Chapter Name
Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, Mississippi

Submitted by Name and Email Address
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Chapter Address
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Education Chairman
Heather Sledge

Population Category
<15,000

Name of Project
A Better You

Number of Active Members Involved
43

Number of Active Chapter Members
43

Number of People Served
20
Description of Need for Project
I-How-was-the-need-for-the-project-determined.docx

Digital Photo
A-Better-You.jpg

Project Summary
II-Summarize-Project.docx

Project Evaluation
III-Project-Evaluation.docx

Sent from National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.
The Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland has an ongoing “A Better You” project, which was initiated two years ago. Last year, when this program was being submitted for an award, we realized it did not meet the requirements for NAJA and underwent construction in order to meet requirements. This program was developed based on feedback and suggestions from members of the chapter on how to better educate the children of our community. In order to reach our goal, all members participated directly during their assigned month to serve these children through our “A Better You” project.
A Better You is a project designed to have an ongoing relationship with the same children and educates them on life's topics. We had the principal select 20 third graders from a local elementary school for us to meet with each month particularly those who needed extra mentorship. Our chapter was divided into groups to attend monthly to plan and carry out the month's topic. Members not assigned that month were allowed to attend as well. We were fortunate to have our 8 year old from our Adoption Family project attend this monthly program. All chapter members have attended or will attend at least one program. We also have a guest speaker at each project from the community to speak on that topic. Afterwards, the members engage with the children in an educational activity to reiterate what the speaker taught. They leave with a goody bag preparing them with items related to the topic for that day. Topics for 2017-2018 included Bullying, Social Media, Stranger Dander, Body Hygiene, Dental Hygiene, Traffic Safety, Hearing Safety and Summer Safety. The goody bags are filled with items related to the educational lesson for the day. Items aided the child based on the topic, for example; Stranger Danger, we gave the children whistles to wear and blow if a stranger approaches them. For Body Hygiene the children received soap and deodorant and for their activity they learned how many germs are left on the hands after washing using a UV light. For Dental Hygiene a dentist, who is also a life member, taught the children how to brush and floss correctly; they went home with toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. For Bike Safety, the children received bike helmets.
Cleveland, Mississippi has a population of 15,000 or less. We have 43 active members and all members attended our A Better You project at least once. Collectively we have devoted 48 hours one on one with the children, and at least 14 hours planning each program. The program started in August 2017 and ends in May 2018. The program is monthly and last one hour each time. Our chapter member’s ages range from 25-46. We serve the same 20 children each month. After each A Better You project, pictures are posted on our social media page to advertise our efforts and promote our program to the community.
The children have really enjoyed this program and tell us they look forward to it monthly. They consider it a “treat” to be able to attend. It not only motivates them to attend but has also increased their own confidence. A Better You project not only educates these children but also provides them with an emotional support group to rely on monthly and to confide in if needed.

This program is impacting our community one child at a time. It is breaking the cycle of dependency by educating these children how to better themselves while dealing with situations in life. It is giving them the skills to help themselves overcome obstacles on their own.

This project can be easily be adopted by other communities and is not restricted to ours. The curriculum is already developed and only requires a group of children and implementation. We plan on repeating this project each year to continue educating these children on topics related to the basic necessities of life.