NAJA Volunteers

Shine like the jewels in our Crown!
1941-2016
THEN, NOW, WOW!

NAJA FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUND

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF NAJA SERVICE

Join us to provide
AEC Grants
National Focus Project Grants
National Service Project Grants

Chapter Resources
Administrative Tools
AEC Speakers and Workshops

How you can help
Pledges | Honorariums | Memorials | Annual Gifts | Recurring Gifts

Make your gift to the Annual Fund by using the enclosed envelope. To make recurring bank draft contributions, please contact NAJA headquarters at 662.332.3000.
LADIES! Do you know how many jewelry stores exist in the USA? Me neither. But, I can tell you that while doing a bit of research for my message, I found one website that offers items from nearly 83,000 stores across the country. And that is just one site, girls.

It is obvious that jewels are popular and have been for hundreds of years. Why would shiny rocks be so important to people? Could it be that they make us look better, feel better, or simply give us something pretty to look at now and then? Do we love them because jewels are not easily broken? They’re tough. Volunteer is often admired in her community when she is recognized for doing good works.

We already have five special facets associated with our NAJA crown. They are charity, youth, health, leadership and service. Our service “jewel” is the one we may recall first when we think of Junior Auxiliary as that is our primary mission. As volunteers, we dedicate our time and talent to help those with the most needs in our communities. I urge you this year to continue to enhance your current projects and consider creating new ones that will perpetuate our cause to become hands on advocates to those who cannot advocate for themselves. We must get back to the basics of volunteerism and meet and greet those we help. Donating money is fine, but donating ourselves, in person, is better. No food for the human spirit is greater than that which includes the touch of a hand, or the voice of another human being giving “cheerful love” so “we may minister to the suffering and forlorn.”

Our theme this year: “NAJA Volunteers… Shine like the Jewels in our Crown” celebrates the year of the Volunteer. While doing a little reading about jewels and gems, I couldn’t help notice the parallels. A volunteer is strong, and though she may not be what we consider “hard,” she exhibits an inner strength which enables her to work in situations that may be out of her comfort zone. A volunteer is unique and has different talents and ideas to share with other volunteers in order to get a job done. A volunteer is always clear about the goal she hopes to achieve and works hard to that end. I suppose the “heat” analogy can be associated with the stress that sometimes comes with volunteer work! Finally, a volunteer is often admired in her community when she is recognized for doing good works.

Jewels are not created quickly or easily either. They require time to develop and are admired for their “brilliance” or how they are seen. Jewels are all very unique and those differences are what make them valuable. Diamonds are particularly noted for their clarity, or “clear” appearance, and heat can improve a stone, as well.

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As you go forward this 75th Anniversary NAJA year, remember why you became a volunteer in the first place. Our work can be tedious at times, and requires long hours and sacrifice. Remember, ladies, pressure makes diamonds!

God bless you all!
Have a wonderful year!

Jeanne Balencie Hildebrandt
NAJA PRESIDENT
Jeanne Balencie Hildebrandt

“NO FOOD FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS GREATER than that which includes the touch of a hand, or the voice of another human being giving “cheerful love” so “we may minister to the suffering and forlorn.”
YOU REALLY CAN TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS! I have recently produced my first YouTube video. The title is All Things NAJA…and does that ever ring true. The video starts with how the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries came into being. How groups of women in the south joined forces…women who had been helping the children in their respective communities who were suffering from the effects of extreme poverty brought on by the Great Depression. The video continues with interesting facts from the 40’s and 50’s and brings us to the current day Association and how it is organized and the resources it offers. The tool is wonderful for training your Provisionals and for updating current Actives as it shows pictures of the various NAJA officers and explains their duties. There are other introductions made about me as your Executive Director, your CSCs and the five Standing Committees and what they each do for you, the JA member. I talk about the NAJA Foundation, the NAJA Graduate Scholarship Program, and all of the many publications that are produced at Headquarters as resources for Chapters and members. There is a section on the National Service Project- Child Welfare and why it is so important to our history and our future. I talk about our two largest educational opportunities, the Area Meetings and AEC. I show a picture of Headquarters and the staff that is ready to serve you every day. I challenge you to make the most of the opportunities before you this year.

Let me encourage you to go right now and watch this video. It is only 26 minutes long and will be time well spent for any member…old or new. Grab your popcorn and take a seat! Roll that video!!

I CHALLENGE YOU to make the most of the opportunities before you this year.

The painting on the cover of a jeweled five point crown was created by the father of our NAJA President, Jeanne Balencie Hildebrandt. Calvin Balencie, a native of New Orleans currently residing in Baton Rouge, LA, has been an artist since his early teens. He is a member of the Louisiana Watercolor Society, the New Orleans Art Association and the Louisiana Art and Artists Guild. His art can be viewed at laag-site.org. Jeanne was pleased to have her Dad paint a new rendition of our five point NAJA crown for this year’s theme!
Meet the 2016-2017 NAJA President

WHO IS JEANNE BALENCIE HILDEBRANDT?
New Orleans native, Saints fan, and die hard Tiger from LSU, and the 2016-2017 President of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc. Jeanne was installed on April 30, 2016 at the Annual Education Conference in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jeanne is a lifelong volunteer and her “career” of service began at a very young age growing up in the suburbs of New Orleans. She was born in the “Big Easy” and lived there until the age of four when her family moved across the Mississippi River to the west bank town of Gretna. The surrounding small cities of Algiers and Marrero also afforded many opportunities for Girl Scout troops and church organizations to provide assistance to those in need and Jeanne participated along with her parents on several occasions.

Her mother was a Girl Scout leader and PTO officer, and her father volunteered in many capacities for Christ the King Catholic Church where they attended mass. Volunteering runs in the family!

Jeanne graduated from Archbishop Blenk High School and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Louisiana State University. She has worked as a kidney transplant and peritoneal dialysis nurse, an ICU nurse, and in cardio pulmonary out-patient rehabilitation. Jeanne, and her husband David, moved a year after they married to the growing town of Slidell north of New Orleans so that David could set up his practice. The “boys” were off to college and her volunteer venues were moving on, too. Then, along came Carol Caruso, past national JA President. Carol asked Jeanne if she would be willing to serve on the National level as a CSC for Region VI. Jeanne jumped at the opportunity and the rest, as they say, is history.

Jeanne served as a CSC for four years, and as a CSC Director for three of those four. She was elected Third Vice President, then Second Vice President, and finally, First Vice President in May of 2015.

Jeanne has chosen this year, the 75th Anniversary of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, to honor the NAJA Volunteer. Her belief in volunteerism is strong, and she wishes that more communities in our country could benefit from all the good work that we do in JA. Jeanne says, “To be part of an organization that devotes itself solely to the purpose of volunteering and helping others is the best place to be for anyone!”

Jeanne decided to take a leave from her nursing job to become a full time volunteer and devote her time to her children and their schools. Although she has not returned to the nursing profession (the “leave” lasted a bit longer than expected), she continues to maintain her license. She says, “I worked very hard to become a nurse. It was a wonderful choice and allowed me the flexibility to have a professional job and still spend a good deal of time with my boys when they were young.”

