CHAPTER NAME: Junior Auxiliary of Byram-Terry, Inc.

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
najanel@bellsouth.net

POPULATION CATEGORY 15,000-29,999

NAME OF PROJECT: "Stuff the Bus for a Germ Free Classroom"

CATEGORY: (Check One) (A) (B) X

TOTAL HOURS OF SERVICE GIVEN BY MEMBERS: 118

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF CHAPTER 17

NUMBER OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: 12 Active and 8 Crown Club Members

PURPOSE OF PROJECT: to provide children with a clean and sanitary germ free learning environment.

COST OF PROJECT $0

NUMBER OF PERSONS SERVED 2,000 +

DESCRIBE THE PROJECT IN NARRATIVE FORM INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (1000 WORDS OR LESS, DOUBLE SPACED; WRITTEN IN THE SEQUENCE AS LISTED BELOW): Send one digital photo per entry either email or on disc.

1. HOW YOUR CHAPTER DISCOVERED THE NEED FOR THIS PROJECT
2. PLANNING AND PREPARATION INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING THIS PROJECT
3. HOW AND WHEN PROJECT WAS BEGUN/AMOUNT OF TIME TO COMPLETE PROJECT
4. HOW MEMBERS WERE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT
5. WHAT THE PROJECT ACHIEVED/ DID IT MEET THE NEED
6. PLANS FOR FUTURE WORK WITH THIS PROJECT

IT IS UNNECESSARY TO SUBMIT ANY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL. THE AWARD WILL BE JUDGED ON THE NARRATIVE ONLY.
“Do we really need to continue with Stuff the Bus?” squealed one of the members of the project committee as we reluctantly met to plan the event. Several other members echoed in agreement. There was concern with some of the members the impact to the community was little to none and there was no longer a need for this project because the area was saturated with Stuff the Bus and other school supply drives including one that was being coordinated by one of our alderman. However, one of the members of the committee reminded us that JABT started the Stuff the Bus tradition in our community and it is one of our signature projects and felt we should keep the project. Further discussion affirmed her statements and it was decided we should continue with the project and the discussion then was how we can continue to make an impact with this project. It was at this time during the brainstorming that one of our members stated “My child attends school in this community and each year several times throughout the year, the teachers send home notes requesting hand sanitizer, Kleenex and paper towels.” One member then stated, “How about we focus on soliciting those type of items since they appear be in demand.” Everyone nodded in agreement. From this, the Junior Auxiliary of Byram-Terry’s Stuff the Bus Service Project was reborn as the Junior Auxiliary of Byram-Terry’s Stuff the Bus for Healthy Classrooms.

Next was to put our idea into motion. In the past we used Walgreens due to its location on the busiest intersection in our community. Questions were raised if we should continue to use this location due to the cost of their merchandise and the moderate level of foot traffic. Since we had established a relationship with the store we decided to continue with the use of their location along with setting up at another location to geographically cover our service area. In the midst of finalizing our solicitation locations, Walgreens informed us that due to corporate changes in community engagement they would not be able to participate. We used this roadblock as an opportunity and secured Kroger and Vowell’s as our Byram locations to solicit
donations. In addition, we secured the Fred’s Discount Store in Terry as our 3rd location. Using these 3 locations ensured we would have 1) a strong community presence and 2) a greater opportunity for donations due to the locations being known for heavy foot traffic. Since we were using 3 locations, we nixed the iconic School Bus and opted to use large donations boxes that were donated to us from the City of Byram and decorated to assimilate a school bus by students at Oakley Training School. We secured two $25 gift cards from Newk’s to use for a grand prize drawing for the people who donated. We prepared a wish list of items we were collecting to hand out to people as they entered the stores. At Fred’s we setup a store display of items that were desired to ease the selection process. We also enlisted the help of our Crown club girls.

On Saturday morning 8/8/2016, we painted the Byram Terry community Pantone Reflex Blue. Due to the overwhelming support of this project from our members and Crown Club girls we had a strong presence at all 3 locations. In addition, our school district’s Superintendent and her team showed up to donate and take media photos. We received over 500 product donations and cash donations totaling $683 in addition to a significant number of traditional school supplies. After the collections ended we converged to a member’s house and spent the remainder of the day and the following Sunday sorting items, shopping for additional items with the donated funds and creating the “Sanitary Kits” that included disinfectant spray, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, paper towels, Kleenex and band aids. The following Monday, members delivered the prepackaged Sanitary kits to each of the schools during the peak hours in which Meet the Teacher Night was in progress, thus creating a big buzz from parents and faculty members as they saw us wheel in the kits on push carts. Due to the overwhelming support from our members, Provisionals and Crown Club girls, we was able to implement and complete this project in 3 days.
This project over exceeded both our expectations and the intended need. We were able to create over 122 complete kits which was enough to provide one complete kit to every classroom at Gary Road Elementary (K-2), Gary Road Intermediate (3-5), Byram Headstart and Terry Headstart (K 3- K4). In addition, an overflow of items including the traditional school supplies that were collected were donated to our welfare project which is a local children’s shelter that house youth on a temporary basis before they are transitioned to foster care. This project was able to impact over 2000 children from the ages of 3 – 11.

As a team, JABT used creativity and innovation to meet the needs of our community through the rebranding of a signature existing project. Due to the success of this change we will continue to provide service to our community with this project for years to come.