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Go forth and discover your Superpowers

As we started our new year in JA at AEC 2015, I challenged each of you to discover your superpowers as an individual and as a Chapter. I would like to put a twist on that challenge with this message to you amazing heroes.

On the cover of this issue is a sweet little boy, Super Townes, fighting for his life at St. Jude. When you look at that sweet smile and know that everything is not exactly okay, your emotions are probably all over the map. If you are like me, one strong emotion probably stands out from all of the rest – an overwhelming desire to fix everything for him, hug him, and tell him it will be okay. That is who we are as Junior Auxiliary volunteers. We see the hearts without a home, the lives without love, the crowds without a guide, the children whom none have blessed, the famished whom none have visited, the fallen whom none have lifted, and the bereaved whom none have comforted. We see these injustices and want to right those wrongs and minister to those who are suffering.

Here’s the twist…do we ever stop to think that some of the true heroes are the ones that we serve?

While God gives us the talents and spiritual gifts that we need to carry out our work, the children and families that we serve are the ones who give us reasons to keep going. They are freezing at the bus stop with a threadbare coat and holes in their shoes, going hungry at night, doing without running water and electricity, struggling with physical and mental illnesses, and so much more. Yet they go on, and we do what we can to make it a little easier for them, helping them fight back against poverty, illiteracy, bullies, and social stigmas. When you find your superpowers feeling drained, think about the sweet smiles, the hugs, the notes scrawled in crayon, and the kids skipping away in their new shoes and let those moments recharge you. These are the moments that feed our souls, giving us what we need to go forth and continue to right those wrongs. They inspire us to do more and to do all we can to make a difference. It’s an amazing symbiosis – we give of ourselves to serve them and they inspire us to serve even more, continuing to change lives all around us.

Go forth, superheroes, and find the hidden heroes in your community who will make a difference in your life and in the lives of those around you!

NAJA PRESIDENT
Amanda Hand Knauer
I remember when I was a Provisional, our trainer began our training with this statement. We were taught from the very first meeting that we were expected to say yes when asked to take a job, and saying no was just not acceptable.

In addition to meeting the needs of the community, a JA Chapter is expected to increase volunteer skills among the membership so that once those Active years of service to the Chapter are completed, every JA-trained member can assume other leadership roles outside of JA. Just as important as feeding the hungry is educating members to continue to be civic advocates for advancing the quality of life.

The Chapter needs to be sure to select the best person for a particular job, but every member should be elected to membership with the confidence that she possesses the skills necessary to spearhead the role demanded of her. The member should recognize that she was asked to be a member because of her potential service to her Chapter as well as to her community. A member should grab hold of the trust placed in her ability to do a job.

Sometimes in Chapters, the person slotted for President is just a willing body... or worse, the only choice because no one else will do it! The Chapter failed years earlier to cultivate the leadership potential within the membership, and this failure affects the Chapter. Many times these Chapters struggle for the year and can even experience irreparable damage to its reputation.

Every Chapter should accept the responsibility of building great community leaders and establish a reputation for leadership. “The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on…”

DEVELOPING A POOL OF READY LEADERS INVOLVES PLANNING THAT BEGINS WITH THE SELECTION AND TRAINING OF PROVISIONALS:

- Identify potential leaders in the community, and ask them to be members of your Chapter.
- Expect leadership from your members. Train them from the beginning to say yes if approached.
- Give people jobs that build confidence each year. This enables a member to grow into a leader.
- Hold leadership seminars/workshops or bring in speakers on the topic...all for Education hour opportunities. This unlocks the potential within an individual and helps cultivate a good crop of leaders each year.
- Be a good leader.
Glennon Doyle Melton

Glennon Doyle Melton is the author of the inspiring and hilarious New York Times bestselling memoir, *Carry On, Warrior*. She is the founder of Momastery.com, an online community where hundreds of thousands of readers meet daily to experience her shameless and laugh-out-loud funny essays about marriage, motherhood, faith, addiction, recovery and serving the marginalized. She is also the creator and president of Together Rising, a non-profit organization that has revolutionized online giving through “Love Flash Mobs” and has connected countless families in need with hundreds of thousands of dollars in critical resources. Glennon employs her trademark wit and candor to encourage us all to step out from behind masks of perfection and start connecting with one another by showing up as our real, messy and beautiful selves. She is known for her unique ability to inspire women to embrace unity and each other. Glennon is a courageous truth-teller and hope-spreader, a wise and witty friend who emboldens us to believe in ourselves and reminds us that the journey is the reward. She shows us that by shedding our weapons and armor, we can stop hiding, competing and striving for the mirage of perfection, to build lives, relationships, homes, businesses and communities.

