WILMA JOHNSON WILBANKS NATIONAL FOCUS AWARD ENTRY
2016-2017

CHAPTER NAME: Junior Auxiliary of Batesville, MS

CHAPTER ADDRESS: Junior Auxiliary of Batesville, MS
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Batesville, MS 38606

POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE: MARCH 15

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P.O. BOX 1873
GREENVILLE, MS

OR
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POPULATION CATEGORY: Chapters with a population under 15,000

NAME OF PROJECT: Boys and Girls Club Project

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

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF CHAPTER: 45 members

NUMBER OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: 17 members

TOTAL HOURS OF SERVICE GIVEN BY MEMBERS: 68 hours

COST OF PROJECT: $31.75 spent from Boys and Girls Club Budget

NUMBER OF PERSONS SERVED: Enrollment of 100+ children

YOUR ENTRY MUST BE IN ESSAY FORM (1000 WORDS OR LESS, DOUBLE SPACED)

Send one digital photo per entry either email or on disc.

IT IS UNNECESSARY TO SUBMIT ANY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL. THE AWARD WILL BE JUDGED ON THE NARRATIVE ONLY.
Wiima Johnson Wilbanks National Focus Award Entry

Boys & Girls Club, Batesville, MS (Community Service Project)

Junior Auxiliary of Batesville, MS considers this project to be an outstanding existing project to our chapter. Not only does it benefit school age children in our community, but the impact it has on our members is gratifying for us who work with these children! Our relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of Batesville has existed for many years now. However, it wasn’t until the planning of the 2016-2017 year that we separated this specific project from the overall Community Service umbrella and placed it as its own service project entity. The goal of this newly designed project was to conduct 3-4 large service project opportunities per year at the Club, as well as be accessible to the many needs of the club as they arise (tutoring, mentoring, assisting with projects, etc).

During the 2016-2017 JA year, we participated in three service project events with the Club. For all of these events, we planned and funded the service project activities that we did with the children. We had a budget of $325.00 for this project. However, we already had many supplies to conduct our events, donated art supplies, as well as books allotted from our RIF project and Crown Club budgeted money to assist with the literacy activities.

In July 2016, we provided fun/educational activities for the children during their summer program. JA members set up three activities that the children rotated through every 30 minutes. For the Art center, we educated on the American Flag (given that Independence day was right around the corner) and what it stands for. Each child made their own American flag, with numerous art supplies that were available, and attached their flag to a wooden pole. We waved our flags and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. For the activities center, we set up a limbo game and ring toss to inspire the children to “get moving”! For the team-building center, we played
kickball. The children must work as a team to accomplish their individual goals, as well as the goal of the team...to WIN! After this activity, we all enjoyed popsicles in the Mississippi July heat!

In October 2016, we participated in the National Literacy Day that is sponsored by the National Boys and Girls Club. For this event, we divided the children into four different age groups. Each age group had a different book and corresponding activity to do in relation to the book. A JA member read the book aloud to the group, and then we all would partake in an activity and/or craft about that book. The members of our Crown Club were there to assist in these activities and the children enjoyed them being there! For this special event, we also partnered with the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Service Chairman/committee to make this day a success! Our RIF team not only selected the books to be read/play games with but had books at the event set up for the children to go through and pick the book of their choice to take home.

In January 2017, we sponsored an Art Day for the children of the Boys and Girls Club. This project idea was created by one of our artistic JA members. Along with her vision for the project, the committee designed this event to expose the children to different forms of self expression and the arts by teaching them techniques to use different art forms. We painted with different materials and colored on different textures. For this event, we set up three stations that the children alternated through. One of the centers involved mixed medium textures by creating a 30x30 art canvas of acrylic paints and shredded newspaper. This masterpiece that the children created was auctioned off at our Charity Ball during the live auction portion to help fund our upcoming year’s service projects. The children created one of these large masterpieces which we presented to the director to proudly display in the Club for years to come. Lastly, the children used markers to created stained glass murals on small pieces of parchment paper. All of these art projects were a hit with the children!!

In the upcoming year, we plan to continue the service model that we have provided to the 100+ children at the Boys and Girls Club. We have already discussed some additional new ideas to offer to the children- such as a career day presentation/event and a manners/etiquette
demonstration, all provided by the members of Junior Auxiliary of Batesville, MS. With that being said, we plan to continue this project for years to come!