CHAPTER NAME
Junior Auxiliary of Ruston- Crown Club

Submitted by Name and Email Address
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FOUNDING YEAR OF CROWN CLUB
2016

NUMBER OF CROWN CLUB MEMBERS
12

JA CHAIR/CO-CHAIRS OF CLUB
Calysta Manning, Stephanie Downen

Give brief description of Crown Club, including age range of members, how members are selected, how projects are chosen, how often and how long members meet, and all requirements for membership, including meeting attendance and service hours worked.

The Crown Club of Ruston was founded in 2016. There are currently 12 active members ranging from 10th-12th grade, all with a heart to serve. The Crown Club of Ruston is a service project of the Junior Auxiliary of Ruston, Louisiana. The motto that all of its members strive to attain is "Always Wear Your Invisible Crown". Their goal is to serve others with the opportunity to gain leadership skills and lasting friendship.

Does the club have a Web site?
No

Name of project being nominated:
"Bags For Fosters"
How long has this club performed this project?
1 year

Cost of project:
250.00

Method of funding it?
Drawing for Pack of 12 Dinner-for-Two Restaurant Gift Cards

Number of JA advisors directly assisting with project:
10

Number of people helped by project:
60

Is this a one-time project, or ongoing?
Ongoing

Essay
Bags-for-Fosters_Crown-Club-Outstanding-Service-Project.docx

Digital Photo
image2.jpeg

If this Crown Club has a constitution, please upload a copy.
CC-constitution-2018.pdf
“Bags For Fosters”

The Crown Club of Ruston consists of 10th-12th grade students in Lincoln Parish with a heart to serve. Applications are sent to local school counselors in March and are due in April. Members are required to pay $25 dues, maintain a 3.0 GPA, reside in Lincoln Parish, perform a minimum of 30 service hours, attend monthly Crown Club meetings, and sit in on 2 Junior Auxiliary of Ruston chapter meetings throughout the year. Crown Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month for approximately 2 hours.

In August 2017, Crown Club members began brainstorming ideas for a meaningful service project to offer the community. It was important for the members to be hands-on and make a lasting impression. One member mentioned partnering with local agencies to help children in the foster system. That is when the project, “Bags for Fosters”, began. Members quickly contacted the Department of Children and Family Services to find out what the need was.

Many Crown Club members were astonished to learn that more than 150 children were active in the foster system in Lincoln Parish alone. The department’s welfare supervisor, Juralee Sanders, stated that “Kids come into the system with a few items in a plastic bag, if they come with anything at all. It is such a need for them to have something to call their own. Foster families do receive funds for clothing but many times end up spending a lot of it on necessities. It’s truly heartwarming to see these girls give back to a community of children that so many forget.” With Crown Club members motivated to make this project a success, they began fundraising in November-December 2017.

They received donations from local restaurants and sold tickets for a drawing to win a pack of 12 gift cards to local restaurants. The Crown Club raised $525 in total with this fundraiser. While fundraising, the girls were able to spread the word about the project within the community and many businesses offered to donate items for the bags. Total spent on “Bags for Fosters” was $250. Items included in the bags were: toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, deodorant, washcloth, tissues, pencil, fidget spinner, refillable water bottle, shampoo, soap, and of course the drawstring backpack that carries these items.

Crown Club of Ruston had four JA advisors and six committee members to guide them through the project. Participating in the project were all twelve Crown Club members and six active JA members. This project has built a better community and a stronger Crown Club by simply raising awareness for the needs of local foster families. Juralee Sanders came to speak to the Crown Club at their March 2018 meeting stating “Many fosters end up hours away because of the lack of local families certified to foster.” The project wrapped up by the Crown Club members presenting the Department of Children and Family Services with sixty “Bags for Fosters”. Local television station KNOE even came out to publicize the project.