The volunteer “career” that followed included serving as PTA President for two of her children’s schools and participating in other PTA roles for many years. Jeanne served four terms as Band Booster President at Northshore High School in Slidell. NHS Band Boosters was a non-profit organization at the time and boasted a membership of over 150 band students. She served as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader and as a Provisional in 2003. She became an Active member in April 2004. While in JA, Jeanne served as a Project Chairman for two projects, silent auction chairman for their primary fundraiser, the JAS Gala, Vice President, President, Ex-Officio and Associate/Life Liaison. She says of her experience: “My years in JA of Slidell were an eye opening experience and a huge growth opportunity for me. All of my volunteer time was spent previously in my own area of town, at my church, and at my children’s schools. JA took me ALL over the community to places I may not have ordinarily gone. I don’t think I appreciated the scope of need in our town until then. I also met so many great ladies from other areas of the community beyond my own neighborhoods. I would not have them as friends today if not for JA.”

Once the five years of service were done, Jeanne thought about returning to the work force. The “boys” were off to college and her volunteer venues were moving on, too. Then, along came Carol Caruso, past national JA President. Carol asked Jeanne if she would be willing to serve on the National level as a CSC for Region VI. Jeanne jumped at the opportunity and the rest, as they say, is history.

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Jeanne and David, a volunteer in his own right, hope they have instilled this sense of service to their two sons. Christopher, who is married to Amanda, is currently serving in the US Army, but will be discharged and coming home this October. He plans to further his education in the medical field.

Ryan, is a mechanical engineer who lives and works in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Both sons are Eagle Scouts and have a record of service of their own.

Meet the President, Jeanne Balencie Hildebrandt. A true NAJA volunteer!
MEET THE 2016-2017 NAJA TEAM

NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Seated from left: Gayle Brown, Second Vice-President, Monticello, AR; Amanda Knauer, Ex-Officio, Franklin, TN; Linda Pitcock, Education Chairman, Batesville, MS; Jeannie Hildebrandt, President, Slidell, LA; Merrill Greenlee, Executive Director, Greenville, MS; Charlott Jones, First Vice-President, Jonesboro, AR; Noel Howe, CSC, Region II, Tipton County, TN; Standing from left: Emily Johnson, Third Vice-President, Tate-Panola, MS; Ashley Johnson, Membership Chairman, Batesville, MS; Rhonda Bryant, CSC, Region III, Monticello, AR; Julie Springer, Recording Secretary, Rogers-Bentonville, AR; Leslie James, Marketing Vice-President, Crittenden County, AR; Debbie Bailey, Scholarship Chairman, Greenville, MS; Edith Crosby, CSC, Region V, Madison County, MS; Lisa Benjamin, CSC, Region VI, Hammond, LA; Debbie Jones, CSC, Region I, Forrest City, AR; Shannon Miller, Public Relations Chairman, Brookhaven, MS. Not Pictured: Londa LeBrun, Treasurer, Columbus, MS; Sukie Philyaw, CSC, Region IV, Kosciusko, MS; Darlene Carey, Foundation Chairman, Greenville, MS

CHAPTER SUPPORT COORDINATORS

Seated from left: Noel Howe, Region II, Tipton County, TN; Meg Glenn, Region V, Clinton, MS; Lisa Benjamin, Region VI, Hammond, LA; Standing from left: Rhonda Bryant, Region III, Monticello, AR; Vickie Person, Region IV, Water Valley, MS; Patricia Kelly, Region III, Greenville, MS; Brinn Parrish, Region II, Savannah, TN; Debbie Jones, Region I, Forrest City, AR; TJ Higgs, Region I, Searcy, AR; Edith Crosby, Region V, Madison County, MS; Not Pictured: Sukie Philyaw, Region IV, Kosciusko, MS; Kristi Payne, Region VI, Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS
NAJA ENCOURAGES board training at the Chapter level and it is just as essential for board members at the national level. The women of the National Board of Directors are committed to enhancing their skills and capabilities to provide effective leadership to our organization and its mission. Along with much laughter, getting to know one another, and handbook drills, Board members were challenged with the task of formulating new goals and strategies for the next three years. This time of training is always a great way for our national board to learn about their new positions and get motivated for the new year to come. NAJA encourages all Chapters to have their own board training. Information can be found on the website under Membership Information/Retention/Chapter Board Training. All of the dedicated ladies serving on the National Board of Directors all served in Junior Auxiliary at the Chapter level, giving countless hours and providing leadership in service to their communities. If you are interested in more information on serving at the national level, please contact NAJA Ex-officio Amanda Knauer at najaexofficio@gmail.com.
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

AREA MEETINGS 2016 - WORKSHOPS

PEARLS FOR THE PRESIDENTS
For all new Chapter Presidents: Spend some time with your NAJA President as she presents a refresher on counting and categorizing those important Chapter hours! Let’s also talk about creating new projects and how to keep your members engaged and interested. Everyone is a valuable jewel in the Chapter’s crown, so learn how to help them shine brighter!

SPEAKER JANIE WALTERS
Janie Walters is an award-winning human communications specialist. She will be presenting two topics: “Dealing with Difficult People” and “Stress Management.” She is a master teacher with more than 25 years of experience teaching interpersonal communications, public speaking, debate, and theatre at the high school and college levels. She is the author of two books: a devotional book titled Develop the Habit of Joy, and the book titled Blow A Bubble Not A Gasket: 101 Ways to Reduce Stress and Add Fun To Your Life. Because we have so many crowns to wear as a JA member and leader, we know Ms. Walters will provide us with the jewels to help our daily work as a JA member be sure to be a crowning event!

TREASURER’S WORKSHOP
You can’t get the BLING if you don’t learn treasureRing! Come polish your jewels with helpful hints for accounting for your Chapter’s dollars and CENTS. Let me help you shine as bright as can be; this is your great opportunity. Bring any and all questions or concerns that you may have. If you did not attend the Treasurer’s Workshop in Memphis, you are not going to want to miss this shining experience.

PROVISIONAL TRAINER’S WORKSHOP
Do you need some extra “BLING” in your JA crown? Did you miss the workshop at Annual Education Conference on how to be the Supervillain Prodigy Provisional Trainer? Never Fear! You can still learn how to be a “SHINING” Provisional Trainer at the Area Meetings. As a Provisional Trainer, you play a vital role in the success of your Chapter. Well-trained Provisionals ensure the continuity of Junior Auxiliary in your community. The NAJA “MegaMinds” Membership Committee has the tools and knowledge to assist you as you encourage and support the Provisionals through their training time. Join us as we all learn to SHINE as Provisional Trainers, just like the jewels in our crown!

DON’T REINVENT THE WHEEL! NETWORK!
NAJA Education Committee members and other NAJA representatives will be available to facilitate roundtable discussions at both the Northern and Southern Area Meetings. Each table will be set up with conversation starters, but our priority is to allow Chapter members to network and share ideas, with a NAJA rep handy to answer questions or provide clarification if needed. If your Chapter has any concerns or issues, please email those to: najaeducationchair@gmail.com anytime between now and the Area Meetings.