Dr. Malcolm L. Astley

Dr. Malcolm L. Astley received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Wesleyan University, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University and a Doctor of Education in Human Development and Counseling from Boston University. He was a Fellow in Clinical Psychology at Children’s Hospital and Harvard University. His dissertation involved a developmental study on conceptions of human communication among school age males. His daughter, Lauren Dunne Astley, was murdered on July 3, 2011 at the age of 18 by her former boyfriend. Malcolm and Lauren’s mother, Mary Dunne, have spoken at over 100 high schools, religious centers, community centers, colleges, universities and civic centers, and governmental meetings at the state and national level regarding the problem of violence and particularly boy’s and men’s violence against girls and women and also against each other. A documentary, *Loved to Death*, on break up violence and Lauren’s story is viewable on the 48 hours website. More information is available at LaurenDunneAstleyMemorialFund.org.

**PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES IN WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS**

* All Attendees
** Incoming Chapter Presidents
*** 3 Delegates per Active Chapter, Board of Directors, Provisional Chapter (non-voting), and all interested members
**** Every Chapter should have representation

Delegates must be present for roll call at the Business Meeting to comply with NAJA Minimum Standards.

**NAME BADGE CODE:**
BLUE - NAJA Delegates
RED - NAJA Members, Speakers, and Guests
GREEN - Provisional and Petitioning Chapters
Kim Gravel

Kim Gravel is a veteran television host/interviewer, entrepreneur and leader, but most of all she has a passion for people and hearing their stories. She has logged thousands of hours as host of award-winning talk shows “Friends & Neighbors” and “Atlanta Live”, is seen on Headline News Network as a recurring contributor and is now starring in the hit weekly docu-series “Kim of Queens” on the Lifetime Network. Kim is the Southeast’s premier pageant and beauty coach with an extensive background in both fields. She has a rare gift of encouraging and guiding people with loving directness and somehow gets by with saying the things that everyone else is thinking. In 1991, at the age of 19, Kim became one of the youngest to win the title of Miss Georgia in the state pageant’s history. She went on to represent her home state in the renowned Miss America pageant and as a result was asked to serve as US Goodwill Ambassador to Japan. Kim has worked for Revlon and Christian Dior as a make-up artist; served as National Cosmetology Association spokesperson; and served as a make-up artist and stylist to over 100 fashion shows and photo shoots. She has taken her knowledge and experience in beauty and launched her own boutique cosmetic line, Hardee Girl Cosmetics. Her compassionate yet straightforward “Dr. Phil-esque” style keeps her in high demand as a Life Coach, mentor, advisor and consultant. As lead singer and songwriter of recording group Beloved, Kim entertains and sings to thousands across the country every year, including hosting sold-out women’s conferences annually in Atlanta. Even with all her business endeavors, she still finds time to raise her two boys, Beau and Blanton, with husband Travis.

(From left) Glennon Doyle Melton, Dr. Malcolm L. Astley, and Kim Gravel
SATURDAY | APRIL 30

8:30AM to 1:30PM
NAJA FOUNDATION RAFFLE
Directors Row 6

8:30AM to 4:00PM
GALLERIA | Directors Row 3 & 5
NAJA STORE | Directors Row 4

***9:00AM to 10:00AM
BUSINESS MEETING | Southeast ABC
ELECTIONS | Outside SE ABC in Hall

9:00AM to 10:00AM
GETTING THE GRANT | Tennessee C
Madeline Allin

*10:30AM to 11:45AM
LOOKING UNDER THE ANGER: LIBERATING OUR YOUTH FROM VIOLENCE
Tennessee A & B
Dr. Malcolm Astley
(Sponsored by NAJA Foundation)

12:00PM to 1:15PM
BOXED LUNCH | Tables around Area

*1:45PM to 3:00PM
EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN
Tennessee A & B
Kim Gravel

3:00PM to 4:30PM
JA 411 | Tennessee Grand Foyer

3:00PM to 4:45PM
RAFFLE ITEM PICKUP | Directors Row 6

****3:15PM to 4:30PM
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
Southeast Ballroom ABC
Wilma Wilbanks

PROJECTS THEATER | Tennessee C
Celeste Cade & Leslie Dewey
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN WORKSHOP
Tennessee D & E
NAJA Membership Committee

5:30PM to 6:30PM
CASH RECEPTION | Tennessee Grand Ballroom Foyer

6:30PM to 9:30PM
AWARDS BANQUET
Tennessee Grand Ballroom
Please Note: No outside alcohol is to be brought into Banquet

COME BE A PART OF THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF MEMPHIS APRIL 29-30 AT YOUR NAJA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

Memphis has a lot to offer for a girl’s weekend of good food and music. Your Annual JA Conference has a jammed packed weekend of learning, sharing, and all around fun.

