**Join Us!**

The Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of NAJA to ensure the Association’s margin of excellence and its continuity so that it can fulfill its mission to provide financial support, resources, educational leadership, cultural and specialized training for NAJA members in order to optimize community service by NAJA Chapters.

We are working diligently to grow our financial base so that we can provide monetary support to both Chapters and to the overall Association. We currently provide the following grant opportunities to Chapters:

--New Chapter Grants to help alleviate the legal start-up costs for new Chapters
--Annual Education Conference Grants to assist Chapters with sending more delegates to AEC for valuable training and networking with other Chapters
--National Service Project Grants to help with expenses for a Chapter’s Child Welfare Project
--National Focus Project Grants to help with expenses for a Chapter’s National Focus Project

The Foundation supports the work of the Association by helping to defray the expenses of such things as website upgrades and maintenance of our digital database system. We also help sponsor speakers for AEC and give an Outstanding Service Project Award of $1,000 each year at AEC.

If you are interested in Joining Us as a monthly supporter or to make a donation to the Annual Fund so that we can continue to support the efforts of our local Chapters and our Association in making an impact on children throughout all of our communities, please visit the website by clicking here.

**NAJA Memories**

As if becoming the President of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries in 2016 wasn’t enough, I was further honored to serve my term during our 75th Anniversary year. A year-long celebration occurred culminating in a fabulous Annual Education Conference in Memphis which included wonderful speakers, great attendance, the usual awesome educational program for our membership, beautiful decorations and a concert with "Elvis!" I chose as my theme: "NAJA Volunteers...Shine Like the Jewels in our Crown." In lieu of the celebration of 75 years of service, I thought it would be a nice idea to honor ALL of our members, past and present, for the time and talent they have given to JA and to the citizens of their communities. As I said in the speeches I gave over the course of the year, there is no better feeling on earth than knowing you have helped another person enjoy a better experience and quality of life whether they be young or old. Ours is an organization that exists only to serve, and I will always be proud to know that I helped lead this group into the next 75 years!

~Jeanne B. Hildebrandt
NAJA President 2016-2017

**5 Things to Know About Crownlet Submissions**

1. Deadlines are November 15th for the Spring Crownlet and April 15th for the Fall Crownlet. Forms must be submitted online through the NAJA website and can be found by clicking here.
2. Keep articles short (no more than around 200 words). Get to the point immediately with the five “W’s” of who, what, when, where and why. Include the impact that your project made on the community or specific group you served.
3. Always, always think ahead on photos. Plan to take pictures at all projects and fundraisers that could be submitted to The Crownlet so you’ll have choices as the deadline approaches. (These are good for award entries too down the road). Avoid group photos of JA members. Instead capture action in photos of who or what’s being helped through the project. Include members in the photos in JA Service attire, but make sure the hands-on work is the major focus.
4. Submit your most innovative projects, educational programs and fundraisers. Remember, other Chapters are looking for good project ideas.
5. Submitting articles and photos for The Crownlet is not required for the Efficiency Award; but please make it the norm for your chapter. Your members deserve recognition for their good work. Chapter presidents, make sure the person responsible knows what to do and when, and remind her.