BUILDING AN ONLINE LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE
It is no secret that the world seems to be moving faster than ever before. And at no time in history has being in charge of one’s brand and reputation been more important. This session covers the ins and outs of social etiquette and addresses how to manage technology and social media effectively. The presenter, Barbie Ferguson, serves as Deputy Director of the Mississippi Professional Educators. MPE is the state’s largest organization for professional educators with more than 13,000 teachers, administrators, and support personnel, serving pre-K through graduate education. Prior to joining MPE in August 2014, Barbie served as Canvas Consultant and Career Pathways Instructor for Clinton Public Schools as well as adjunct professor at Hinds Community College.

CHILD WELFARE WORKSHOP
Does your Chapter have questions concerning its Child Welfare Project? Does the Child Welfare Project idea have you baffled? How does your Chapter initiate the project? How does a Chapter go about executing this project? How does a Chapter meet the confidentiality requirements for this project? What sources do you use for such a project?

If these are a few of your questions as a Chapter, come and be a part of this workshop at one of NAJA’s Area Meetings. Each year questions such as these are asked and answers are needed to successfully execute your Child Welfare Project! Remember… the Child Welfare Project is the backbone of our organization!

If you have questions that you want discussed, take the time to email NAJAEducationChair@gmail.com—Subject: Child Welfare to be sure your questions are answered!
SOUTHERN AREA MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2016
Lake Terrace Convention Center
Hattiesburg, MS.
Registration Deadline: July 25

NORTHERN AREA MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
Memphis Hilton
Registration Deadline: September 2

SCHEDULE:
Registration - 8:30-9:30
9:30-10:00 - Business Meeting
10:15-11:15 - First Session
11:30-12:30 - Second Session

FIRST SESSION SPEAKER
AND WORKSHOPS
Speaker Janie Walters on Dealing with Difficult People; Presidents; Provisional Trainers; Child Welfare

SECOND SESSION SPEAKER
AND WORKSHOPS
Speaker Janie Walters on Stress Management; Treasurers; Social Media Etiquette; Round Table Discussions


Jimmy Wayne is a former foster kid turned country music singer/songwriter whose songs and story highlight his mission to bring awareness to kids who age out of the foster system and become homeless. In 2010, he walked halfway across America to raise awareness; in 2011, Jimmy released the novel Paper Angels which became a made-for-TV movie by the same title; in 2012, Jimmy helped get a legislative bill passed extending the age of foster care to 21 in both California and Tennessee (and in North Carolina in 2015); and in 2014, he released Walk to Beautiful, his “New York Times” best-selling memoir which has reached the “New York Times” list on three separate occasions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE EXPRESSION “He who fails to plan, plans to fail?” You might not fail miserably leading your Chapter next year as an officer because you didn’t make it to our Annual Education Conference (AEC) in Memphis, but why risk it? It is never too early to begin planning to attend AEC 2017 May 5 – 6 at the Memphis Hilton.

Who should attend AEC? Everyone! We have speakers who motivate and inspire; workshops to educate and challenge; and networking opportunities to strengthen your Chapter. If you are currently a Chapter officer or anticipate becoming an officer, you need to attend. Provisional members, this is the perfect chance to discover Junior Auxiliary outside of your community…and to have a fun girls weekend! Do not let last minute responsibilities derail your plans to come and be trained!

Make attending a priority! “Save the Date” of May 5 – 6, NAJA AEC2017!
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 AWARD WINNERS
Presented at Hilton Hotel Memphis, Tennessee, April 30, 2016

PRESIDENTS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

MARTHA WISE
Under 15,000
15,000-29,999
30,000 & above

COLUMBUS, MS — Smile Games
McComb, MS — Fill Up/Build Up
Saline County, AR — Fleece for Fosters

MARTHA WISE

NEW PROJECT

COLUMBUS, MS — One Girl, One World

MARTHA WISE

EXISTING PROJECT

Cleveland, MS — A Child’s Dream

LOUISE ESKRIGGE CRUMP

NORMA DELONG EDUCATION

Under 15,000:
15,000-29,999
30,000 & above

Batesville, MS – Kids Club
Oxford, MS – Adopt a Family

Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS – I Matter

MAG

Under 15,000:
15,000-29,999:
30,000 & above:

Columbia, MS – F.L.A.R.E. Fostering Love Amidst Real Emergencies

Starkville, MS – T. K. Martin’s Center – Project Impact

Greenville, MS – Eat and Play the Healthy Way

Pascagoula-Moss Point, MS – INK

ELEANOR SLAUGHTER

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION/REENGAGEMENT

Clarksville, AR

WILMA JOHNSON WILBANKS NATIONAL FOCUS NEW

WILMA JOHNSON WILBANKS NATIONAL FOCUS EXISTING

CROWN CLUB

OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECT

CROWN CLUB

OUTSTANDING CROWN CLUB

PUBLIC RELATIONS

SERVICE

FINANCE

ROBBINS VOLUNTEER-OF-THE-YEAR

REGION I
Cabot, AR
Clarksville, AR
Forrest City, AR
Jackson County, AR
Jonesboro, AR
Lawrence County, AR
Russellville, AR

REGION II
Cleveland, TN
Collierville, TN
 Corinth, MS
DeSoto County, MS
Humboldt, TN
Lauderdale County, TN
Milan, TN
Tipton County, TN

REGION III
Arkadelphia, AR
Arlington, AR
Cleveland, MS
Crossett, AR
Greenwood, MS
Grenada, MS
Hot Springs, AR
Monticello, AR
Saline County, AR
Winona, MS

REGION IV
Amory, MS
Batesville, MS
Booneville, MS
Columbus, MS
Oxford, MS
Starkville, MS
Tate-Panola, MS
Tupelo, MS
Water Valley, MS

REGION V
Brookhaven, MS
Clinton, MS
Laurel, MS
Madison County, MS
Meridian, MS
McComb, MS
Rankin County, MS
Ruston, LA
Vicksburg, MS

REGION VI
Abbeville, LA
Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS
Eastern Shore, AL
East St. Mary, LA
Gulfport, MS
Hattiesburg, MS
Houma, LA
Pascagoula-Moss Point, MS
Slidell, LA

EFFICIENCY AWARD 2016 - BY REGION
The EFFICIENCY AWARD was established in 1987 to recognize Chapters for their punctuality and administrative excellence.

REGION I
Cabot, AR
Clarksville, AR
Forrest City, AR
Jackson County, AR
Jonesboro, AR
Lawrence County, AR
Russellville, AR

REGION II
Cleveland, TN
Collierville, TN
Corinth, MS
DeSoto County, MS
Humboldt, TN
Lauderdale County, TN
Milan, TN
Tipton County, TN

REGION III
Arkadelphia, AR
Arlington, AR
Cleveland, MS
Crossett, AR
Greenwood, MS
Grenada, MS
Hot Springs, AR
Monticello, AR
Saline County, AR
Winona, MS

REGION IV
Amory, MS
Batesville, MS
Booneville, MS
Columbus, MS
Oxford, MS
Starkville, MS
Tate-Panola, MS
Tupelo, MS
Water Valley, MS

REGION V
Brookhaven, MS
Clinton, MS
Laurel, MS
Madison County, MS
Meridian, MS
McComb, MS
Rankin County, MS
Ruston, LA
Vicksburg, MS

REGION VI
Abbeville, LA
Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS
Eastern Shore, AL
East St. Mary, LA
Gulfport, MS
Hattiesburg, MS
Houma, LA
Pascagoula-Moss Point, MS
Slidell, LA
THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF MCCOMB has a long heritage of impacting the lives of children. I was honored to be an Active member of the Chapter from 1999 - 2003. It was during this time that I had an opportunity to serve as a mentor for Kennedy Girls, a project JA conducted at Kennedy Elementary School for 3rd and 4th grade girls who lacked a female role model in their lives. Students were chosen to participate in the program by the Principal, Mrs. Linda Young, and the school secretary, not because of their financial status or grades, but because they needed the support of a loving, nurturing group of women. Some of the girls lived in deplorable conditions while others had material possessions, but all of them lacked the support of female family members.

