Faces of NAJA
NAJA FOUNDATION
2019-2020 ANNUAL FUND
Supporting and Sustaining the Programs and Services of Junior Auxiliary

GPS
GRATITUDE • PASSION • SERVICE
Leading with Clear Vision; Giving Toward Our Goal

Donations to the Foundation Provide:
- AEC Grants
- National Focus Project Grants
- New Provisional Chapter Grants
- AEC Speakers & Workshops
- National Service Project Grants
- Chapter Resources
- Administrative Tools

How You Can Help:
- Pledges
- Honorariums
- Memorials
- Annual Gifts
- Recurring Gifts
- Bequests

Annual Fund Gifts can be mailed to:
NAJA Foundation
PO Box 1873
Greenville, MS 38702
or visit www.najanet.org for more information
If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there. It is my desire that all NAJA Members always know their true North as it relates to their JA work. If you set out on a trip, with a planned destination, half of the obstacles are already hurdled. If, on the other hand, you leave your driveway without an idea of where you are going, you are almost guaranteed not to arrive as scheduled.

My goal is that with everything JA, our members will remember that we have Gratitude every day that we touch a life to improve a situation. It’s not that I “have to go work a JA project”, but more that “I get to work a JA project”. This verbalization of our ability to do so carries forward to more than the people we interact with – it also touches/shapes our ability to attract Sponsors, impact our Finances, and our ability to recruit new JA members. No one wants to join a group where you “have to” but flourishing volunteer groups cannot enroll all of the potential members where the culture is “get to”.

All of us do a more thorough job if we are Passionate about the subject at hand. Can I unload a dishwasher – sure I can, but I can guarantee that my passion does not lie in that area (or folding laundry if I am being honest). At times we may be assigned a JA project that doesn’t seem as exciting as others, only to find we truly develop a keen interest and passion for it. That is exactly what happened in my Active service with car seats. You see, Bill Harmon (husband) and I do not have any human offspring and neither cats nor chickens (our dependants) require legally mandated car restraints. When I was assigned to this project, I could have given you 30 reasons why “it’s not for me”. Somewhere between “you are serving on the car seat project” and the completion of that project, my passion for the lives saved by properly installed car seats ballooned. Sometime Passion blooms where you least expect it to.

Service is how we as JA members accomplish all the good we do. I delight in reading about all of your projects on FaceBook. Your creativeness, ability to overcome obstacles and sticktoitiveness is AMAZING. Should you have a bad day (everyone does sooner or later), you need only to look at the NAJA FaceBook page and read about all of the lives you have changed for the good! I have great joy in visiting your Chapter service and financial projects to see these first hand! As many Life members will attest, those lives you touch today will have decades of impact.

If we set our GPS before embarking on our JA work, we can be Grateful that we “get to” explore our Passion while performing Service for our communities.
ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE THIS YEAR WAS TO SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MANY AMAZING MEMBERS. WE WANTED THOSE COMPPELLING STORIES OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TO BE TOLD, AND WHO BETTER TO TELL THOSE STORIES THAN THE CHAPTERS THEMSELVES? THE IDEA OF A CONTEST BEGAN, AND CHAPTERS WERE INVITED TO NOMINATE ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS AND DESCRIBE HER EFFORTS IN 100 WORDS OR LESS. CHAPTERS FROM ALL OVER WERE EXCITED TO TELL US ABOUT THE HEROES WITH WHOM THEY SERVE. WE’LL FEATURE EACH ONE OF THOSE STORIES ON FACEBOOK FOR #FACESOFNAJAFRIDAYS. FOR NOW, THOUGH, WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE OUR FACES OF NAJA CONTEST WINNERS WITH YOU!

POPULATION 15,000 – 29,999 WINNER

**Hayley Corder**
JA OF COLUMBUS, MS
JOINED 2017

Upon first glance of Active member Hayley Corder, you will notice her bright smile and courageous spirit. Little would you know the road she has travelled to be where she is today. From the moment Hayley began her time with JA, she has been the stronghold while her husband fought and won the battle over cancer in 2017-2018. She herself underwent back surgery in 2019, all while contributing 80+ hours of service work this year. Always armored with faith and positive attitude, Junior Auxiliary of Columbus is extremely lucky to have her as both a member and model of strength.

POPULATION UNDER 15,000 WINNER

**Nikki Daniels**
JA OF HARRISON, AR
JOINED 2015

Serving a second term as Chapter President, never missing a JA function, quietly stepping up to help neighbors in need, and providing fierce leadership that inspires us all describes our sister in service, Nikki Daniels. Nikki’s optimism and rock-solid faith as she endures some of life’s greatest trials like her five-year-old grandson battling cancer, work demands, pouring into her marriage, building up friends, and working tirelessly to rebuild our chapter makes her our Wonder Woman. This lady who gives without question and serves without expectation is the very essence of what Junior Auxiliary stands for.

POPULATION 30,000 & ABOVE WINNER

**Holley Cochran**
JA OF JONESBORO, AR
JOINED 2016

Holley Cochran was diagnosed in 2017 with breast cancer, and took leave from JA to focus on her health. Holley endured 36 chemotherapy treatments over 8 months, and underwent a double mastectomy in 2018. Now healthy, Holley has jumped back in to JA and serves with Kickstart Kindergarten and Consolidated Youth Services projects. She also filled a recently vacated board position. To sum up in Holley’s words, “Community service is a fundamental aspect of JA, but I have also felt our Chapter’s love and support on a deep personal level. I’m proud to serve alongside such a giving Chapter:”
JOIN US IN MOBILE JUNE 5-7
IT’S ALL ABOUT VISION

Make plans now to attend the 79th Annual Education Conference in the historic and fun-loving gulf city of Mobile, Alabama! Reserve an extra day to stroll with your Chapter Members down Dauphin Street which boasts enough restaurants, museums, and bars to keep you entertained all weekend long. Thoughts of Mobile usually begin and end with images of its iconic tunnel and the enormous warship in the bay, but this quaint city has more jewels in its crown than the beaches ahead.

AEC 2020 will be a celebration of you, the JA member and the service projects that brought to life President Darlene Carey’s theme, “Clearness of Vision: Gratitude, Passion and Service”.

The NAJA Education Committee has worked diligently to put together a great program with fabulous speakers to enhance the lives of our members and workshops to help you excel in your communities.

AEC in Mobile will begin with Plenary Session on Friday at 5:00 PM and conclude with the Business Meeting on Sunday morning. Wear your Chapter’s approved service attire on Friday to Plenary Session for a service attire fashion show as we travel through time from the 40’s to the future!

Prepare to be entertained and motivated by speaker Mark Linquist, who is a United States Air Force and Afghanistan War veteran. He has also appeared in ABC’s Lost, CBS’s Hawaii Five-O, and the Universal Studios movie Battleship.

We are bringing you great shopping at the Galleria and NAJA Store as well as the NAJA Foundation’s annual raffle. Returning this year is the NAJA Foundation “Wine Pull”. The Foundation will once again host a cash bar from 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM on Saturday giving you the opportunity to “Sip & Shop” the NAJA Foundation Raffle and try your luck at the Wine Pull.

We are excited to include in your registration the scholarship luncheon in addition to the awards banquet on Saturday evening.

Show off your sparkle at the Saturday evening banquet by revealing that invisible crown you wear every day! “With a crown and a little confidence, we could change the world.”

