CHAPTER NAME  Junior Auxiliary of McComb

POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE:  MARCH 15, 2016

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POPULATION CATEGORY  between 15,000-29,999

NAME OF PROJECT  Fill Up/Build Up

CATEGORY: (Check One)  (A)  x  (B) ______

TOTAL HOURS OF SERVICE GIVEN BY MEMBERS:  320

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF CHAPTER  37

NUMBER OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:  37

PURPOSE OF PROJECT:  The purpose of this project is to provide needed food for young children in the area to take home with them on the weekends when school breakfast and lunch is not available to them.

COST OF PROJECT  $4,450

NUMBER OF PERSONS SERVED  100

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.
The Junior Auxiliary of McComb believes that the children of Pike County are one of our greatest assets. Throughout the year, the ladies of our organization spent hours talking to local teachers, school nurses, and school counselors asking them what their greatest needs and challenges are in their day-to-day work. During one of these conversations, our project chairwoman, Tammy Gillihan, was talking to one of her former teachers who is now an elementary school teacher at a local public elementary schools. The teacher explained to Tammy that one of her first lesson plans of the school year included teaching her five year old students how to make peanut butter crackers on their own at home. She then went on to explain that many of her students were left alone on the weekends or were not provided for; and, therefore, many of them went hungry during their time at home. This conversation weighed heavily on Tammy’s heart, and Fill-Up/Build-Up was born!

Fill-Up/Build-Up, or FUBU as it is lovingly referred to by our entire chapter, has taken over our hearts and has become one of our favorite service projects. The FUBU committee members meet with local school counselors and school nurses at our four area elementary schools and identify those kids who are not receiving enough food at home on the weekends when free school lunches are not available. Our chapter then collects healthy food and snacks. Non-perishable food items such as Vienna sausages, tuna fish with cracker snack packs, beef jerky, oranges, apple sauce, granola bars, and crackers and cheese are enjoyed by these students. We then place these items in bags that are given to the students on Fridays to take home with them on the weekends. Each chapter member also writes uplifting, personal notes to include in each bag. Also, the FUBU committee meets with school nurses to identify those kids who are in need of basic hygiene items such as soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene items. These items are then provided for these children in a discrete manner. Hygiene items have not only been provided by the chapter members, but community organizations have also generously supported our chapter by collecting hygiene items to place in the bags.
FUBU began in August of this year and over 100 students have been impacted by this project. We are pleased to have 100% chapter participation in this project and will continue this project throughout this school year with plans to resume the project for the 2016-2017 school year. Fill-Up/ Build-Up has been a wonderful way for our chapter to communicate with our local school districts to fill the needs of their students. This project has also given us another avenue to work with local organizations to provide items for these students. FUBU has become near and dear to the hearts of each member of our organization. From collecting Vienna sausages because they provide much needed protein that many of these students lack, to writing a card to “build up” the kids and encourage them to read more often, this project is one that Junior Auxiliary of McComb is very proud to have initiated this year. We hope that we will continue to be able to work with our schools to make sure these much needed items are provided for our kids. Even though we may not see the immediate results with our own eyes, we know that every weekend these kids have food in their tummies and a note from a Junior Auxiliary of McComb member who loves them! The following is a note that the Junior Auxiliary of McComb received from the Registered Nurse of the McComb School District:

Dear Members of the McComb Junior Auxiliary,

On behalf of Otken Elementary School and the McComb School District, I would like to sincerely thank you for the helpful and wonderful service project that you all have included our students in this year. It has been a tremendous blessing to these babies here at Otken.

It is beyond most of our wildest imaginations to think that there are children in Pike County that are hungry. It is a very real reality though as sad as that may be. Some of the children that have received bags are hungry or without basic necessities such as soap and toothbrushes. Others have received them simply because they need to feel as if someone actually cares for them. They look forward to this gift each week. So, on behalf of them,
thank you for sending the precious gift of love to these children. We never know what lives will be forever changed as a result of these gifts.

Thank you again,

Kristen McBeth, RN

Registered Nurse of McComb School District