As mentors, we talked to them and shared experiences on topics like hygiene, bullying, manners, and safe relationships. Through the years, we picked the girls up from school and took them to have their hair and nails done, some days we met at the school and brought in speakers, and occasionally we had a meal at a restaurant with a menu, real silverware and napkins. Many of the girls shared serious concerns with us and we grew to love each other very much.

Eventually, Rochelle was removed from her mother’s home by DHS and, with her sisters, moved to Tupelo to live with her father. It wasn’t long before DHS removed them for the second time and they were transferred to a Tupelo foster care facility that was much like a dormitory. I grieved for her when she called to tell me she had been moved again, but she assured me she was going to be fine. She even sounded excited as she said, “It’s okay, Ms. Christy, They have JA ladies in Tupelo too!” The Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo had an active project right there in her foster home! One of my most treasured possessions is a note from Rochelle that reads, “Mrs. Christy, I love you. I wish you was my mom.” To this day, I keep up with Rochelle on Facebook, and she still calls me mama! NEVER doubt the impact of your work with children in Junior Auxiliary.

Another sweet Kennedy Girl, Amy, was one of the smartest children we worked with. She was quiet but studious and very kind to others. Like Rochelle, I kept up with Amy through the years and was so proud of her as she achieved great things at McComb High School and was active in a number of clubs and organizations.

This week, I received an invitation to Amy’s upcoming graduation from law school. Tears came to my eyes as I recalled those Kennedy Girl days and realized the impact that we, as Junior Auxiliary volunteers, had on these children’s lives. Thankfully, there were JA members who invested their time and their love in helping these children achieve their dreams. The Junior Auxiliary of McComb did that for them, and I wanted each of you to share in the joy of making it happen.

As you work on your projects each year and put in long hours that you could be spending with your own family, please know that you are impacting children’s lives in ways in which you might not immediately see the results. Perhaps through Junior Auxiliary, you will give the children you work with the courage to face their toughest battles or to achieve their wildest dreams.

Thank you for what you do.

From a fellow volunteer, and from the children, Christy Keirn
NAJA President 2009-10

Mentors Matter...
But Seeing Your Impact Takes Time
2015-2016 NAJA FOUNDATION
Annual Fund and Cumulative Donors

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

PARTNER - ($2,500 - $4,999)
JA of Columbus, MS

PATRON - ($1,000 - $2,499)
Elizabeth Holbert
Ellen Ann Johnson
Wilma Wilbanks
Mary Elizabeth Williams

SPONSOR - ($500 - $999)
Kelly Charey
Georgia Hess
JA of Corinth, MS
JA of Grenada, MS
Amy Knight
Karen Knight
Non McGarth
Cindy Rood
The Clint & Ellen Ann Johnson Foundation

SUSTAINER - ($250 - $499)
Ann Arledge
Darlene Carey
Marion Chancellor
Leslie Dewey
Jean Elmore
Celia Ford
Linda Henderson
JA of Batesville, MS
JA of Madison County, MS
JA of Meridian, MS
Amanda Knauer
Shannon Miller
Lyn Patrick
Vicki Pentecost
Staci Ringwald
Patricia Tibbs
Leslie Vaughn

SUPPORTER - ($100 - $249)
Madeline Allin
Debbie Bailey
Karyl Jean Beauchamp
Sug Borgognoni
Gayle Brown
Kim Dowdy
Kathy Dunavant
Melissa Dworaczyk
Iris Eastering
Doscia England
Tonya Eubanks
Mary Lib Francis
Zaidee Galoney
Mary Gilmore
Merrill Greenlee
Gail Guevara
Ann Guice
Esther Herring
Noel Howe
JA of Cleveland, MS

JA of Clinton, MS
JA of Greenwood, MS
JA of McComb, MS
JA of Oxford, MS
Charlott Jones
Laurie Jagan
Kevin Cunningham Agency
Lee & Lee, PA
Judy Marchesini
Julie McDonald
Nancy Melton
B. J. Nichols
Kim Overstreet
Kelli Jo Pierce
Elizabeth Robertson
Sheri Rogers
Jamie Russ
Dell Scoper
Charlotte Seals
Jasmine Shipp
Karen Smith
Julie Springer
Laurie Steetelman
Johnnie Tolleson
Sarah Turner
Rhonda Walker
Mary Virginia Watson
Janet Webb

CUMULATIVE DONORS

PLATINUM CROWN - ($50,000.00 +)
Mary Carole Bowers

GOLD CROWN - ($25,000.00 +)
Wilma Wilbanks

SILVER CROWN - ($10,000.00 +)
Mainframe
Cindy Rood
Vicki Tidwell
Viking Range Corporation

FELLOW - ($5,000.00 +)
Lois Boykin
Darlene Carey
Merrill Greenlee
Misty Helton
Ben Holbert
Marilyn Hummelstein
JA of Columbus, MS
JA of Greenville, MS
JA of Hattiesburg, MS
JA of Tupelo, MS
JA of Oxford, MS
Ellen Ann Johnson
Karen Knight
Lyn Patrick
Vicki Pentecost
The Clint & Ellen Ann Johnson Foundation
Lyn Walker

PARTNER - ($2,500.00 +)
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Madeline Allin
Debbie Bailey
Bridget Burns
Carol Carusa
Gela Ford
Thomas Fusco
Linda Henderson
Esther Herring
Elizabeth Holbert
JA of Slidell, LA
JA of Starkville, MS
Kathy Jones
Janie Lowery
Leslie Vaughn
Joanna Walker

PATRON - ($1,000.00 +)
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Paul Arman
Melissa Boker
Lisa Biglane
Kelly Charey
Ruth Cummings
Leslie Dewey
Kathy Dunavant
Iris Eastering
Ann Guice
Sharon Hudson
Sasha Hyde
JA of Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS
JA of Booneville, MS
JA of Cleveland, MS
JA of Collierville, TN
JA of Corinth, MS
JA of Grenada, MS
JA of Gulfport, MS
JA of Houma, LA
JA of Madison County, FL
JA of Oxford, MS
JA of Vicksburg, MS
Charlott Jones
Melissa Jones
Christy Keim
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Amanda Knauer
Tracey Liles
Melissa Mason
Non McGarth
Karen Neal
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Occasions Publishing Group
Linda Pitcock
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Shannon Sanford
Charlotte Seals
Julie Springer
Johnnie Tolleson
Joque Turner
Jill Warren
Mary Elizabeth Williams
Suzanna Williams

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Samantha Huff
JA of Amory, MS
JA of Arkadelphia, AR
JA of Batesville, MS
JA of Clinton, MS
JA of Hot Springs, AR
JA of Humboldt, TN
JA of Madison County, MS
JA of McComb, MS
JA of Meridian, MS
JA of Phillips County, AR
JA of Rankin County, MS
JA of Rogers-Bentonville, AR
JA of Russellville, AR
Charlene James
Leslie James
Amy Knight
Vielattar Lovett
Ginger Lowery
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Nancy McFarland
Tina Saul
Janet Stinus
Elaine Sweetland
The Greenbrier
Jeanie Tinker
Marcia Walt
Vandra Williams

12 FALL 2016 | The Crownlet
CHAPTERS WITH 100% ACTIVE MEMBERS AS FOUNDATION DONORS

Cleveland, MS
Columbus, MS
Houma, LA
Pascagoula-Moss Point, MS
Slidell, LA
Tupelo, MS

FOUNDERATION OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECT AWARD

At AEC, NAJA Foundation presents JA of Saline County, AR a check for $1000 as the winner of the inaugural Foundation Outstanding Service Project award.