Make your hotel reservations now. The reservation link for NAJAs group block at Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel can be found on the NAJA website under EVENTS. The deadline for registering and making reservations is May 1, 2020.

Spread the word within your Chapter about the Conference and let your AEC chairperson know you want to participate.

Can’t wait to see you in Mobile! You don’t want to miss it!

For more information about AEC 2020, the schedule, volunteering or bag donations email, call or text NAJA 2nd Vice President Jeannie Tinker at najasecondvp@gmail.com or 318-243-3386.
10:30AM TO 11:45AM
MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY/PR
WORKSHOP
CC - Room 203 A

10:30AM TO 11:45AM
RECORDING SECRETARY WORKSHOP
CC - Room 203 B

10:30AM TO 11:45AM
TREASURERS WORKSHOP
CC - Room 202 A

10:30AM TO 11:45AM
FIRST YEAR ACTIVE MEMBERS WORKSHOP
CC - Room 107 A & B

10:30AM TO 11:45AM
CONFLICT RESOLUTION WORKSHOP
CC - Room 106 A & B

12:00PM TO 1:30PM
SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON/AWARDS
PART 1
Bon Secour I, II, III - Ballroom

2:00PM TO 3:15PM
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
CC - Room 204 A & B

2:00PM TO 3:15PM
NATIONAL FOCUS PRESENTATION
WORKSHOP
CC - Room 201 A & B

3:30PM TO 4:45PM
CHILD WELFARE WORKSHOP
CC - Room 201 A & B

Mark J. Lindquist
Mark J. Lindquist is a nationally recognized motivational speaker and world-touring entertainer who has performed live for over 3 million people in 22 countries and 44 states throughout his career. He is also the author of the books, “Passion! 8 Steps to Reignite Yours” and “Service, My Way of Life.”

As an actor, he has appeared in ABC’s LOST, CBS’ Hawaii Five-O and the Universal Studios movie “Battleship.” He has performed for Grammy winning artists, Academy Award nominated actors, and foreign dignitaries around the world as well as staffers at the White House.

Mark is a former Sergeant in the United States Air Force and an Afghanistan War Veteran who currently lives in Fargo, North Dakota. Information on his company can be found at www.MarkJLindquist.com

FINANCE PROJECT WORKSHOP - A ROAD-MAP TO SUCCESSFUL FINANCE PROJECTS
If your chapter needs new ideas for Finance projects, this workshop is for you! This session will provide chapters with a variety of Finance project ideas; some that require much effort and some that require minimal effort. You will leave with ideas on how to engage your community partners to garner more financial support, grant writing tips and how to market the Finance project for maximum exposure.

CHILD WELFARE WORKSHOP- SERVING WITH PASSION
The focus of this session will be to encourage new and exciting Child Welfare project ideas. This chapter-led workshop will educate attendees about what makes a successful Child Welfare project and how to tailor it to meet the needs of your community. No doubt you will leave inspired!
3:30PM TO 4:45PM
AWARDS APPLICATION/NAJA GRANTS WORKSHOP
CC - Room 201 C & D

3:30PM TO 5:30PM
PRESIDENT’S WORKSHOP
CC - Room 204 A & B

3:30PM TO 5:00PM
“SET YOUR CHAPTERS FINANCIAL GPS WITH QUICKBOOKS”
CC - Room 202 B; Convention Center
APPOINTMENT ONLY

4:00PM TO 7:00PM
SIP AND SHOP
SPONSORED BY THE NAJA FOUNDATION
Mobile Bay Ballroom foyer/Preconvene Deck 2

7:15PM TO 9:15PM
“CROWNS” AWARDS BANQUET PART II
Bon Secour Bay I,II, III - Ballroom

SUNDAY | JUNE 7

8:00AM TO 9:00AM
BREAKFAST/CASH CONCESSIONS
Preconvene Deck 2

8:00AM TO 9:00AM
FOUNDATION RAFFLE AND WINE PULL
PICK UP ITEMS WON
Mobile Bay Ballroom

8:30AM TO 9:00AM
BUSINESS MEETING CHECK-IN
CC- Prefunction Area

9:15AM TO 10:30AM
BUSINESS MEETING
CC 201 - ABCD

9:15AM TO 10:30AM
SERVICE PROJECT
LISOWE’S LIGHTS
CC - Room 202 A & B

11:00AM
CHECK OUT OF HOTEL BY 11

NAVIGATING CONFLICT RESOLUTION + TEAMBUILDING
Back by popular demand! Join us for a very informative workshop where you will learn how to navigate difficult conversations with the best possible outcome. By understanding different personalities we can better communicate our needs and expectations to one another. This workshop will provide practical examples of how to work better as a team while respecting our differences.

Amy Hannon

Amy Hannon is a preacher’s wife, a mom of three, and the girl behind an expansive hospitality brand. She owns Euna Mae’s, a one-of-a-kind kitchen shop and gathering room named after her grandmother. It’s a special place to locals and has become a destination for many near and far. In addition to her brick – and – mortar, Amy is the heart of a broad media platform that has included a daily cooking show on Northwest Arkansas’ NBC affiliate, a food blog, a cookbook, partnerships with national brands, and an engaging social media. You can follow her at @EunaMae on Instagram and Facebook where she and her followers have a lot of interactive fun! Amy uses every opportunity — whether hosting events, speaking to groups, visiting inside her store, in her book, or on social media — to share a message of simple, Biblical hospitality. Amy’s infectious personality and love for Jesus and the table are inspiring households from coast to coast to embrace the Love. Welcome. Serve™ message of intentional kitchening.
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES HAS BENEFITED FROM THE WORK AND PASSION OF MANY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1941, but none have made a more seismic difference on behalf of our beloved Association than Vicki Pentecost of the Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, Mississippi.

While Vicki served most proficiently as both NAJA President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NAJA Foundation, as well as numerous other volunteer positions, this service scarcely scratches the surface of the depth and breadth of her considerable contributions to NAJA.

While you may not be aware of it, which is her intention, every member of Junior Auxiliary for well over twenty-five years has been touched by Vicki’s generosity and extraordinary talent. An accomplished professional artist and specialist in the art of illuminative script with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from MUW, Vicki has designed a vast array of certificates, awards, and logos on behalf of NAJA, including the Life Member certificate, all of the current NAJA awards, the Chapter Charter, and the NAJA President and past NAJA representative certificates. Her innumerable signs and posters are always an elegant addition at every NAJA Convention. In addition, Vicki designed the NAJA Foundation logo, and crafted the Foundation pin. Her original designs have graced every Foundation annual campaign from 2001 to 2018, and the NAJA Christmas and special occasion cards, crown notecards, and five Annual Donor recognition crown prints, are all products of her limitless creative genius. As an auction item many years ago, Vicki painted a stunning NAJA Prayer canvas. This iconic image continues to be reproduced for members in giclee and notecards. A full complement of crown-themed notes, also created from original Vicki Pentecost sketches, continue to benefit the NAJA Foundation.

Vicki grew up from childhood with a deep love of Junior Auxiliary, accompanying her mother, past NAJA President Jacquie Turner, on service project assignments for the Junior Auxiliary of Greenville. She lives a life devoted to the service of others, and vigorously avoids recognition or attention for her many accomplishments and contributions.

