The Junior Auxiliary of Russellville’s Crown Club is a group of 29 young ladies who are learning to be servant leaders in our community. This year the girls have worked hard creating a new service project they are calling “Bike Service”, which will serve a great need for the students at Russellville High School. The executive board initiates a meeting with the school counselors and administration at the beginning of September to discuss the greatest need they are facing that current school year. The Executive Board then presents the needs at the September Crown Club Chapter meeting. The girls discuss and then vote on the project that can be organized, completed with integrity and will serve the High School in the most impactful way. This year the counselors told the girls a story of one young man who rides his bike over an hour one way to get to school. He shows up to school every day by 7:30 so he can stand at the front entrance door, open it for every student coming in and tells them to “have a nice day” and “good morning”. If his bike brakes down he has no means to fix it himself. Many times he did not have the adequate clothes to ride home if it started raining during the day, which made for a very wet ride home. She then went on to educate the girls how many kids at the high school are dependent on riding their bikes to school. When they heard the struggles of the population of kids that are dependent on riding their bikes to school, in any weather under any circumstances they were inspired with
practical ways to help. They have created a “Bike Service” Room. This room will not only be stocked with bike repair supplies but windbreakers, coats and loaner bikes that can be used if their bike is out of commission due to repairs. The girls have gone to local bike shops and stores to provide donations, gift cards and store credit to be used to help maintain the bikes. A school administrator is partnering with Crown Club to supervise the use of the room and to communicate when supplies run low.

Establishing this project has taken two hours worth of planning meetings and to date 20 plus hours of asking for donations, going to bike stores to educate the store owners of the need and finding ways the stores can help, finding the space and cleaning it out in preparation for the bike supplies. We were able to provide a check for $400 to the school administration to have available to restock the room for the rest of this semester.

This project has achieved meeting a need at the school and teaching the girls to ask questions to find the best way to help. The girls were able to build something together, find a vision for a service project and create it, finish it and see the benefits to some deserving students.