MAG AWARD
2015-2016

CHAPTER NAME  _Junior Auxiliary of Houma, Louisiana, Inc._

CHAPTER ADDRESS  _PO Box 8031_  
_  Houma, LA 70361-0831_

POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE:  
MARCH 15, 2016

U.S. MAIL ADDRESS TO:  
NAJA HEADQUARTERS  
P.O. BOX 1873  
GREENVILLE, MS 38702-1873  
OR  
U.P.S. ADDRESS TO:  
845 SOUTH MAIN  
GREENVILLE, MS 38701  
OR

POPULATION CATEGORY  _30,000 and above_  
najanet@bellsouth.net

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 APPLICATION
2015-2016

HAPPENING HANGOUTS

Junior Auxiliary of Houma, Inc.

Provisional Class of 2020

PO Box 8031, Houma, LA 70361-0831

Region VI; Population 101,760

HAPPENING HANGOUTS was created by the seven members of the Junior Auxiliary of Houma Class of 2020. The members of the Class of 2020 includes twenty-somethings and grandmothers. We have a massage therapist, a professor, a school employee, an attorney, a professor, a social worker, a nurse and even a member of the military/Pampered Chef. Our members are married and single, moms and aunts. We are diverse, but we have united around the ideals of Junior Auxiliary and the creation of one HAPPENING HANGOUT. From June 8, 2015 through August 24, 2015, the 2020 Class attended weekly meetings lasting approximately two hours in which we were familiarized with the ideals of Junior Auxiliary and the service projects of Junior Auxiliary of Houma. After completing our provisional courses, we attended regular Chapter meetings and participated in Chapter events and were initiated on November 9, 2015.

As we began discussing the needs of our community, one of the 2020 Class members learned that the Children’s Advocacy Center run by the Terrebonne Parish District Attorney’s office was providing early intervention services to children at risk of falling through the cracks and becoming part of the “system.” These services, which include tutoring services, were being provided in a drab and disorganized space filled with furniture that was not child-friendly. Realizing that Junior Auxiliary of Houma had no projects aimed at intervening in the lives of
children before they became part of the system and knowing the difference that such early intervention can make, the Class of 2020 decided to assist the Children’s Advocacy Center in their mission by revamping the space used for tutoring. The Children’s Advocacy Center happy to have our help.

After approximately 90 hours of planning, gathering supplies, building, painting and decorating, the 2020 Class created a truly inspiring place for the children to work. Facing a tough economy, the 2020 Class was thrifty in its purchases and managed to complete the remodel within the budgeted Chapter funds (and some generous donations from Provisionals, Members and friends of Junior Auxiliary of Houma). Each Provisional member participated in the project to the best of their ability. Some faced morning sickness to deliver furniture. Others toted their tykes with them to work days. One Provisional squeezed furniture refinishing in between performing her military service duties. Active members assisted by providing supplies and lending a helping hand on workdays.

While HAPPENING HANGOUTS only directly impacts the few students who receive early intervention services from the Children’s Advocacy Center, the ripple effect is immeasurable. By providing this inspiring and safe space to these children, the 2020 Class has helped ensure that these children become productive members of society, breaking the cycle of poverty that has such a devastating effect on our community. Children who do well in school are more likely to stay in school, go to college, obtain jobs that pay a living wage and avoid lives of crime. Having a comfortable and inspiring space will encourages these children to bring other children to the program so that they too can increase their ability to succeed.

HAPPENING HANGOUTS did more than bring an inspiring space to at-risk children—it brought the Class of 2020 together. We bonded over furniture dropped on toes and doors that wouldn’t quite fit. We truly impressed each other with each of our unique talents. We joked as
we hung artwork the “woman’s way”—with hardly a measuring tool in sight. We learned who was the “bossy one” and who would always lose their keys. Most importantly, we learned to appreciate what we have while reflecting on how those who Junior Auxiliary helps have so little.

*HAPPENING HANGOUTS* will be submitted to the Chapter for adoption as a permanent project with the goal of adding at least one new Happening Hangout to the Terrebonne Parish area each year. The Chapter vote on new projects will occur on April 11, 2016, after the update deadline for this award.