Fellow volunteers admire Vicki for her uncompromised integrity, her calm, quiet voice of reason, and her implacable commitment to truth and honesty. For someone whose calligraphy can be found on every award certificate presented in almost three decades including her own Betty Robbins Volunteer of the Year award, Vicki prefers working behind the scenes, in anonymity, among her longtime friends.

With such enormous artistic talent, a penchant for organizational excellence, and the deep humility of a true servant’s heart, Vicki Pentecost has mastered the fine art of giving.
National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.

Betty W. Robbins
Volunteer of the Year
Region

Celebrating 75 years of Service
1941-2016

Life Membership
presented to

National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.

[Image of a certificate with elaborate design and text]

[Image of a crown with intricate designs]

[Image of a certificate with elaborate design and text]

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Join Me

RUTH CUMMINS
JA of Clinton, Mississippi

WHY I GIVE - ELISABETH MOSLEY, A MULTI-TALENTED CHILD AND PRACTICAL JOKER WHO HAD A LOVING SPIRIT AND GENEROUS HEART.

Elisabeth was in my daughter Meg’s grade. She was bright, creative, caring, an animal lover, a book lover. She was fiercely loyal to her friends and passionate about helping others.

Say the name Elisabeth Mosley to her peers and teachers, and the vision of a multi-talented child would pop up: Practical joker who drew caricatures of teachers and principals and kept her classmates in stitches.

Gifted student and budding videographer who, just a week before her death, was

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF CLINTON has many members who work in fields that have a direct impact on children. These members already have a special place in their heart for children and go above and beyond their calling at their job and in their volunteer work. The Junior Auxiliary of Clinton would like to shine a spotlight on one of its members who was recently appointed to a special position in the state of Mississippi. Dr. Micca Knox, who serves as the lead for the state Early Child Academies, has been appointed to serve as the Executive Director for the State Early Childhood Advisory Council by Governor Phil Bryant. She is a year one active member. The Junior Auxiliary of Clinton would like to congratulate Dr. Micca Knox on this great accomplishment and for her continued Service to the children of Mississippi.

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EVERY YEAR, SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR, I TAKE MY BATSON CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL VISA OUT OF THE PURSE MY DAUGHTER GAVE ME FOR CHRISTMAS AND DONATE TO THE NAJA FOUNDATION.

For more than a decade, it’s always been one “in memory of” and one “in honor of.” I donate in memory of Elisabeth Mosley, a former Crown Club member who left us way too soon. I donate in honor of her mom, former Junior Auxiliary of Clinton president Teresa Mosley.

DR. MICCA KNOX
JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF CLINTON ACTIVE SPOTLIGHT

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a hard-working and empathetic volunteer at Eastside Elementary’s Camp Invention. Cross-country runner, nature buff, and gentle friend of animals and reptiles.

She was, Teresa remembered, the most unprejudiced person she knew, a girl loyal to her friends and gifted with an amazing sense of humor.

And Elisabeth, like many teens both diagnosed and undiagnosed, had mental health challenges. She was diagnosed with anxiety in seventh grade, followed by depression. She pushed it deep inside, hiding it from her friends as she eventually went on medications.

The start of ninth grade was especially rough for Elisabeth. It was a time for teenage angst, but for a child already suffering from depression and anxiety, it was excruciating. And then, Elisabeth changed toward the end of the school year. She was happier and seemed to have turned a corner.

She was accepted into the Junior Auxiliary of Clinton’s Crown Club, and attended her first meeting as a member not long after the school year ended. She was on go to take part in “JA Jump Start,” an early childhood education service project newly created by Teresa that would kick off that summer.

In retrospect, Teresa wonders if the relief Elisabeth was feeling was actually because she’d made the decision to end her life. She gave away cherished CDs. She asked an old friend to spend the night. She began to get her affairs in order.

The night she died, Elisabeth watched a movie at home with her mom, dad and little sister; they’d planned a girls’ shopping trip for the next day. Then, she kissed Teresa goodnight and went upstairs to her room.

It was June 13, 2006. Elisabeth had just turned 15.

Even in her anguish, her despair and her immeasurable loss, Teresa Mosley vowed her daughter’s death would not be in vain. The career educator works tirelessly to teach parents and the community about the signs and symptoms of depression and anxiety that can lead a young person to take their life. I believe with all my heart that Teresa has saved lives by sharing her story and offering support to so many people in pain.

By giving to the NAJA Foundation, I honor Teresa, a treasure to Junior Auxiliary and one of my role models as I strive to be a servant leader. I honor and remember Elisabeth, the little girl with the pixie haircut who played with Meg and thrived in the Clinton district’s gifted education program.

Every time I give, Teresa receives an acknowledgement from Headquarters. Then, she sends me a handwritten note, thanking me for remembering her firstborn with a gift to an organization we both cherish. I keep her notes on my refrigerator. There are many of them.

Like her mom, Elisabeth had such a loving spirit and generous heart. They are why I give to the Foundation, and I encourage you to “join me.” They have forever touched my life. 😍

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BY GIVING TO THE NAJA FOUNDATION, I HONOR ELISABETH’S MOTHER TERESA, A TREASURE TO THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY.
The Crownlet

THIS YEAR MARKED HISTORIC FLOODING IN YELL COUNTY LIKE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. The swollen Arkansas River ripped through a 40-foot section of a levee prompting flash-flooding and evacuations in rural areas around Dardanelle and Holla Bend.

Mayor Jimmy Witt of Dardanelle called on town residents to begin immediate sandbagging operations.

Never before has a service organization been so needed in the River Valley than at this time in history, and the Junior Auxiliary of Yell County was there to answer the call. The sisters of JA rolled up their sleeves and went to work, assisting with flood efforts by shoveling sandbags and providing displaced community members with a place to sleep, warm showers, and hot meals. These efforts resulted in record Service hours and membership involvement as the sisters of JAYC worked to provide the much-needed aid in the community.

Once the water had receded, a celebration entitled “Flood Fest” was hosted by the City of Dardanelle to celebrate the joint efforts of service by the Yell County community during such a devastating time. The sisters of JAYC joined in the celebration by providing free face painting to children of all ages, transforming eager smiles into tigers, superheroes, and so much more!

Lani Tarr and Torri Corrao of Junior Auxiliary of Houma were recognized by Girls on the Run International for their outstanding volunteer service as running coaches for the Hooper Dorm, a local children’s home for girls. They are two out of only sixteen women in the world to receive the award. They have organized practices, offered support and exercise advice, and coordinated buddy runners with membership over the last year. Tarr’s career embodies her passion for working with our community’s youth at Louisiana Families in Need of Services Association. The organization focuses on assisting children who have been identified as crime offenders and ensures they have access to services that deter them from more serious offenses. Corrao is a registered nurse at Terrebonne General Medical Center and is praised among her peers for treating patients like family. Their efforts are in conjunction with Junior Auxiliary of Houma’s Peace, Love, and Sisterhood service project. The purpose of the project is to create activities that support self-esteem and mutual respect for the girls.

Tip of the Crown

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF YELL COUNTY, AR

Lani Tarr & Torri Corrao
PEARLS IN OUR CROWN
Many families of Yell County will face the damage to their homes and crops for years to come, but they will never forget the efforts made or the outpouring of love by the sisters of JAYC.

The words of the JA prayer became flesh during the great flood of 2019. God truly endowed these ladies with cheerful love so that they could minister to the suffering and forlorn. He sent them as messengers to the hearts without a home. This new Chapter has become a means through which God’s grace and love abound.

