The Award of Excellence form on the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc. website has been submitted. The form contained the following data:

Date: 7-1-2016
Chapter Name: Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg
Chapter Address: Jennifer Payne
P.O. Box 15433
City: Hattiesburg
State: MS
Zip Code: 39404
Essay: 2015-2016 Award of Excellence
Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg
Since 1943, Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg (JAH) has been improving the lives of children in our community. Today, 93 Actives and 16 Provisionals continue the rich tradition of community service in meeting the needs of the underprivileged. JAH sets high standards and strives for excellence at a National level, as evidenced by being recognized with three awards during the 2015-2016 NAJA Awards Ceremony. JAH continues to touch the lives of thousands of children in our community by contributing a total of 7,941 hours of service.

SERVICE PROJECTS
JAH maintains 19 service projects with service hours accumulated for these projects. A thorough, annual evaluation and survey is done on all of our service projects to assure the effectiveness of each project.

Abbie Rogers Mother’s Morning Out is for children from birth to pre-school age who have disabilities. It allows their parents/caregivers to have a “day off” during the week and provides the children with an opportunity to interact with their peers. The role of JAH is to assist the staff at the Mother’s Day Out Program.
(14 Actives, 149 Hours, $0.00, 4 Served)

Backpack ensures children have necessary tools for a successful educational experience. JAH provides backpacks and school supplies to students in the Forrest County area. The school supplies are delivered in the summer based on recommendations of school counselors. This project serves grades kindergarten through 6th grade.
(40 Actives, 301 Hours, $13,700.00, 1,400 Served)
Civitan Camp Carnival provides a carnival-themed atmosphere, with games and activities for children attending the Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp. Civitan Camp is a non-profit organization operated by an all-volunteer staff that allows children with disabilities to enjoy camping experiences.
(17 Actives, 82 Hours, $377.33, 175 Served)

Crown Club is a mentoring program for young area women entering the 10th grade through the 12th grade. The mission is to help these women grow through community service. The members on this project will facilitate Crown Club membership through an application process. JAH members will help these girls with their service projects and yearly events.
(10 Actives, 461 Hours, $9,214.16 37 Served)

Dubard Design, located on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, was designed to serve children with language-speech disorders, deafness and hearing impairments that cannot be addressed in a typical school setting. Art often plays an important role in a child’s educational development therefore JAH facilitates art activities for these students.
(16 Actives, 153 Hours, $211.77, 80 Served)

C.A.N.S.-Caring and Nurturing Support project provides casseroles for families affected by terminal illness. JAH members prepare casseroles to be placed in freezers that we maintain. Families under hospice care are invited to take a casserole as needed to help them through their difficult time.
(14 Actives, 269 Hours, $0.00, 35 Served Monthly)

Kid Power encourages and teaches skills to at-risk young women and men at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club by providing monthly educational and art programs. While these events take place simultaneously, they are administered as separate groups.
(11 Actives, 72 Hours, $196.44, 100 Served)

Kid’s Culture strives to build relationships and foster individual creativity while helping children to imagine and create culture within their own circle. In its first year (2012-13), JAH members adopted the 40 third-graders at Earl Travillion Elementary School with these life-enriching goals in mind. We continue to share interactive cultural experiences with the same students. Our long-term hope is to follow these particular children through sixth grade and to establish this project in other area elementary schools.
(12 Actives, 99 Hours, $326.96, 42 Served)

Pennington’s Night Out was created through JAH working with the Association for the Rights of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (ARC). The ARC is a non-profit organization that provides programs, experiences and respite care for individuals with disabilities. JAH provides a night of dinner, entertainment and fun once a month for children with special needs and their families.

7/5/2016
(16 Actives, 148 Hours, $2,780.85, 125-150 Served Monthly)

Rock-A-Bye Moms allows JAH members to care for young children with disabilities at night during the week of Civitan Camp. Civitan Camp is a week of summer camp for children with physical and mental disabilities. Each child is assigned a counselor during the day, and at night JAH members take over the role of care taking so that the counselors can rest through the night.
(31 Actives, 320 Hours, $0.00, 16 Served)

School Uniforms provides the necessary components of a required school uniform to underprivileged students. Working through school counselors, uniforms are purchased to clothe children in 13 area schools.
(13 Actives, 96 Hours, $3,605.19, 85 Served)

Smart Art is an annual project designed to expose children to a variety of artistic mediums they may otherwise never experience. Local children participate in a variety of artistic sessions such as painting, cooking, music/dance and photography. Participants are given gift bags full of art supplies, books, and musical instruments so they can continue to explore the arts at home.
(21 Actives, 145 Hours, $402.40, 20 Served)

South Mississippi Children’s Center, “Youth Shelter” was founded and developed by JAH. This is an emergency shelter for abused, neglected, runaway, and homeless youth. The center is a 12 bed, co-educational, emergency and/or temporary placement for children ages 10 to 18. JAH members provide seasonal activities 3-4 times per year and contribute to the needs of the residents by providing meals and activities; along with Christmas presents and tickets to events in the Forrest County area.
(10 Actives, 66 Hours, $2,270.50, 50 Served)

Vision Screening identifies young children who need further evaluation from a local eye doctor. Using the guidelines of eye care professionals, JAH members volunteer to perform vision screenings in local elementary schools throughout Hattiesburg and the surrounding area. For young children who are experiencing behavioral or educational problems, a vision screen is necessary.
(22 Actives, 215 Hours, $0 1010 Served)