THE DIAMOND LEGACY SOCIETY
Established to enhance the service of NAJA and its Chapters

IN RECOGNITION OF NAJA’S 75th Anniversary, the NAJA Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of the Diamond Legacy Society.

Membership in the Diamond Legacy Society is available to those who have included the NAJA Foundation in their estate plans, such as a will, trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan, or other planned gifts. The amount of the gift is not important, but creating a legacy for NAJA is vital.

Eleanor Slaughter of the JA of Columbus, MS, was the inaugural member of the Society. Her legacy has already benefitted our Chapters in numerous ways. Since 2013, her bequest has helped the Foundation to pay registration fees so members from financially struggling Chapters can attend AEC. The bequest has also helped the Foundation to fund the National Focus project grant as well as sponsor the National Focus speaker at AEC.

The Foundation was created in 2002 to receive donations and gifts in order to utilize those contributions to enhance the service of NAJA and its Chapters. This support helps the NAJA Foundation to provide grants for service projects and grants for AEC registrations for local Chapters in need of financial assistance. The Foundation has also sponsored the Treasurers’ Conclaves led by our NAJA Treasurer as well as speakers and workshops at AEC. To date, the Foundation has invested nearly $100,000 in the future of the children whom NAJA serves.

A list of members of the Society will be published annually. Members may also elect to remain anonymous, and the Foundation will honor all requests to keep the member, intention, or the size and scope of the gift private.

All testamentary donors to the Foundation will be recognized on a permanent commemorative plaque in the NAJA Hall of Honor at Headquarters.

The Diamond Legacy Society preserves the heritage of commitment to the children served by NAJA Chapters today, tomorrow, forever. Contact the NAJA Foundation today and establish your legacy to NAJA.
IF YOU ATTENDED AEC in April, you know NAJA is turning 75 years “young” this fall. The special 75th anniversary logo shown above, created by former NAJA President Vicki Pentecost, was printed on the conference bags. A time capsule was opened at AEC that had been sealed at the 50th Anniversary celebration, and Chapters took home what their Chapter had placed in it at the 1991 Annual Convention. This upcoming year of service represents a significant milestone in the history of our organization. Make it big!

November 14th is the day that officially marks 75 years of service. Organize a special event in November inviting your past Chapter Presidents and other Associate and Life members. Celebrate the history of your service in your communities! Get out the scrapbooks and old uniforms; read the letters you got from the time capsule. Work a service project on November 14th. Recite the JA Prayer as a group, or as individuals … or get your Past Presidents or new Provisionals to do portions, and video it! Create “A Day in the Life of JA” video and post to the NAJA Facebook page or YouTube channel. We can’t wait to see how your Chapter celebrates!

NOT EVERYONE LOOKS THIS GOOD AT 75!

NAJA Staff - Missy Stephens, Membership/Scholarship; BJ Nichols, Resource Center/Webmaster; Kathy Dunavant, Bookkeeper; Angela Pierce, Executive Secretary; Merrill Greenlee, Executive Director.
COLUMBUS, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Columbus, MS’s project Reality Fair is designed to give students a dose of reality by correlating their current G.P.A. to a future income. Students then take their “paychecks” to the various booths to purchase insurance, find a home, and pay their utilities. Students also found themselves at the “wheel of chance,” which simulated various expenses that may arise such as a flat tire or an unexpected illness. The goal of Reality Fair is to help students connect that their current academic achievement has much bearing on their future success. This year students at Columbus High School and West Lowndes High School took part in Reality Fair.

DEB COUNTY, MS
The Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, MS’s Crown Club held a spa party for first and second graders. The party was held on April 9, 2016 at DeSoto Hills Baptist Church. Fifteen girls, nominated by their school counselor, participated with twenty-one Crown Club members and four Junior Auxiliary members hosting.

The spa held four stations: pedicure/manicure, hair, lips, and facials. For pedicures, the girls mixed a cup of Epsom salts with their favorite essential oil and filled their bowl with about three inches of water. Crown Club helped the girls decorate their pedicure bowls with stickers and paint pens. The girls chose their favorite color of nail polish and were treated to manicures and pedicures from the Crown Club members.

For the hair station, Crown Club members helped the girls put hair chalk in their hair as a fun way to add some color. At the facial station, the girls were taught to make their own chocolate mask. This consisted of cocoa powder, honey, and yogurt. After mixing the ingredients, the girls left the mask on their face 10-15 minutes. During this time, Crown Club members read princess stories to the girls. At the lip station, the girls created their own lip-gloss by mixing Vaseline and Kool-Aid together. The Vaseline provided a softening effect while the Kool-Aid gave a pretty tint to their lips! Overall, the first and second grade girls had a great time and the Crown Club members loved pampering them! This project is sure to be repeated next year!

GRENADA, WS
Junior Auxiliary of Grenada, MS supplies school uniforms and other clothing items to local children in need through their Clothing Room project. Each year, the Clothing Room holds a Winter Coat Drive to help restock their supply of warm coats and jackets. New and gently used coats were collected by the Clothing Room committee and were distributed to children in need during the winter months. The Crown Club from JA of Grenada collected stuffed animals for their Kuddles for Kids project. Grenada Chief of Police, Garrett Hartley, spoke to the girls about the impact that Kuddles for Kids has on children during emergency situations. These stuffed animals are distributed by emergency services to frightened children during various emergency situations.

GULFPORT, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport, MS’s Provisional Class was proud to host a Saints Junior Training Camp in February at Milner Stadium, Gulfport, MS. The project was one Provisional member’s suggestion and the entire class of twenty ladies was excited...
CHAPTERS AT WORK

and on board! Approximately five months of preparation went into this event and culminated in a day of fun for both Active and Provisional JA members. In preparation for the event, nine local sixth grade classes, broken into 12 teams, participated in a competition to determine the winner. The sixth grade students were asked to collect pop-top tabs from aluminum cans. Over 617,000 pop-tops were collected over the Christmas holidays and were later donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile. Three sixth grade classes were chosen as winners: Crossroads Elementary, Pass Christian Middle School and Saucier Elementary. Approximately three hundred children were able to participate and join in the Junior Training Camp fun. Taking place at Milner Stadium, the students were greeted by JA members. They were seated in the stadium where they were surprised by Saint’s mascot, Gumbo, and two representatives from the Saints Community Development division. The students were presented a speech on wellness, healthy lifestyle choices and staying fit. They were encouraged to listen closely as prizes would be awarded towards the end. Authentic Saints memorabilia was awarded to selected students that could correctly answer Saints trivia. Signed NFL footballs and licensed game-day gloves were among the prizes. Following the wellness portion of the event, students were invited onto the field to participate in actual Saints warm-up, simulated exercises. They were given the opportunity to throw a football, dive for a catch, try a high-jump and many others, for a total of seven various football drills. Each station was directed and manned by JA members, giving them the opportunity to interact with the students. A Gatorade station was provided by the Saints and at any time during the hour-long activity session, the students could take a break and rehydrate.