The historic flooding in Yell County proved how important the efforts of Junior Auxiliary Chapters are to their communities. To God be the glory for their efforts, which provided a sisterhood of Service and love for the Yell County community when it was needed most, and may they continue to be his hands and feet as JA of Yell County grows in love and Service to all in need.

JAYC MEMBERS PROVIDED A SISTERHOOD OF SERVICE AND LOVE FOR THE YELL COUNTY COMMUNITY WHEN IT WAS NEEDED MOST.

AMANDA PIDGEON IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF HANCOCK COUNTY, CURRENTLY SERVING AS RECORDING SECRETARY.

Amanda is a native of Hancock County, Mississippi where she graduated from Hancock High School in 2002. After earning her degree in Secondary English Education from Southern Miss in 2006, she returned to Hancock County School District where she has been teaching high school English for 12 years. She earned her Master’s in English from Southern New Hampshire University in 2017.

In her tenure at Hancock High, Pidgeon has taught English I, II, III, and IV as well as Dual Credit English Composition through Pearl River Community College and Advanced Placement Literature and Language. She also sponsors Hancock High School Beta Club and Hancock’s National English Honor Society.

For her efforts, Pidgeon was Hancock High School’s Teacher of the Year in 2008 - 2009, and she was named HHS STAR Teacher in 2017. She currently serves as Mississippi’s State Beta Club Sponsor - Elect, a position she previously held in 2008. She is also a member of the Mississippi Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Council.

Recently, Amanda has again won several prestigious awards. Amanda has been named Mississippi’s College Board Rural Educator of the Year. This award is presented by National Rural Educators of America through a generous endowment from the College Board as part of their expanding commitment to rural students nationwide. This award is meant to recognize educators who have continuous and directed efforts to create educational excellence and achievements in the rural school districts in which they work.

She’s also submitted and won a $1300 Pat Santucci Grant. She wrote the grant to fund a bioethics research project for her senior English students. With the $1300, she’ll receive a classroom set of Never Let Me Go novels, research materials, and at least one chromebook. The project is called “A Literary Investigation of Bioethics and Humanity.” The Pat Santucci Education Fund supports projects that impact public education and also special education in Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Stone, Pearl River and George County School Districts.

Further, Amanda was the winner of the Christie Fountain Advertising Creative Teacher Award and she received $250. This award is given to creative teachers to boost their budget for classroom supplies.

Amanda lives with her husband, Ryan, and five year old son Jesse in the Diamondhead community.

Junior Auxiliary of Hancock County is beyond proud that Amanda is part of our chapter and we look forward to continuing changing lives of children in our county.

Amanda Lovelace Pidgeon
PEARLS IN OUR CROWN
ABBEVILLE | LA
The ladies of Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville provided their service area of Vermilion Parish with its very own pumpkin patch entitled Fall Fete during the month of October. What started as a small idea and vision turned into a community event. The event grounds were filled with over 400 assorted pumpkins, a dunking booth, train rides, face painting, fall plants for purchase, games and a silent auction throughout the day. A variety of food booths were located across the event, along with live music to enjoy. Vendor booths showcasing specialty items finished off the day.
JA of Abbeville is grateful for the community support for this event. Over 35 sponsorships were received to increase the success of Fall Fete and volunteers from across the Parish came to assist throughout the day. Members were beyond pleased to be able to provide a family activity for the community and were in awe at the number of families that were in attendance and the smiles on so many faces. It’s easy to say that the members, even though they were working hard to ensure everyone’s enjoyment at the event, had just as good of a time as the children!

The Abbeville Chapter would like to recognize the hard-working Fall Fete Committee who gave countless hours to the success of this large project: Chairmen Ashlynn Broussard and Shannon Dubois, Brittany Guidry, Allie Hargrave, Hope Cleveland, Beverly Lege, Emily Trevino, Falon Broussard, Jamie Bufford, and Tanya Istre. Learn more and view photos by visiting our Facebook Page Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville and Instagram @jaofabbeville.

BILOXI-OCEAN SPRINGS | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs’s project, Community Connection, focuses on meeting the needs of the community through partnerships with schools, non-profits, governmental agencies, and other agencies. On August 3, JABOS’s Community Connection project teamed up with Feeding the Gulf Coast, CDC Eat Well Be Active, Society of St. Andrew-MS, and Rouses Markets to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to over 500 families along the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. “We’ve got an abundance of vegetables and dry goods. We are quite happy with this and I thank everyone so much,” said recipient Maxine Murphy. Junior Auxiliary members showed up at 8AM and unloaded pallets of fresh fruit, vegetables and dry goods from an 18-wheeler. Team members then organized the supplies and passed out materials to over 500 families until 12PM that day. “Just a simple impact of us literally putting produce in a bag and that’s going to help somebody, help feed their families, that’s a huge mission. I’m glad I could help. It’s very impactful,” said Jessica King, member of Community Connection.

One out of five Mississippians struggles with hunger, which is a significant obstacle to improving population health. “They’re very thankful. They said this is definitely going to help their family, so I’m glad we were able to provide produce and different products for them and their household,” said Karisma Slusher with Feeding the Gulf Coast.

BROOKHAVEN | MS
On September 21st, Junior Auxiliary of Brookhaven’s Provisional class hosted Girls on the Rise, which
physical activity combines dancing and cardio, which allowed the girls to engage in a fun method of exercise. Following the Zumba class, a healthful snack was provided. A yogurt parfait bar was set up for the girls, who were encouraged to make healthy decisions like choosing yogurt for a snack instead of chips or candy. Besides collecting cereal throughout the town through partnership with JA community sponsors, including our local police station, fire station, mayor, and local businesses, the Chapter also donates $500.00 worth of cereal. This year the JA of Cabot collected 2,758 boxes as a whole. THV Channel 11 and the Arkansas Food Bank recognized the Junior Auxiliary of Cabot this year for their large contribution. The Chapter was even recognized on TV for getting 2nd throughout all of Arkansas in the nonprofit category!

CLEVELAND | TN
The Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, TN hosted The Melissa Huggins-Jones Have a Heart, Give a Sole 5K Walk/Run on March 16, 2019 for the 7th year. The 5k walk/run was created to help raise money to provide new shoes for children in need to local elementary, middle, and high school students. The project allows the JA of Cleveland to plan and participate the event, work with local companies and school guidance counselors, and personally deliver shoes to the students. In 2019 over 80 runners/walkers participated and over 100 pairs of shoes were given. “This is the best day ever!” “I love my new shoes!” “I can run so fast with my new shoes!” “My shoes are sparkly, and I love them!” are some of the responses that were heard when students received their new pair of shoes. Provisional member Melissa
Huggins-Jones was a driving force with the success of this project in its first year. Friend and JA member Lucy Rymer remembers her diligence: “She had a passion for the youth of our community, which was evident in her commitment to this project, other philanthropic endeavors, and most importantly through the love she gave her own children. Melissa had a compassionate heart, and always went the extra mile for those in need.” A couple of months after the completion of the race, Melissa Huggins-Jones tragically passed. In 2019, Melissa’s parents attended and were grateful to see their daughter honored in a project about which she was so passionate.

