MAG AWARD
2014-2015

CHAPTER NAME _____Junior Auxiliary of Madison County_____  
POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE: 
MARCH 15, 2015

CHAPTER ADDRESS ____P.O. Box 51__________________________  
____Ridgeland, Mississippi, 39158______  
__________________________________________________________

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
najanet@bellsouth.net

POPULATION CATEGORY _30,000 and above_

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.
Blessings In a Box

The 2015-2016 Provisional Class of the Junior Auxiliary of Madison County is made up of 33 women. This year the provisional class set out to make an impact on Madison County through unique project close to several hearts: Blessings in a Box. Provisional training began with a Marathon Meeting on the last Saturday in August, and training ended in February 2016. Members of the Provisional class came from all walks of life and various occupations. Provisional meetings were held monthly before chapter meetings and lasted for an hour and half. Provisionals also met and worked on their project outside of their monthly meetings. Throughout the first few months, Provisionals were able to become acquainted with one another and develop the creative project idea, Blessings in a Box.

Instead of simply adding to a preexisting JAMC project, Provisionals assessed the needs of the community to create a new project idea. Provisionals talked to local teachers, pediatricians, and other community members to find out the needs of children in Madison County. Blessings in a Box came out of a desire to meet the basic needs of children and their families during the holiday season. Many students in our community rely on schools to provide breakfast and lunch for them each day. With school out for Christmas break, several families cannot provide for their children’s needs. Local school counselors, teachers, and principals were asked to identify needy families within their schools. Lists of students were compiled, and these families were contacted by JAMC Provisionals.

After the needs were evaluated, Provisionals then set out to raise money to meet each of these needs. The Provisionals came up with a fundraiser to sell bed sheets to raise the needed money. After great efforts, the class of 2016 raised $8168. This was more than they originally intended, so they found more families to bless!
At the end of November, Provisionals met at Kroger and bought large quantities of nonperishable food items. These items were taken to the Junior Auxiliary House to be sorted and then boxed according to the family dynamics. As a prerequisite, each family completed an informational sheet that the provisional class used to meet the specific needs of each family (babies, children, teens, etc.). In early December perishable items including bread and fresh fruit were added to each box, and all the boxes were ready to go!

On Sunday, December 20th, all of the Provisional members met at the JAMC house to distribute the Blessings in a Box to needy families across Madison County. Overall, 117 boxes were packaged, and 112 of these boxes were picked up by disadvantaged families. It is estimated that over 300 individuals were served by this project. Each box contained over 100 dollars’ worth of food. The five remaining boxes were delivered to Sunnybrook Children’s Home. JAMC Provisional members were able to build personal relationships with the less fortunate families of our community. Provisionals have said that this project opened their eyes to the needs of our community, engaged them in servanthood, and allowed them to build irreplaceable relationships with each other. Every member of the Provisional class, as well as about 8 active members participated in Blessings in a Box. All in all, over 500 hours were spent on this service project.

Since this project, we have had remarkable feedback from Provisionals, actives, and members of our community. We have planned to adopt this project as an annual project for our chapter. Our Provisional class has been leading our chapter in revising this project for even greater success next year. We believe that we can make a life-changing impact on the lives of children and their families through our continuation of Blessings in a Box!