Upon completion of the wellness and fitness portions of the day, the students and their teachers were invited to lunch served by JA members. Domino’s Pizza, along with their new Smart Slice Brand Division, provided Smart Slice pizza to all of the participants. Students finished off lunch with a specialty made black and gold cookie in honor of the Saints.

GULFPORT, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport, MS distributed “Bully Proof” on February 3, 2016, to over 450 7th and 8th grade boys and girls along with the faculty of Long Beach Middle School. This program utilized the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office and an interactive presentation and video was displayed to the students which defined “Cyber-Bullying.” explained Mississippi law in regards to bullying, demonstrated the signs of bullying, described why bullying occurs, and clarifies how the issue of bullying can be stopped and the effects remedied. The children were engaged after being asked questions such as, “Who has ever been bullied?” and “Why were you bullied?” The student’s response was overwhelming as many felt that the bullies lacked self-esteem and confidence. Students were encouraged to not respond to cyber-bullying, and to keep pictures and messages and save them to their device as evidence. Following the presentation, the students were given bracelets to remind them of the cyber-bullying epidemic and most importantly, Don’t Ignore It. Report It! Cyber-bullying handouts and parent guides were given to the counselors to provide to the students’ families. Due to the success of the first presentation and the overwhelming response from the students, school administrators and teachers, a second presentation was scheduled for April 1 at Bayou View Middle School wherein 400 children were served.

HATTIESBURG, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg, MS Provisional classes have a rich history of taking on special projects to help the community. This year, as Provisional member, Amanda Lee proposed an idea that came from the Children’s Center for Communication and Development (TCCCD), “The Center provides little Layla (and dozens of other children) with weekly physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and overall early intervention…all with no cost to the family. According to Amanda, “My only other option for this intensive service would be to pay for outpatient services through a hospital. To my family, TCCCD is the most important organization in town. There is nothing else like it in the state.”

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development has led Mississippi in early intervention services for infants, toddlers and preschoolers with significant disabilities as many as 22 South Mississippi counties and currently serves over 100 children. The Center is supported by 2 main fundraisers, one of which is the Children’s Center Classic, a 5k/10k race. JA’s Carnival played a significant role in making the annual fundraiser a record-breaking success. The event featured several game booths, face painting, a bounce house, petting zoo, and train rides. The members charged admission to the carnival—which consisted of a new or gently used development learning toy or a minimum $3 donation. The event raised $1,000, which was donated to TCCCD for purchasing a large piece of adaptive equipment. The Chapter also donated several bags of developmental toys that will be donated to families who cannot afford them.

JONESBORO, AR

Over the past year, Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, AR’s Share & Wear program has garnered much attention from the local community as a result of the ever-growing demand for providing clothing items for Craighead County children in need. The program serves 21 public schools for students in Kindergarten through 12th grades, in addition to aiding several pre-K programs in the community. Members work with school counselors, nurses and other administrators when needs are reported; whether a child needs shoes that fit or they need to be outfitted from head-to-toe because they lost their home in a fire, the Share & Wear program meets those needs. Each JA was on board for this project. As a mom to a child with special needs, serving these children has become a passion of mine. I honestly don’t know what my family would do without the support we have received from the Children’s Center for Communication and Development (TCCCD).”
member who volunteers with the program serves three to four public schools per year. At the beginning of each school year, members contact the local school counselors and nurses to inform them of the Share & Wear program and how to request items when needs arise. The project’s goal is to make sure that every school knows of the great resources available. When a school learns of a need, it will contact the JA volunteer and inform them of the specific needs, such as the size of clothes and shoes, favorite color or any other specific requests. Once a member learns of the request, they go to the closet to see if the item is stocked. If it isn’t, the members go out and purchase the item and take it to the school counselor within a couple of days of the request. Great care goes into selecting the perfect items for Craighead County children who benefit from the program. The impact that this program has on children’s lives is everlasting.

**LAUREL, MS**
The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel, MS’s 2015-2016 Provisional Class recently concluded their class project to build an Outdoor Visual Arts Classroom for students at Nora Davis Magnet School. The outdoor classroom consists of 10 picnic tables which were painted to mirror various works of master artists such as Picasso, Kandinsky, Van Gogh, Mondrian, Georgia O’Keeffe, Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Matisse, and others. The LJA Provisional class was able to raise the money to purchase the tables and supplies through community sponsorships. “Each grade level has a picnic table that they will use for their grade level activities,” explains Provisional class member and Nora Davis kindergarten teacher Emily Johnston. “Since we are art driven and art integrated, each grade level got to pick the artist that they wanted to replicate of their table. They did a study of that artist inside their regular classroom, and then took part in painting the top of their table. The children have loved it, and had a great time. It’s been a wonderful experience.”

“There is nothing more important to us here than arts integration,” said Dr. Sara Williams, Nora Davis Assistant Principle “and what better way than to build an outdoor classroom for the kids. We are very excited about this project, and we are thankful to the Junior Auxiliary.”

**MADISON COUNTY, FL**
The Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, FL knows the therapeutic effect pets can have on people. For the past couple of years, members have enjoyed taking their pets for visits with residents of the local nursing homes. The residents light up when they see the ladies and their furry friends walk into the home. The dogs are able to bring out the residents like nothing else. This last visit was truly heart-warming as a wheelchair bound resident came out of the chair to lay on the...
floor with one of the dogs. Another resident, whom rarely speaks, was talkative and her face glowed as she spent time with the dogs. It has been a rewarding project that the JA of Madison, FL will continue for years to come.

**MCCOMB, MS**

In the fall of 2015, Junior Auxiliary of McComb, MS implemented a new Child Welfare project after learning that a number of the children in the community did not always have enough food to eat at home after leaving school. With the goal of the project being to fill the children’s tummies while building up their spirits, the name “Fill Up, Build Up” was appropriately chosen. Each month, every member of the Chapter handwrites uplifting notes to the students, telling them how loved and special they are while encouraging them to study, exercise, and show kindness to others. These notes are then placed into bags with a variety of non-perishable foods and hygiene items, and the bags are discreetly delivered to the children in need. Initially, the Chapter provided bags to 82 children monthly. By the end of the school year, thanks to the generosity of individuals and groups in the community as well as the enthusiasm of the Chapter, bags were sent to those 82 children bi-monthly.

**MERIDIAN, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Meridian, MS is continuing its effort to bring books to local elementary school students. Through a generous grant from the Phil Hardin Foundation, this year the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) project will distribute three books to all second graders in Meridian and Lauderdale County public schools. The aim is to put a book in the hand of every student as a way to spark their interest in reading. The 2015-2016 selections were *Amelia Bedelia Hits the Trail*, *National Geographic Reader Cats versus Dogs*, and *Stellaluna*.