**CLINTON | MS**

The Junior Auxiliary of Clinton serves the children of the Clinton area by implementing their many service projects. One service project in particular is Eye Spy. Eye Spy provides students in the local area with vision screening and referrals to an eye care professional when needed. JA of Clinton works with Clinton Public Schools and Clinton Christian Academy to screen over 1,400 students. The Junior Auxiliary of Clinton also works to partner with local optometrists. Many principals, teachers, and parents have shown appreciation to this service because of its direct impact on the children by addressing the potential eye care needs that arise in each child. Also, several members of the Junior Auxiliary of Clinton consider this service project as their favorite and enjoy spending time with the students while conducting the vision screening.

**COLLIERVILLE | TN**

In collaboration with the Collierville Connected Neighborhood Resource Center, the Junior Auxiliary of Collierville developed the Preschool Readiness program. Birth to age five are the most crucial years of development for a child, so we felt a need to educate the community on the importance of reading to children and providing other helpful tools to ensure success in their child’s educational experience. The program offers free assistance to parents and guardians by providing the tools they need for their child to be prepared for preschool and kindergarten. Preschool Readiness was designed to serve members in the community that do not have the financial means to pay for preschool or are unable to enroll due to limited spaces in similar programs in the area. The Resource Center arranged speakers and information to be covered in the 4-part series. While the caregivers attended the series and received training, JAC members provided a safe space for children age birth-5 years to learn and grow. To ensure safety, each volunteer completed the Safe Sanctuary training program provided by local churches affiliated with Collierville Connected. Success with the children’s portion of the program is attributed to JAC members Jenna Black (Early Childhood Special Education Teacher) and Victoria Shreiber (Speech and Language Pathologist). We utilized their professional backgrounds to provide the parents with insight into their child’s development through a short evaluation process. The evaluation process for this series focused on speech and fine motor skills. We hope to add more areas in the future. The program was a huge success, with a full enrollment and plenty of positive feedback. Representatives from the school system described the new project as “nothing like it” in our community. With the outstanding results and appreciation for this new project, JAC and Collierville Connected have plans to implement another Preschool Readiness series in the spring.

**COLUMBUS | MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Columbus is fortunate to have a private, centrally located facility providing both meeting and office space for members. It also has a fully stocked warehouse supplied with attire for children of all ages and sizes, including school uniforms. Traditionally, appointments are made in response to clothing needs identified by school counselors and scheduled well in advance so that members may accommodate the schedules of parents and caregivers. Children are fitted in private fitting rooms and provided multiple outfits, socks, underwear, belts, jackets, and hygiene bags. Every member of the Chapter participates in this welfare project as both clothiers and shoppers, staffing regular work days for restocking and organization. 

On February 23, 2019, an EF3 tornado roared through Lowndes County, Mississippi, with a devastating path of destruction through the City of Columbus. President Donald Trump declared Lowndes, along with six other counties, federal disaster areas in response to the tornado and subsequent flooding. Significant damage was sustained to 275 homes, 38 businesses and 9 public buildings, including $9.3M in damages to public amenities. Through both community and school partnerships, our Welfare Committee was able to step in and support local children through the resources of our clothing room. The committee worked diligently to maintain supplies while all Active members, together with the assistance of several Associate and Life members, moved to action to support the immediate need of the community. During the 2018-2019 year, JA Columbus clothed a total of 540 children, including 443 through regular clothing appointments and 107 under In-depth, providing extensive needs to those with emergent losses and sudden dire situations. In response to the tornado, 73 of those children were
clothed in less than one month. JA Columbus was able to assist these families in returning to some sense of normalcy in very quick response to the devastation. To this day, restoration efforts are ongoing which serves as a reminder of just how quickly the need can arise. JA Columbus is beyond thankful to our community for the continued support that enables our members to assist in recovery efforts and make a lasting difference in a child’s life.

CORINTH | MS
On October 12th, 2019, members from Junior Auxiliary of Corinth, MS set up tailgate tents at the entrances of our local Walmart to collect donations of new coats. Acknowledging that we have a larger need than ever in our area, paired with an always tightening budget in order to spread the love with other projects, we felt that it would benefit the welfare of our area children if we hosted a coat drive. JA members were present, helping the community by telling our “why” to anyone who might be interested during the daily hustle and bustle of a trip to Walmart. What a heartwarming success it was! It turned out to be a chilly day, which was perfect for planting the seed of how important these coat donations are to the children who need them. One young girl donated the money she got from the tooth fairy, and another lady commented that she tries to help JA every time she can, because she remembers JA helping her family when she was young. Families, community, and JA supporters alike showed up in droves with coat and monetary donations, along with great conversation which brought awareness of other JA projects. Over 100 new coats were donated, along with money to use toward additional coat needs! It’s always fun and refreshing to get out from behind the “desk” of the planning and paperwork and get to experience the love and generosity of our community. Based on the success and further interest in our projects, this may become an annual event that our Chapter works to make larger each year.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS | MS
On October 19, 2019 the Junior Auxiliary of Crystal Springs, MS celebrated 55 years of service. To mark the occasion, a member luncheon was hosted where founding members June Hennington, Ann Gulledge, and Joyce Carney were honored. Along with honoring founding members, past Presidents were also recognized and given a beautiful white long-stemmed rose. The Junior Auxiliary of Crystal Springs has served Copiah County through projects such as Swimming Lessons, Angel Tree, and an annual dance for the special needs children and adults at the Mississippi Toughest Kids Foundation. Also important is fundraising for these projects through our annual Street Party that kicks off the community Tomato Festival weekend. The project that the Junior Auxiliary of Crystal Springs is most proud of is our annual Swim Lessons, which was started 55 years ago. The swimming lessons are held for 2 weeks each summer and help children in the community learn how to swim or at least learn how to be comfortable in the water. Lessons start at level 1 and go to life-saving techniques. Many children in the community have grown up going to swim lessons year after year, and have gone on to complete lifeguard training. They now serve as certified lifeguards for the swim lessons.

Dyer County, TN
The Junior Auxiliary of Crystal Springs would like to thank all of the NAJA members and each Chapter for their continued love and support. We would not have made it 55 years without everyone’s hard work and tireless efforts.

DYER COUNTY | TN
Junior Auxiliary of Dyer County has partnered with our local Department of Children’s Services to serve a major need within the community: children in foster care. The office serves over 200 children within foster care each year. Many children who go into foster care enter with little to no belongings. The few belongings they may have are stuffed in a black garbage bag upon removal from their home. Often times, these children are unaware of what is truly happening and cling to anything they can for comfort. Junior Auxiliary of Dyer County has made it our mission that every child who enters the foster care system will receive a Journey Bag to help ease the transition into their new placement. Journey Bags consist of a backpack stuffed full of age appropriate needs and comforts such as toiletries, blankets and pillows, stuffed animals, and activity books. These Journey Bags are theirs to keep as they journey through the foster care system. We hope through Project Journey Bags, children in foster care know they are valued, loved, and prayed for daily. Each Journey Bag is labeled with love from Junior Auxiliary of Dyer County, in keeping with this ideal: “We do not need to know the beginning of a child’s story to change the ending.”

EASTERN SHORE | AL
JAES is in their second active year of their Child Welfare project – JAES Crown Cards. This program launched its first year in 2018, and has grown by leaps and bounds! Through this project JAES members are pen pals with local 4th grade girls at Silverhill Elementary. The program is ongoing for the school year and allows our member and their young lady to form a mentor relationship via writing. While our first year was very successful, we knew there were some areas in which we could do better. Keeping those areas in mind, our Crown Cards committee was formed and we have been able to grow this project in ways we never expected.

