MAG AWARD
2015-2016

CHAPTER NAME __Junior Auxiliary of Columbia__________

POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE:
MARCH 15, 2016

CHAPTER ADDRESS __Post Office Box 549_______________
__Columbia, MS 39429__________

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POPULATION CATEGORY. under 15,000

In narrative form describe the composition of your Provisional Class, (age, work status, other) and give an overview of the Provisional Class Project. Guidelines for narrative (750 words or less, DOUBLE SPACED; WRITTEN IN THE SEQUENCE AS LISTED BELOW): Send one digital photo per entry either email or on disc.

1. Name of Project
2. Provisional Training
   • Number of Provisionals in class
   • Date(s) of provisional membership
   • Length of provisional training (timeframe from beginning to end including how often met as well as the time spent for each training session)
3. Was the project developed and implemented by Provisionals? (idea new to Chapter?)
4. How did the Provisional Class determine the need for the project?
5. What was the length of time involved to complete?
6. How was the project funded?
7. Did the entire Provisional Class participate? Any Active Members?
8. Number of hours spent on project
9. Number of people served
10. What impact did this project have on the Provisional Class?
11. Does the Chapter plan to adopt this project?

May submit updates (final data) by April 10

IT IS UNNECESSARY TO SUBMIT ANY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL.
THE AWARD WILL BE JUDGED ON THE NARRATIVE ONLY.
MAG Award: F.L.A.R.E. Fostering Love Amidst Real Emergencies

Matthew 19:14

The 2015-16 provisional class of the Columbia Chapter of Junior Auxiliary initiated a new project named F.L.A.R.E. (Fostering Love Amidst Real Emergencies). The provisional class is comprised of thirteen members. We began our training in October 2015 and ended in March 2016. Twenty hours of provisional training was completed after each monthly chapter meeting and during two additionally scheduled meetings.

Our provisional members consist of thirteen productive citizens of Marion County. Olivia Arinder, 24, is a Clerk for the city of Columbia. Nicole Bass, 25, is a Human Resources Lead for M.G. Dyess. Bethany Broom, 27, a marketing executive and homeschool teacher. Chastity Cawley, 43, is a preschool teacher. Melissa Clark, 37, is a Correctional Service Aide II for Mississippi Department of Corrections. Whittany Harvey, 25, is a Special Education Teacher for West Marion Elementary. Joy McComb, 45, is a foster care provider. LaShell McGowan, 28, teaches third grade at West Marion Primary. Anna Morris, 25, teaches seventh grade mathematics for Jefferson Middle School. TyRhonda Murphy, 36, is a teacher at West Marion. Rose Mary Oliver, 34, is a Registered Nurse at The Grove nursing home. Jennifer Ratliff, 31, is a Speech/Language Pathologist for the Columbia School District. Cheyney Statham, 26, is a homeschool instructor.

The provisional class developed and initiated the new project F.L.A.R.E. after a Marion County Community forum was called to order on December 1, 2015. The forum was held by the Chancellor Dawn Beam, Judge Virginia Carlton, Christopher Church, Law and Policy Director at the Children’s Law Center, at the University of South Carolina School of Law, Mark Smith, Executive Deputy Director of Human Services (DHS), and Judge Michael McPhail. The forum was held to emphasize to the residents of Marion County that we had the highest rate among Mississippi counties in the last year for removal of children from their homes and into foster care. Marion County has four times as many children in foster
care than other counties. During one month, thirty-six cases were on the Family Court docket. All involved parental drug use. This news came as a shock to our community and underlined the need for assistance. The provisional class determined that we wanted to ensure that children who were immediately removed from their homes had a sense of security when being placed in foster care. We collaborated with Leigh Berry, Public Defender, on January 13, 2016 at the Chancery Courthouse to discuss our ideas to help with our community’s current foster care situation. Ms. Berry shared our ideas with DHS and Judge Dawn Beam. A meeting was scheduled for February 29, 2016 at DHS with Annette Sandifer, Manager, to establish a storage location and a protocol for the distribution of Junior Auxiliary F.L.A.R.E. bags. Ms. Sandifer agreed to notify Junior Auxiliary when supplies were low. The bags include: pajamas, underwear, socks, toothbrush/paste, flashlight, a stuffed animal, and a blanket. The bags were presented to Leigh Berry on March 8, 2016.

This project was funded by each provisional member completing one or more F.L.A.R.E. bags appropriate for newborns to persons 18 years of age. Additionally, our provisional class petitioned our community for donations to fund the project. Dr. Steven Clement donated toothbrushes, Goss Baptist Church donated underwear, and First Assembly of God donated underwear and socks. The Junior Auxiliary donated containers to remain in Annette Sandifer’s office at DHS with the supplies to fill a bag when a child is removed from their home.

Jennifer Terrell, 34, JA President, Danielle Whittington, 33, Vice President/Provisional Trainer, and Caryn Burkett, 34, active member each completed a bag for the project.

F.L.A.R.E. was a very detailed project that required much planning, organization, and collaboration with fellow community workers. The provisional class spent a total of 62 hours with organization, planning, and meetings on F.L.A.R.E.

A F.L.A.R.E. bag will be given to every child who is removed from their home and placed in the foster care system. At present, there are 160 in the system.
This project is very special to our provisional class as it affects so many children in our community. We want each child who goes through the traumatic experience of being removed from their home to feel comfort when being placed in an unfamiliar environment. Presently, JA is collaborating with DHS to expand F.L.A.R.E. to include supervision of visitation, filing of paperwork, and the development of a clothes closet after expected adoption of the project.