With each distribution, JA members visit the classrooms and read the selection to students. The children are always so excited to know that the book is their very own and that they can take it home. The most recent distribution at Harris Elementary School had even more excitement. JA members, Krilecia Gianakos and Monette Jeter, were joined by representatives from the Phil Hardin Foundation, said the program has a long history. “This is a program we have been funding since we were founded in 1964,” Ward said. “And it’s been one of the greatest programs we’ve ever had in our history. I hope as long as the Junior Auxiliary continues their contribution, they’ll include us in this program.”

**MONTICELLO, AR**

The Junior Auxiliary of Monticello, AR has been working super hard on some very special projects. They recently hosted a bowling night for the local Baptist home for children. The kids were treated to an evening of bowling, eating yummy snacks and enjoying a night of nothing but FUN! They also hosted a new project this year during the Christmas holiday called “Mistletoe Market”. This was an open house event where several local businesses offered amazing discounts to all ticket holders as well as refreshments and giveaways! This was a huge hit and a project the Chapter plans to alternate with their Tour of Homes project.

**NEW ALBANY, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of New Albany, MS held its second annual Charity Ball. This has quickly become one of the largest fundraisers of the Chapter. This year it took place on February 6, 2016 at Oaks Country Club. Through the
PARAGOULD, AR
2015 marked the 20th year for the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould, AR. To celebrate this accomplishment, members hosted the first annual Cheers for Charity. Cheers for Charity is a cocktail attire event where community members join in an evening of food, music, and friends. This event’s main attraction is the Angel Christmas Tree which allows attendees to take home a beautiful ornament for their own tree. Attendees then shop for the child’s Christmas Wish List. The presents are wrapped and given to JA of Paragould. Provisional members are in charge of setting the tree up, tagging of the ornaments, and organizing the management of the tree. This event raised funds for the Chapter’s biggest service project, Christmas Blessing. Christmas Blessing, held in December, is a time for parents to take home Christmas presents while their children play games, eat, and pick out presents for their parents.

ROGERS-BENTONVILLE, AR
Junior Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, AR celebrated National Junior Auxiliary Week by sponsoring a read-a-thon at a local elementary school. The event was called “Be a Reading Superhero” in conjunction with the 2016 AEC theme “Find Your JA Superpower.” To get the students fired up for the week-long reading challenge, Superhero bookmarks and posters, to track each classroom’s progress, were handed out at the school’s Friday afternoon assembly. Two winning classes were chosen (one from K-2; one from 3-5) based on the most books and/or pages read during the week. Their efforts were rewarded with a pizza party hosted by JARB. This school is one of the many that participate in JARB’s service project, Building Literacy, which distributes over 4,000 books to second graders each school year. JARB is dedicated to promoting literacy and was proud to recognize these SUPER READERS!

TIPPITON COUNTY, TN
This past year, the Crown Club girls of the Junior Auxiliary of Tipton County, TN have organized and headed up the Chapter’s “Snack Pack” program. This program services approximately 100 children in Tipton County each week. The snacks are designed to help ensure that these children do not go hungry over the weekend and during school breaks. Each week the girls get together and pack the bags and deliver them to the schools. It had been a struggle to keep the shelves stocked with the necessary items. A few weeks before spring break, the shelves became nearly empty. It was urgent that the Chapter get them stocked or these kids would go over a week without a guaranteed 2 meals a day. A social media campaign was created and it spread like wildfire. Donations began pouring in from businesses and individuals who wanted to help. The kids serviced got extra large bags stuffed right before spring break. These donations have continued for weeks. There was now enough food to continue through the rest of the school year and hopefully through the summer.

TUPELO, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo, MS’s signature project meets the very basic needs of children in Tupelo/Lee County, by providing clothing, shoes, and toiletries to school-age kids twice each year. The project is staffed by all of Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo’s 91 members, creating hands-on opportunities for each member to serve the children of this community. The project accounts for approximately 1,092 Service hours throughout the year and during the 2015-2016 school year, will serve over 300 children. “We serve emergency needs such as house fires and domestic issues where a child may need to leave home without their belongings,” said Machelle Pitcock, JA of Tupelo Vice President of Welfare. School counselors, teachers, nurses, and churches refer children with inadequate clothing to the JA Clothes Closet. Basic wardrobe needs, including shoes and under garments, are provided from the supply of items that are donated or newly purchased.

Each fall, JA of Tupelo members hold a blue jean drive to supplement donated items. The goal is to help children return to school with a more positive outlook by having proper clothing for the school environment.

VICKSBURG, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS’s Provisional Class of 2015-2016 developed Heart to Heart to foster a love for service and community in the hearts of our youth. Often “giving back” conjures ideas of financial giving, a task that is unattainable for many underprivileged youth and often an area in which these youth are on the receiving end. The goal of Heart of Heart was to break the association of charitable giving with monetary donations, and re-associate it with the giving of time, talent, and tenderness of heart. This re-association aids in building confidence and character, thereby endowing these youth with the knowledge that giving is an action, a service, and an outpouring of love. The Provisional class chose to partner with the Girls Club of Vicksburg Family Development Service to develop and implement the first Heart to Heart Service project. Vicksburg Family Development Service is a nonprofit agency focusing on prevention by empowering youth to make positive life choices. Girls Club members range in age from 10-17, and many of them come from single parent homes with limited financial resources. After choosing a youth organization with which to work, Provisional members met to discuss different service opportunities for the girls that would highlight the giving of their time and talents. With February in the near future, a Valentine’s Day celebration for Covenant Dove Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center was the perfect fit. Twelve Girls Club Members collaborated with the entire Provisional class to plan the celebration for 64 residents. Over 75 hours of heartfelt work went into the planning and the day of the event.

WINONA, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Winona, MS recently hosted their first ever “Parents Night Out” on February 26th, 2016. The event brought 18 children from their community ages 5-8 years old. They learned about the importance of internet safety, completed a craft, ate pizza together, and played games. The ladies of Junior Auxiliary had a wonderful time building relationships with these area children and look forward to the next “Parents Night Out” which will be held in late May.
JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF CLEVELAND, MS presented their Voices of Youth project, “A Child’s Dream, an adaptation of “The Nutcracker” on December 4, 2015. There were 2 performances held. A daytime performance was for area schools and a night performance for the community.

Almost 200 local children of all ages were involved in this production. “We hold this performance to provide an opportunity for all children, regardless of socioeconomic status, an opportunity to participate in the arts. So often, only the children who are fortunate to live in families with disposable income are afforded dance classes. By holding ‘A Child’s Dream’ every three years, all Cleveland children are able to have free dance lessons provided by a professional dance instructor — Carla Parker, Life member of JA — costumes, shoes, and the experience of performing on a stage in front of their families,” explained Voices of Youth Chair Melanie Bray. Many of the children involved had never danced before, while others have been taking dance lessons for years.

There was also an art contest associated to the project. The winning entry, by 16 year old Madeline McLaughlin, was featured on the T-shirt and the cover of the program. This is a fun project that takes many, many hours of dedication by everyone involved from the children, their parents, JA members, Mrs. Parker and her studio staff.