We have added around 10 additional girls that were wanting to participate this year, bringing us to 25 students to whom we write each month. We were able to put together a specialized pen pal box for each girl that consisted of note cards and stamped envelopes, fun colored pens, pencils, an eraser, stickers, hair ties, and some extra treats that helped to make each one feel special and a little more loved. Each box also contained a specialized note asking that girl to be a pen pal for the year. The boxes were hand-delivered in early September to kick-start our project. Each month as our JAES members write to their girls, they are encouraged to try and tie in something that may be of value in growing well-rounded, service-hearted, beautiful young women.

October was National Anti-Bullying Month, and each member was encouraged to include resources that the Crown Card Chair put together that complimented this theme. Each member challenged their girl on how to be a “buddy” and not a “bully,” while speaking about what it means to be a good friend and how each of us can turn anyone’s day around by just being kind. A Buddy Challenge Bingo Card was included in their normal letter, challenging them to complete different acts of kindness. Some of these included inviting someone new to sit with them at lunch; handing out 10 uplifting confetti quotes to people at school (we included these little notes); and choosing a friend, writing a list of her 3 best qualities, and giving the note to her,
Card Committee has also desig-
formulated to help members in
topics of discussion are
Each month different resources
among many others.
will conclude in early May
as the next. Our service project
are made to feel just as special
their pen pal, so that all girls
additional “little happy” from
where each girl will receive an
fail to write back.
help each and every child in our
crisis affecting 75% of US school
Project,
announce their newest service
JA of Harrison is excited to
A new fundraiser was launched
to help support such projects.
The inaugural "Queen's for a Cause"
who will make appearances
at various community events
throughout the year to help
expand JA of Harrison's reach
and bring more awareness to
the organization. Contestants
do the same food items
That was able to help this particular
little girl in more ways than one
to make sure every one of her
needs is being met.
and active commit-
ment from each committee mem-
er. Once each month a “writing
social” is held where JAES mem-
bers are encouraged to come
together, write our letters, and
socialize among each other as
women. Women uplifting women
- it truly is a beautiful thing! This
has helped us maintain a regular
schedule of writing, as well as to
make sure each girl has a letter
in her hand every month, even if
they fail to write back.
We have been able to progress
this service project through the
participation and active commit-
ment of each committee mem-
er. The ways they open up, and
the relationship that is formed, is
just as rewarding to the mentor
as it is to the child. That lasting
relationship that you are able to
create is invaluable and will stay
with each of us for a life time.
JAES sends a special thank you
to each and every individual and
business that continues to support
our Chapter in our local Eastern
Shore community.
GRENADA | MS
As members of Junior Auxiliary
of Grenada, we strive daily to
help each and every child in our
community. Our 2019 Provision-
al members carried this mission
forward by creating an oppor-
tunity for children in our town who
are not always included in activ-
ities - a sensory friendly movie
for children with special needs.
For a child with special needs,
watching a movie in a theatre can
be challenging.
By renting out the movie theatre
in our small town, these women
were able to treat ten children to
a showing of Toy Story 4. Some
of the special accommodations
made included: keeping the lights
up, the sound down, and allowing
the freedom to let the children to
move as needed. The children
were also able to be as quiet, or
as loud, as they wished.
This being the first time Grenada
has offered a sensory-friendly film
to families with special needs, the
children and parents were be-
yond excited about a film-viewing
experience catered just for them!
For some of these children this
was the very first time that they
were able to attend a movie at a
theater. They were all beyond
excited!
Without Junior Auxiliary and
the opportunity to better our
community for the children
in our town, watching these
children and their families enjoy
a too-rare experience would not
have been possible. Overall, the
Provisional project was a huge
success and we cannot wait to
spread even more smiles in our
future projects!
HOUMA | LA
Junior Auxiliary of Houma
hosted their annual fundraiser,
formerly known as Moonlight
Masquerade, this past fall. Over
the last few years this event
has grown tremendously as the
community embraced the main
entertainment, a local celebri-
ty dance-off. For that reason,
membership chose to relocate to
a larger venue and rebrand the
event to be called Dancing with the
Stars. The new changes helped to
support an extremely successful
event with attendance exceeding
700 people and raising $65,000.
Funds are raised through ticket
sales, a silent auction, a guest
dance-off, and a judge drawing, raffle, and a
"Shake Your Money Maker"

HARRISON | AR
JA of Harrison is excited to
announce their newest service
project, Lunch Fairies!
School lunch debt is a nationwide
crisis affecting 75% of US school
districts. Various methods of
punishment from lunch shaming
to withholding test scores and
report cards, not to mention the
waste from tossing unused lunch-
ners, directly impacts children.
Not only does this disrupt their
academic focus, but for children
who face food insecurity at home,
a hot school lunch may be the
only meal they receive.
To help combat this epidemic,
JA of Harrison is helping to pay
down lunch debt at a randomly
chosen school within their service
area each month.
GRENADA | MS

Why we started this program via
a letter that one mentor received
early this year from her girl. She
felt comfortable enough, and
trusted her mentor enough, to
tell her that she is often times
hungry due to an unstable home
environment. Through the help
with the school counselor, JAES
was able to help this particular
little girl in more ways than one
to make sure every one of her
needs is being met.
As an encouragement to all
within similar service projects, it
truly is amazing to watch these
little girls grow through their
writing throughout the year.
the writing throughout the year.
The ways they open up, and the
relationship that is formed, is
just as rewarding to the mentor
as it is to the child. That lasting
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GRENADA | MS

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future projects!
award. Dancer pairs are chosen to include a variety of local well-known personalities that have the potential to attract attendees. This year, a concerted public relations effort was made to promote our mission and service projects throughout the community. Not only was the event a huge success financially, it also sparked an uptick in membership interest. It is credited for the size of our incoming Provisional class which is expected to double our membership. Save the date for this year’s event, Saturday, August 22, 2020, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center!

JONESBORO | AR
The Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, Arkansas celebrated fall/Halloween with a longtime project, TLC – The Learning Center. In this project, Junior Auxiliary members volunteer as aids in both the adult and children’s divisions. The mission of TLC is “To empower and enhance the lives of the developmentally disabled and their families by providing quality services and advocacy.” It is within this mission that Junior Auxiliary is able to assist and help the adult division of TLC – to continue to empower and enhance each adult within the program.

Recently, JA of Jonesboro held its annual highly anticipated Fall Festival event for the adults in the program. Within the event, JA of Jonesboro organized fun stations with prizes that consisted of many different games and interaction/attention from each of our JA members on the project. There was also lots of candy to fill each one of the client’s goody bags. Each JA member had Halloween spirit with some Halloween headpieces to support the TLC adult clients as they competed for best Halloween costume. It was so much fun for both parties! And after much feedback from the committee, clients and staff members, this year was perhaps the most beneficial and organized Fall Festival to-date.

JA of Jonesboro also provides additional services for the adult program at TLC. Currently, members assist in weekly bowling, help with Special Olympic Events, organize and conduct monthly crafts and birthday celebrations, assist in off campus field trips, host a monthly presentation focused on a fun topic that the clients would be interested in, and also many other fun celebrations. Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro has been blessed to serve TLC for more than 25 years.