The Education Committee and many other members of NAJA have worked to prepare a conference of speakers and workshops that will be sure to help each of you in your JA work….and in other areas of your life.

Make your hotel reservations now by going to the NAJA website under Events-AEC 2016. Talk it up in your Chapter and let your AEC chairperson know you want to participate! Bring all your superheroes and share the good work you have done for the children in your community.

On Friday night, the Hilton will provide transportation to and from Beale Street and the downtown area for your convenience. There will be a sign up for this perk at a later date. However, there are many shops and areas for a great fun evening just down the street from the Hilton.

I can’t wait to see you in Memphis.
The Movie—Legends of the Knight

We are excited to present *Legends of the Knight*, a documentary film that conveys a message of hope and inspiration through the stories of very special children. These children found strength to persevere through insurmountable odds by using the extraordinary power of their favorite superhero. ScreenRant says, “*Legends of the Knight* will leave even the most hardened Bat-fans misty-eyed... The documentary will have you ready to take on social injustice.” We invite you to join in the challenge displayed by the courage of the children in the film to bring the light out of the darkness.

Getting the Grant

Do you have a great idea for a Junior Auxiliary service project but not the funding to support it? This workshop will provide you with all the tools to secure that funding. A professional grant writer will present the essential elements of a winning grant proposal: 1) Specific guidelines for searching for grants; 2) Key elements of a proposal; 3) Essential writing tips for a successful proposal.

Thank you to the Junior Auxiliary

**FROM A NAJA 2015-2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, ASHTON RICHARDSON**

For as long as I can remember, working with children has always been a passion of mine. From the joy I received through babysitting, student teaching at my dance studio, volunteering with Vacation Bible School, and creating bonds with the children of La Nariz, Mexico on mission trips, I knew my future career must involve helping children in some way. I originally thought I was being led to the educational field. However, I was introduced to speech-language pathology as a freshman in college and was instantly hooked. After one day of shadowing Mrs. Angie Currie, M.A., CCC-SLP, of Brookhaven, I was confident I had found my calling. I loved the one-on-one interaction between therapist and student. It was obvious how much Mrs. Angie’s students enjoyed spending time with her, and her with them. That is something I wanted for myself. I believe that the future lies in the hands of the children of today, and that communication is key to success in life. It is my ambition to share this key with children by helping those with speech and language disorders reach their full potential. I knew that I faced six years of school. This would be challenging not only for me personally, but also financially. When I discovered that Junior Auxiliary offered a graduate scholarship for my field, I was not surprised. My mother was very active in JA and is a lifetime member. From my observations of the volunteer work that she and her fellow members did, it is only fitting that JA would offer a scholarship in a field that gives back so much to society.

I am now enrolled in my final semester of graduate program at the University of Mississippi. I have firsthand experience of what is to come upon graduation. I have gained clinical experience from the University of Mississippi Speech and Hearing Center, the Hearing Impaired Language and Literacy preschool class on the UM campus, a skilled nursing facility, and acute rehabilitation in the hospital setting. I have enjoyed my work at each of these placements and have learned many skills. However, my experience working with children during my first two settings has been the most fulfilling. Forming trust relationships with my clients and their parents along with witnessing significant client progress was truly something I will never forget. During this final semester of graduate school, I will be doing an externship in the school setting in Alvin, Texas. I look forward to the success stories and relationships that will develop over these next four months.

Following graduation, I plan to take some time to be a part of a mission trip to Zambia, Africa. While there, I will use my skills in speech-language pathology to serve the special needs population of orphans in that area. There is a great need in Zambia for work with the special needs population, especially those with skills to address early intervention. I am incredibly blessed with such an amazing opportunity and thrilled to serve these precious children.

It seems like such a small thing to say “Thank You” to the Junior Auxiliary. At this point, it is all I can give. However, I will always be filled with gratitude for what JA has done for me and what they do for so many people every day. Junior Auxiliary is an organization that all members can be proud of. This scholarship has meant far more than can be described in an article. I want every reader to know, it has been put to good use and will be paid forward as I begin working full time. My dream has truly become a reality. Thank you, NAJA.
Chapters honor their past Presidents by creating Crown and Gavel Clubs

Re-engagement is a constant topic for the Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport, MS. The Chapter is always looking for new ways to honor their Life and Associate members as well as keep them connected to their current endeavors. In an effort to continually captivate the Life and Associate members, the Crown and Gavel Club was created. The club consists of the Past Presidents of the Chapter. The response of the Crown and Gavel Club was well received! Past Member, Pam Pannell stated, “What a wonderful idea! I am happy to help in any way!” The first meeting was held in August 2015, with 18 Past Presidents in attendance. With the help of the Crown and Gavel Club, Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport now has a monthly e-newsletter to keep Life and Associate members up to date on ways to stay engaged and involved in projects. The club also plans to meet quarterly and encourage other Life members to participate in current projects and social functions honoring them.