PEARLS IN OUR CROWN

CAROLYN HICKS JONES

Active member of JA of Ruston, LA and philanthropist, humanitarian, and entrepreneur Carolyn Hicks Jones wears many hats. Carolyn currently works as a Special Education Teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School and holds a Bachelor’s degree from ULM and three Master’s degrees from Louisiana Tech University. She has written several short stories, and a children’s book “I Shall Have a Chicken”. She has also authored two family involvement programs, Super Tuesday Parental Involvement Program and P.I. Friends (Parents Involved for Rendering in Education Needed Devotional Support). Carolyn is also the founder and CEO of Shield of Faith Outreach Ministries, Inc., and Carolyn’s Creations, Inc. which are non-profit, Christian service ministries of God’s love in action which provide food items and other resources to families in need, etc. She is a member of Life Changers Church. Occasionally, Carolyn enjoys reading, and crappie fishing. She is also the proud mother of three handsome sons; Anthony, Marcus, and Larry and “MeMe” to four beautiful grandchildren; Johann, Noah, I’Leyana, and Nicholas.

VELMA JOHNSON

Velma Johnson, an active member of the Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport, MS, recently was awarded the State Leadership Award for the National Association of Federal Program Administrators. NAFEPA is a support organization for educators who work with federally funded programs in their local school districts and in their state.

Velma is currently the Director of Federal Programs and has been an educator in the Gulfport School District for 17 years.
FIFTY-THREE (53) COMPLETED applications were reviewed by the Scholarship committee. Sixteen (16) semi-finalists were interviewed via telephone. Seven (7) finalists were selected to receive scholarships totaling $37,445.

To date, five hundred and thirty-seven (537) scholarships have been awarded for a total of $1,241,304. The scholarships are awarded to individuals pursuing graduate degrees in fields of study which meet the special needs of children.

The NAJA Scholarship Program is funded through donations from JA Chapters, honorariums, memorials and special gifts. This year sixty-nine percent (69%) of the Chapters have given to the scholarship program. Ninety-one percent (91%) of those Chapters donated at a Crown level. In addition to the contributions to the regular scholarship fund, four percent (4%) of the Betty Robbins Endowed Scholarship was used to provide scholarship monies. The National Scholarship Committee is very thankful to the Robbins family for their continued support of the National Graduate Scholarship program.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Bailey
National Association of Junior Auxiliaries
Scholarship Chairman 2015 - 2016

CROWN SCHOLARSHIP DONATION LEVELS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PLATINUM CROWN ($1,250 and up)</th>
<th>PEARL CROWN ($350-$499)</th>
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<tr>
<td>HANNAH CAMPBELL, JONESBORO, AR</td>
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<td>Winona, MS</td>
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The words of Rita Pierson inspire her daily. Rita states that, “Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”
### DONATIONS
February 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016

#### NAJA FOUNDATION HONORARIUMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Shannon Miller</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Margaret Brooks</td>
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<td>Cherry W. Wheeler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marsha W. Wheeler</td>
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#### MOTHER’S DAY

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<tr>
<td>Ann Cook</td>
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<td>Nancy Ford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norman, Celia, Madison &amp; Mary Daide Ford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monta Hedge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilma &amp; Bob Wilbanks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Montgomery</td>
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<td>Adrian Shipman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitzi Schneider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Springer</td>
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<td>Elizabeth W. Wesse</td>
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<td>Esther Herring</td>
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#### FATHER’S DAY

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<td>Mike Hedge</td>
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#### NAJA 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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<tr>
<td>Lisa Benjamin</td>
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<td>Kathy Dunavant</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Dutton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merrill Greenlee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn Hood</td>
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<td>Julie Springer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhonda Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha W. Wheeler</td>
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#### VALENTINES

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<tr>
<td>Tom &amp; Vondee Carey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alenda Carmichael</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Lukacs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Parkinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Stein</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Darlene Carey</td>
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#### 2015-2016 CELIA FORD & NAJA FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016 NAJA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merrill Greenlee &amp; NAJA Staff</td>
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<td>Londa Lebrun</td>
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<td>Lyn Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicki Pentecost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bob Wilbanks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Rood</td>
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<td>NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Cornerstone Members – Christy Keln &amp; Lyn Patrick</td>
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<td>The Three Amigos ( &amp; Bob)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Team – Lyn Patrick, Vicki Pentecost, Cindye Rood, &amp; Bob Wilbanks</td>
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<td>Celia Ford</td>
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NAJA FOUNDATION MEMORIALS

ANGELA BAUGH  
JOHN CAULEY, SR.  
JA of Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS

VIRGINIA (GINNY) GRAHAM  
Cindy Rood

SHERRY HARMOND  
JA of Columbus, MS

JOY D. MCGREGOR  
Robert S. McGregor

CAROLYN LEVY STEIN  
M. Darlene Carey

MONTE CONNELL  
JA of Tippecanoe Co., TN  
Megan Roberts & Sarah Glenn

ELISABETH MOSLEY  
Ruth Cummings

LESLEY FARRER THREADGILL  
JA of Columbus, MS  
Cindy Rood

LOIS ERIN STANFIELD COWAN  
Merril Greenlee  
Wilma & Bob Wilbanks

BERNICE OVERALL  
HELEN WHITE  
Jen Potts

ADAM TUCK  
Lyn Patrick

MARTHA CLAIRE FITZNER  
ELEANOR SLAUGHTER  
Wilma & Bob Wilbanks

ALEEN JONES ROSALIS  
Linda Henderson

SGT. PATRICK WILLIAMSON  
Debra Miller

NAJA SCHOLARSHIP FUND HONORARIUMS

NAJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
Debbie Bailey

LUANNE GIVENS – NAJA 50TH PRESIDENT (1991-92)  
Angela Pierce

KAREN LEE  
Angela & Andy Pierce  
Missy & Walt Stephens

TOWNES QUERIN  
Bj & Roy Nichols

ANN KATHRYN DUNAVANT  
Kathy Dunavant

NAJA SCHOLARSHIP FUND MEMORIALS

CHERIE BRADFORD  
Codi Bradford

LOIS ERIN STANFIELD COWAN  
NAJA

SUE GILBERT  
PAULINE HERRING  
NOLA ORCUTT  
JOHNNIE PARKERSON  
Amanda Knauer

PAULINE HERRING  
Esther Herring

NELL CARNELL  
Vandy Williams

MAMA DOT  
Noel Howe

ROBERTS TRIPLITS  
Noel Howe

CAPT. DOLPHUS CARTER  
JOSEPH A. TOCHE, JR.  
JA of Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS

JOYCE FREUDENBERG  
Missy, Walt & Rob Stephens

SHERRY HARMOND  
NAJA  
Beth Holbert  
Amanda Knauer

NAJA HEADQUARTERS HONORARIUMS

NAJA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Beth Holbert

NAJA STAFF  
Ann Kathryn Dunavant

NAJA HEADQUARTERS MEMORIALS

ALICE CARR  
JA of Columbus, MS

TONI KIRBY  
Dale Smith
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One Product at a Time

Conserving Water
Nurturing Trees
No Chemicals. Then or Now.

Products that Protect.

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DeWitt provides a line of eco-friendly products to support healthy root growth.

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