LAUREL | MS
On Friday, November 8, the ladies of Junior Auxiliary of Laurel, MS had the privilege of working and helping host the 25th Very Special Arts Festival. The theme was Out of this World! Over 260 special needs children from surrounding area schools were brought to the local community center where they were treated to a fun day in “outer
1200 students. Stocked with basic toiletries such as shampoos, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine items, these “closets”, located in all six county schools, are intended to discreetly provide for the children within our community whose parents do not have the income to support the costs of these basic necessities. Since there is also a number of students within the county who are part of the homeless population, the Junior Auxiliary’s Comfort Closet also provides access to bath towels and washcloths for students needing to take showers within the school’s facilities. These Comfort Closets are managed within each school at the discretion of a school employee and can be accessed by any student who comes to them in need. It is up to the Junior Auxiliary to make sure that all needs are being met and that all closets remain fully stocked. Madison County is considered to be a low-income area, so once our Chapter was made aware of this need within our schools, JA of Madison knew that it was absolutely vital to take immediate action to provide these students with these hygiene items that most of us take for granted. Our Chapter’s mission within the Comfort Closet project is to ensure that these children not only have access to these products at no cost, but to also provide an environment where they can feel comfortable to pick up these items in a discreet fashion. Hygiene is not a right; it is a necessity. Therefore, no child should ever have to worry about being able to have access to these items and it is our hope to provide this to each child in need.

MADISON COUNTY | MS
On December 22, 2018, Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, MS held its Blessings in a Box service project. Chapter members dedicated several days leading up to the pick-up day to purchase and pack boxes with various food items. The project culminated with families stopping by the Chapter’s JA House at designated space”. A variety of booths were set up - from building rocket, dancing to popular music, roping aliens, coloring UFOs, to face painting and many more. This morning provides fun, stimulating crafts, and a time for these students to play and create. All students were sent home with a bag full of their creations to show their family members, along with big smiles to last for days! Junior Auxiliary of Laurel was pleased to work with the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and the Laurel Arts League on this annual project.

MADISON COUNTY | FL
During this service year the Junior Auxiliary of Madison, Florida implemented a Comfort Closet project within our county-wide school system. This project serves the needs of over
times to gather their box and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate with JA Members. This project served approximately 125 families during the holiday season.

**MCCOMB | MS**

The McComb, Mississippi Chapter of the Junior Auxiliary continued one of its favorite projects, *Ready to Read*. Chapter members visited numerous preschool and kindergarten classes to read *I Don’t Want to Be a Frog*. After the first few schools were visited, 255 children had been reached by this project, with two more visits scheduled. After reading the book to the children, the JA members then assisted the children in completing a craft that accompanies the book. The message of this book is to be content with who we are, and hopefully the children will be encouraged to do just that. The Chapter also hopes to help to foster a love for reading through this project.

**NATCHEZ | MS**

The Natchez, MS, Chapter’s partnership with their local library shares the goal of keeping the community aware of the many services that are offered and encouraging reading. To honor this, Chapter President Morgan Groover opted to bring the world of Disney’s *Frozen* to the community. Ex-Officio Chassity Cannon arrived in character at the George Armstrong Library with more than 100 anxious little girls awaiting Queen Elsa. With a room packed full, Elsa was introduced as she entered to be present for the reading of the book, *Frozen*. Queen Elsa welcomed all and laughed with the girls telling them she had never seen so many girls dressed just like her in one day! As the reading of the book captured and drew in each child, Elsa made her way around the room interacting with each one. As the reading concluded, the children were served cookies and Kool-Aid™ by the JA ladies and each child had the opportunity to visit with Elsa™ and have their picture taken.

**OBION COUNTY | TN**

Did you know it is estimated that the average foster child moves an average of seven times before the age 18? 443,000 children are in foster care in the United States with twenty-five of those children living in Obion County, Tennessee. A Junior Auxiliary of Obion County Life member came to speak with Active members back in June 2019 about what her work entailed at the Department of Children Services. Ms. Joy Olexa is the Education Specialist for Children of Custody and Foster Children in thirteen counties in Northwest, TN. In her role as Education Specialist, Ms. Olexa attends school meetings to ensure the child receives the best education as possible. She advocates for them to have what she would want for her own children. Ms. Olexa enlightened JA members on how every foster child carries their personal belongings in a trash bag as they move from one foster home to the next. In doing so, she brought a project to the table that touched the hearts of every Junior Auxiliary member. As a team, we put our heads together to come up with a way to raise money to buy twenty-five foster children their very own luggage so they wouldn’t have to live out of a trash bag anymore. The used for our *Love Luggage* project. This project brought in enough money to buy twenty-five pieces of luggage plus hygiene packs, a sweet note from the Junior Auxiliary members, and money for each child. Did you know that foster children have very few of their own personal possessions? With this new project, *Love Luggage*, we are giving foster children something they don’t
have to share with anyone else. On November 13th, 2019, World Kindness Day, members of Junior Auxiliary of Obion County delivered those twenty-five suitcases, hygiene packs, cards and money to Ms. Oleka at the Department of Children Services for her to deliver to the children at Christmas. Since our Love Luggage project has been shared with the Obion County community, Junior Auxiliary members have been receiving messages from other local organizations wanting to partner and make this project even better. All Junior Auxiliary members are humbled to see that Love Luggage is making a huge impact on our community.

OXFORD | MS

Inspiration and self-confidence is exactly what we had in mind for the fourth-grade girls of Oxford and Lafayette County at Camp Sunshine. We believe this is a crucial age to raise self-esteem, learn to be kind, and just have fun.

Camp Sunshine is an overnight summer camp located at Camp Hopewell, just outside of Oxford, Mississippi. The girls arrive on a Friday and leave on Saturday afternoon. Our Chapter is divided into overnight counselors, day counselors, and activity leaders. During our 2019 camp, we hosted 85 girls and divided them into five cabins. After everyone has been introduced and eaten dinner, the girls head to a glow in the dark swim party followed by campfire s’mores! We asked Camp Sunshine Co-Chair, Sarah Rose Lome- nick, for a favorite memory of this year’s camp and she replied, “I love seeing the smiles on the girls’ faces that are getting to do something for the first time, like canoeing. Watching them try something new and being so excited about it is what Camp Sunshine is all about!” We can all agree that this is such a heart-warming camp while watching these young girls laugh, share stories, and enjoy spending time with new friends. We hope to continue serving these sweet girls through Camp Sunshine in years to come.

RANKIN COUNTY | MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Rankin County’s project, Especially for You, meets the third Monday of every month at the Mustard Seed in Brandon MS. Members provide a nutritious meal for the Seedsters while giving the house parents a night off from cooking. Following dinner, our Crown Club girls spend time playing Bingo, having dance parties, and providing arts and crafts projects.

For the month of November, members brought a smoked turkey and home cooked dishes to celebrate Thanksgiving with all the Seedsters. After the meal, a Thankful Tree was created with assistance from members and our Crown Club girls. The Seedsters were given colorful leaves made of construction paper to write out things they were thankful for, which they then placed on the tree. Each month our members and Seedsters

THANK YOU TO JUNIOR AUXILIARY FOR BLESSING ME WITH A SCHOLARSHIP IN MY FINAL YEAR OF GRADUATE SCHOOL! I am happy to say that I graduated with a master’s degree in speech-language pathology from the University of Central Arkansas in August of 2019. I am now working as a speech-language pathologist for a company that primarily serves the pediatric population. I service children from babies up through school-age. Through the company I work for, I am now able to do some traveling around the city in which I live. I am reaching the populations that I know it is the very heart of NAJA to reach. I feel blessed to have a front-row view of helping children and their families learn to navigate life with various diagnoses. This career is bigger than just ME, it’s really not even about me, it’s about those that I have the pleasure in helping each and every day. I strive to be a safe-place for my children that I work with because many times my job is so much more than the speech-language pathologist. Life hasn’t slowed down since graduating, as I continue to learn and grow more each day through the children I work with, co-workers, and the new research available to our field. NAJA’s scholarship money is truly blessing those who ultimately spend the rest of their lives giving back!

