MAG AWARD
2015-2016

CHAPTER NAME  Junior Auxiliary of Ruston

CHAPTER ADDRESS  P.O. Box 1762
Ruston, LA 71273

POPULATION CATEGORY  15,000-29,999

POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE:  MARCH 15, 2016

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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.
The Second Life Uniform Project

“The best gift in life is a second chance!” The Junior Auxiliary of Ruston 2015-2016

Provisional Class took this quote literally and gave it new meaning with recycled school uniforms. The provisional class of 13, with the aspiration to make a difference in the community, were inspired to develop a project that would revitalize and enhance the School Enrichment project provided by Junior Auxiliary of Ruston. The Second Life Uniform Exchange was developed to recycle and provide gently used uniforms to deserving children. The uniqueness of this project allows the youngest members of Lincoln Parish to participate in serving the community. Provisional trainings were held August 2015 through March 2016. In addition to regularly scheduled trainings, there were five additional mini meetings and subcommittee meetings held. Provisional membership year will end April 2016.

During an insightful yet compassionate brainstorming session, the provisional class decided to undertake the struggle of rapidly growing students by assisting with uniforms needs. The provisional class embodies several educators and mothers who shared their experiences on student issues with compliance within district guidelines on uniforms. As the educators in the group shared tear-jerking stories about students with rapid growth spurts, foster students, and parents that just could not afford to buy additional or enough uniforms to wear throughout school year, the purpose and vision was shaped. There was incredible dialogue on the possibilities and attributes this project could bring to the community. The class agreed to survey several school administrators, teachers, parents, and other community members to validate the effectiveness and value of the project to prevent duplication of services. After compiling the data, the provisional class authenticated and embraced The Second Life Uniform Project.

The Second Life Uniform Exchange project was held January 20 through February 27, 2016. The provisional class decorated and provided collection boxes for Lincoln Parish schools and 4 locally owned businesses. Over a four week period, the uniform drive received over a thousand
uniform items. On February 10, we met to examine donated items which were sorted according by size, type and gender; while paying special attention to items that were in need of a little stain removal and/or minor repairs such as missing buttons. The provisional class worked as a well-oiled machine to guarantee the uniforms were in the best condition possible for their new homes! The provisional class was able to offer a total of 900 uniform items. The highly anticipated exchange was held February 26-27, 2016. A private exchange was held for special guests referred directly by school officials and later opened to the public. Lite refreshments were provided as they shopped. The provisional class worked diligently to guarantee each child received attire suitable to wear to school. The Second Life Uniform Exchange graciously received donations and contributions from the community. All the uniforms, laundering materials/equipment, hangers, exchange location, and refreshments were donated by students, parents, and community businesses.

The dedicated provisional class volunteered 292 hours to make this project a success. Several active members participated by helping families shop and bag their treasures during the uniform exchange. A total of 30 families, which include 84 children, were served. Each child received 4 items which resulted in giving 336 uniform items back to the community. It was a magical feeling to see the sweet face of a little girl deciding on a khaki pleated uniform dress. One shopper, Laura, stated:

"The uniform event was a life saver for us! We had just gotten our newest two foster children and needed uniforms immediately so they could start school. There’s so much to do that first week when we received new placements, so not having the expense and trouble of going shopping was a relief and a big help!"

Uniforms remaining were provided to stock Lincoln Parish School’s facilitated uniform closets. It also enabled one school to implement a school site uniform closet that never existed before.

This diverse group of ladies established an irreplaceable bond of sisterhood while bringing this project to life. Each lady concluded the project with a vibrant vision that in “A hundred years
from now it will not matter what our bank accounts were, the sort of house we lived in, or the kind of car we drove... but the world may be a better place because we made a difference in the life of a child.” This project is an awesome addition to our current School Enrichment service project.