CHAPTER NAME Junior Auxiliary of Byram & Terry POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE: JULY 1

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Byram, MS 39272

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IN NARRATIVE, DESCRIBE HOW YOUR CHAPTER HAS CONTINUED TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY WHILE OVERCOMING GREAT OBSTACLES AND/OR ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES. (1000 WORD MAXIMUM, DOUBLE SPACED)
Send one digital photo per entry either email or on disc.

President’s Award
Chapter Name: Junior Auxiliary of Byram & Terry
Address: P.O. Box 720011
City: Byram
State: Mississippi
Zip Code: 39272

“Declining membership, finances and lackluster projects oh MY!!”
Declining membership, finances and lackluster projects oh MY!!” “That statement reflects the situation that Junior Auxiliary of Byram-Terry (JABT) was faced as we entered into FY’15. With 15 active members, less than 1 year of operating expenses in reserves and the loss of key members who chaired our larger service and finance projects we were facing probation and at a crossroads.

To address the membership concerns we started marching in the right direction with a new Provisional Class of 9 ladies for FY’15. This group had
the potential of increasing our membership by 60%. However, after the abrupt resignation of our Vice President, the Provisional Class was reduced to 5. We didn’t let this obstacle stop us. We re-assigned a former chapter president to lead the Provisionals to a successful implementation of their Trunk or Treat Service Project which impacted over 200 children in our area. This project allowed us to involve other area community organizations and the City of Byram who all setup trunks for our area youth.

In addition to a successful provisional project that has been adopted as a standing service project, we also restructured key existing projects to make them more impactful and manageable for a group our size and to execute them with little to no use of chapter funds. This strategy was a success. We executed our Stuff the Bus Project impacting over 2000 kids with 0 use of chapter funds. This was done by changing our location from 1 to 3 sites that had more foot traffic and affordable items for the public to donate. We executed our Angel Tree Xmas Project impacting over 90 children with less than $100 use of chapter funds. This was done by engaging local businesses who setup up distribution boxes for toy and coat collections.

To address the financial woes of our organization we sought out donations from our local businesses and applied for a grant from the newly built Walmart in our community. These 2 Finance activities netted us over $2500. In spite of the people and money challenges, JABT had one of our
most successful years of service which was culminated by winning the prestigious MAG Award.

Also, as we enter into FY’16 we have started a new Provisional Class of 8 in which most of them solicited membership based on our presence in the community which was captured in print through our local newspaper. The Byram Banner Newspaper publishes all of our monthly projects and last year supported us by publishing a full front page for our Angel Tree Program titling it the “Junior Auxiliary of Byram Terry Xmas Angels”.

There is still a lot of work for JABT to do, but we are headed in the right direction as we march to our FY’16 theme “Construction Queens Building New Things.” Recently, we held our 1st Annual Retreat at the Quisenberry Library in Clinton, Mississippi. Under the current chapter president’s administration the goal of the retreat was to continue sustaining a strong chapter foundation while maintaining a solid structure. The members had an opportunity to learn new teambuilding techniques and listened to presentations offered by various speakers on the topics of conflict resolution, working with different personalities, and teamwork. The consensus of the membership in attendance was the retreat ensured us that we were moving in the right direction and provided valuable lifelong lessons.

As we continue our commitment of service to the children and families in our community we hope to achieve the goals set for FY’16 by continuing to engage local businesses, push for more community support and seek additional resources from individuals and community leaders. Although faced
with ongoing challenges our committed projects chairperson and committee members plan to implement and execute the agreed upon projects with the minimal amount of funds budgeted. We plan to aggressively address these budget woes by implementing several new fundraising projects with the goal of increasing our chapter funds by at least 25%.

As members of JABT, we are so proud to be a part of a caring, vibrant, and wonderful group of ladies that have bonded and are committed to improving the cities of Byram and Terry. As we have watched the member’s hearts swell with love for the children and an endearing support for one another these ladies are certainly well equipped to overcome various challenges and obstacles no matter the size.