children to plan and carry out the program at a time when the most students could participate.

The program was well-received by the student participants, many of whom were very excited about the chance to read aloud and to spend time one-on-one with a mentor. We hope that the continuation of this program can help these students feel more comfortable with their literacy skills, feel that they are part of the community, and continue to have success in their education. This program has potential to be used in other communities because the need is present in all elementary schools and all
communities. We also hope to extend the program to the other fostering facility in the area, the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home. We plan to continue this program for as long as possible. As long as there is a need in our community for additional help with literacy, we will strive meet that need.