#Whatstrending is a project where JA partners with area school districts to schedule a speaker and program that is relevant to the modern day student. The topic was End Distracted Driving and JAH partnered with the founders.
(14 Actives, 59 Hours, $0, 150 Served)

Wardrobe Warehouse is to provide needed clothing to area families through two community-wide events, a fall coat drive and additional distribution project during the year. This program
assists people in our Family Affair program, people referred through other service organizations, and people who have experienced a natural disaster.  
(14 Actives, 154 Hours, $143.88  487 Served)

Welfare provides one-time, financial assistance to families in emergency situations. From eyeglasses for a child to delinquent utility bills, the aid given through the Welfare project benefits the children in the home.  
(1 Active, 67 Hours  $8064.52  45 Families Served)

The heart and soul of our chapter is the Family Affair child welfare project. By providing the basic necessities of life and establishing ongoing relationships with families, JAH members work toward breaking the cycle of dependency. Families need more than financial support—they need hands-on, relational care. We seek to actively provide for, commit to, and invest in the lives of these families, especially the children.

JAH ensures our ‘adopted' families have food, shelter, clothing, and emotional support until they are able to provide for themselves. Each family is well aware that the help they receive is working toward the goal of self-sufficiency.

In addition to giving these families one-on-one financial and personal assistance, JAH provides educational opportunities for them. Quarterly educational seminars are also held in order to provide these families with information on topics such as financial management and family budgeting, employment strategies, and parenting skills. The goal of Family Affair is to give these families a reason to hope for a better future.  
(9 Actives, 309 Hours, $9,419.10, 8 Families Served)

FINANCE
JAH hosted our annual Charity Ball in November and netted over $87,788.50, which will fully fund our 19 service projects. Nearly 550 guests attended the "Wonderland" event that featured the first charity casino. The attendees enjoyed this added feature to Charity Ball while getting motivation to increase donations from celebrity, Si Robertson. More than 300 community businesses supported JAH through sponsorships and silent auction donations.  
(93 Actives, 16 Provisionals, 2,751 Hours  $49,316.21)

The chapter’s fiscal responsibility is demonstrated through budgetary planning and sound investments, coupled with strict accountability. As recommended by NAJA, JAH maintains twelve month’s operational budget in reserve. This money is invested in several certificates of deposit for maximum safe interest earnings. The Board and Chapter membership also review monthly financial statements.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
JAH offers a variety of educational opportunities to our members. 1,327 education hours were
completed in 2015-2016. JAH knows the importance of Area and Annual Meetings and representation is always sent to both. We hosted the fall area meeting in September 2015.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND INVOLVEMENT
JAH enjoys outstanding relationships with area hospitals, schools, universities, churches, service organizations, and private corporations. JAH receives overwhelming community support, which is reflected in the funds raised through Charity Ball each year. Our chapter also connects with the community through our scholarship program. In 2015-2016, JAH awarded a variety of scholarships to individuals in the Hattiesburg and surrounding areas based on community activities, leadership, moral character, citizenship, scholastic achievement, and educational goals.

LIFE/ASSOCIATE INVOLVEMENT
Our Life and Associate Members continue to be dedicated to JAH’s mission. They are updated on our projects through newsletter and social media outlets. Many serve through various projects, while others donate their services to Charity Ball. A large number of past members attend Charity Ball in November and our Spring Luncheon in April. At our Spring Luncheon, we honor a Life/Associate member who continues her service and dedication to our community. Our past members continue their service and stay connected through the Past Member Project.

“Sip & See” is our Charity Ball preview event, which honors past members by providing an outlet for interaction between former and current members. Through this event, past members reconnect with friends, view current service projects, and are reminded how important the work of JAH is to our community. Many past members tell us how good it feels to be surrounded by a group of women who share a heart-driven mission “to serve”.

PROVISIONAL TRAINING
Provisional training is vital to understanding the expectations of JAH. During the 8 months of provisional training, the provisional members meet no less than twice monthly in meetings lasting between 1-2 hours each. In addition to observing service projects and helping fundraise at Charity Ball, there is a Provisional Project. This year’s project was a carnival for the The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi who works with children age birth to five who have communication and developmental issues. The 16 energetic and motivated Provisionals organized this carnival by getting in kind donations, and carnival activities. This project allowed the Provisionals to bond with a common purpose—making life a little better for children with communication and developmental delays (16 Provisionals, 727 Hours, $728.29 Spent 120 kids)

NAJA INVOLVEMENT
JAH has a strong relationship with NAJA and is proud to have had Lifetime member Janet
Mitchell serve on NAJA’s Public Relations Committee. JAH is also honored to have three former NAJA Presidents.

JAH submitted nine entries for awards: Award of Excellence, Betty Robbins Volunteer-of-the-Year Award, Efficiency Award, MAG Award, Martha Wise Award, Norma Delong Award, Public Relations-Finance Award, Wilma Johnson Wilbanks National Focus Award.

JAH representatives regularly attend Area and Annual Meetings, and are committed to administrative excellence. Last year, we had four members attend the Annual Education Conference and members attend the Southern Area Meeting. We hosted the Southern Area Meeting in August 2015.

JAH supports NAJA Scholarship at the Platinum Crown level and continues to support the NAJA Foundation. A NAJA scholarship was given in the amount of $1250.