TAYLOR HEFLEY, M.S., CF-SLP
Clinical Fellow
Speech-Language Pathologist
look forward to a fun evening of fellowship and activities.

ROGERS-BENTONVILLE | AR

Junior Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, Arkansas, is celebrating its 50th anniversary of service this 2019-2020 year. To commemorate this special event, active members planned two socials for Life Members to reconnect and celebrate their years of service to our community.

JARB decided to change up the annual Speakeasy fundraiser to the Gold Crown Gala in celebration of our 50th anniversary. We had a wonderful turn-out that helped raise over $30,000 for service projects with JARB. The night’s festivities included a silent auction, complimentary pictures, a champagne wall, a raffle for David Yurman™ earrings, and live music with food and drinks provided by local restaurants and businesses.

The Chapter is also very excited about a new service initiative called Project-in-a-Day that has been designed to create and evaluate potential service opportunities. It gives JARB the ability to meet emerging and changing needs in our rapidly growing community. This project grew from our Breakfast with Santa project held last year. The project was planned quickly by the full membership to meet a need of a local school. We had such a wonderful time planning and executing the event so they could learn about all the resources available in the community.

We applied more effort to PR by advertising the event through Facebook, Instagram, the Parish Chamber Calendar, Radio, yard signs, banners, and sending flyers to the schools. We offered a bounce house, a rock-climbing wall, a free healthy breakfast, door prizes, and multiple vendors. We tripled our participation numbers by serving 90 children and their families. We had several members in the community that thanked us for putting on the event so they could learn about all the resources available in the community.

We had such a wonderful time that members walked away with a desire to explore similar opportunities. This year we are planning two large service projects. Each will be a one-day event but planning will be happening behind the scenes for many months. The first project will be another Breakfast with Santa in December. A second large project, a birthday event for foster families, is being planned for Spring 2020. The long-term goal is that this committee will test new ideas and those that work well will become ongoing projects.

RUSSELLVILLE | AR

Teacher Assisted Grants provide opportunities for teachers in the Russellville School District to apply for grant funding for innovative projects within their classroom. These projects allow the teachers to remain innovative in nature and still maintain the requirements placed on them by the state. This year Junior Auxiliary of Russellville was able to fund six of these grants. The grant entitled “Whirlwind Impact” was awarded to teacher Holly Sutterfield at Russellville Junior High School. This will allow students to create a video curriculum that will positively impact students and help them to know how to cope with problems like suicide prevention, drug and alcohol awareness, peer pressure, stress, nutrition and exercise, social media, and kindness.

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RUSTON | LA

The Junior Auxiliary of Ruston held the 4th Annual Pediatric Health Fair on September 21st, 2019 at the Louisiana Tech University Lambright Center. The Pediatric Health Fair offered information on local health resources and free health screenings, along with access to health-related vendors. After declining participation in the last few years, we made the decision to change the location, focus more on advertising, and add a fitness aspect to the fair.

TANEY COUNTY | MO

Junior Auxiliary of Taney County began the Empowering the Little Dreamers Project in May of 2017 and has expanded it each year. Each week two to four JATC members work for two hours with eight to ten kids who are residents at the Crisis Center in Taney County.

Children attend sessions with JATC members while their moms attend the domestic violence support group. JATC uses this opportunity to share special time with the children. In addition to weekly interaction, play time and snacks, JATC provides birthday parties for the children; conducts special craft activities including making Valentines, having Tea Time, and carving pumpkins; and provides treats and parties for holidays including Christmas, Easter, and Valentine’s Day. Last year our members began working on building an onsite playground for the children. Each child is genuinely excited about this project, even though they understand it will not be completed for some time. However, that does not deter their enthusiasm as they all understand this is “their playground.”

We have currently raised approximately $3000 for the playground. Our site is an old swimming pool area that was overgrown, had chipping paint, and a diving board still in place. Doesn’t sound like the ideal place for a playground, does it? But sometimes you have to work with what you have! Phase 1 was having an Engineering Consultation to determine what was
needed to make the area safe. The daughter of one of our members is a civil and geotechnical engineer, and she donated the consultation and drew up a plan. Phase 2 was scraping out old fill and compacting new fill and topping with a layer of gravel, and removing the diving board and other sharp metal objects. This work was done by the City of Hollister, MO, on a United Way Day of Caring. Also included in Phase 2 was power washing and scraping away old paint. JATC members took on this task. Phase 3 was to give everything a fresh coat of paint and put together the first section of the playground which was also completed by JATC members, with a little help from a few spouses. Paint was provided by one of our Sustaining Members, Binswanger Glass. Phase 4 is yet to come, but we hope to get more playground equipment including a swing set and maybe some tricycles to ride around the concrete perimeter or a seesaw. We’re also researching having a mural painted on the wall. Because we’ve had so many donations from the community and work hours donated by JATC members, we still have a little over $2000 to spend on more playground equipment. JATC members are as anxious as the children to see the finished product. Each week, when we get to the Crisis Center, we are met by children whose faces light up when they see us. They know we are there because we care about them and we provide safety and comfort for them. JATC members are providing hands-on love and nurturing for the children at the Crisis Center. Our goal is for the children to go from “hurt to healing.”

TIPTON COUNTY | TN

The Junior Auxiliary of Tipton County developed a project called the Traveling Library where Junior Auxiliary members set up at various locations throughout the county and provided a place for children to take home a free book. The location that we visited the most frequently was at the Bread of Life Food Pantry located in Covington, TN where we served 25 children. Many times, the parents must wait a long time to be served at the food pantry. By having the traveling library set up at the food bank, the children could come and pick out a new book to take home with them, create their own bookmark, and color while they waited for their parents to be served. The smiles on the children’s faces as they were making their book selections was priceless. They were so surprised to find out that they were able to take them home.

The director of the food bank was happy to have us there and as more children came through the doors, she brought them over to tell them all about the library that was there just for them. This project definitely allowed us to have true vision towards service and shows that even small projects have a huge impact.

TUPELO | MS

Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo, MS recently received a generous grant from Toyota. This funding helps with our Chapter’s Clothes Closet program. Clothes Closet clothes approximately 60-75 students per month from September through April. This is a project that requires all members of the Chapter to make it successful. Each child that comes to Clothes Closet is given toiletry items along with 3 pairs of pants, 3 shirts, socks, undergarments, and a pair of shoes. The purpose of the project is to meet/serve the environmental and physical needs of the underprivileged children in Lee County.

This project will continue based on the resources from our only fundraiser, the Charity Ball. The budget is limited, but with the support of our community and our generous sponsors, Tommy Brooks Oil Company, R&D Marketing LLC, Ross & Yerger, and Toyota, we have been able to provide basic life needs by clothing more children in our community. Thankfully we are able to reach over 500 children living in poverty. This project is a big blessing to the members of the Tupelo Chapter and our community.
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