The Junior Auxiliary of Columbus, MS also has a Crown and Gavel group! They are very supportive of the Active Chapter members. The Provisional class hosts an annual Crown and Gavel luncheon. It is a great time for the Crown and Gavel members to meet the Provisional class. At that meeting, they individually present the Provisional members, and last year each Crown and Gavel member was asked to describe a memorable moment or leadership position in JA. It was so much fun for all who attended to hear the stories and pearls of wisdom that were shared. The Crown and Gavel also makes a donation to the Chapter each year, and in recent years their donation was used to update the Chapter website, furnish their Hut with a table honoring late past President Juliaette Sharp, and this year was used to add signage in the form of a plaque to the Hut.

National Focus Project Grant

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF SALINE COUNTY, AR RECEIVES FIRST NATIONAL FOCUS PROJECT GRANT FROM THE NAJA FOUNDATION...

JA of Saline County, Arkansas’s One Girl, One World project was financially assisted through a $400 grant from the NAJA Foundation. This project was instituted to empower middle school girls to address cyber-related issues, as well as to help them build self-worth and confidence. The event was held on Saturday, November 5, 2015, and twenty Active and Provisional members mentored forty-three young ladies. The day began with a fashion show of age-appropriate attire provided by local retailers. The show was followed by a panel discussion led by accomplished female leaders in this Central Arkansas community. The panel included a local television news reporter and Benton native Elicia Dover, Assistant Attorney General Jill Handley Irwin, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Joyce Warren, and political analyst Jessica DeLoach Sabin. The panel discussed topics such as cyberbullying, online safety, self-respect, community service, and much more. After the discussion, the girls participated in a self-defense session where they learned basic tactics of awareness, prevention, and physical defense, led by George Craig of the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department. Lunch was then served to the attendees, followed by a brief talk from a high school senior about Arkansas’s participation in the United Nations Foundation Girl Up Campaign. Attendees were then given the opportunity to hear from keynote speaker Ann Clemmer. Clemmer is a former state representative and educator who is very active in the community. She discussed life lessons, gave advice on how to become better involved in the community, and encouraged attendees to make good choices. The final event allowed the girls to participate in an activity called “Finding Your Personality.” They were divided into groups, and Chapter members discussed the various personality types and how to deal with personalities different from their own. These group sessions also allowed time for just some “girl talk.” In addition to the free lunch, snacks, and door prizes, each attendee was given a t-shirt with the JA of Saline County logo and the quote “One Girl Can Make a Difference, But Together We Can Rock the World.” The Chapter received great publicity from the event, as five JA members appeared on a TV news show, and over 15,000 “likes” were garnered on Facebook. The local newspaper also publicized the event on the front page! The JA members worked over 125 Service hours, and the payoff was well worth it! The NAJA Foundation wishes to congratulate the Junior Auxiliary of Saline County for a great National Focus project that helped to teach over forty young ladies some fabulous life lessons in keeping with NAJA’s National Focus.
The NAJA Foundation hosted a reception in July of 2015 to unveil their Hall of Honor, which recognizes donors at the Partner ($2,500) level, Fellow ($5,000) level, Silver Crown ($10,000) level, Gold Crown ($25,000) level, Platinum Crown ($50,000) level, and Crown Benefactor ($100,000) level.

Mary Carole Bowers was honored for achieving the Crown Benefactor level.

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Mary Carole Bowers was honored for achieving the Crown Benefactor level.

The NAJA Foundation Charter members’ plaque, designed by past NAJA President Vicki Pentecost, was also unveiled. The perpetual donor plaques will be updated annually to reflect additional donors. Vickie Tidwell, past NAJA President and Foundation Cornerstone member, chaired the event. The NAJA Foundation celebrates these donors, all members of Junior Auxiliary, and the children we serve!

Calling All Artists!!

The NAJA Foundation will have a brand new fundraiser at AEC this year: the NAJA Foundation Chapter Canvas Competition!! Each Chapter is asked to submit at least one painting that will then be sold to attendees to raise additional funds for the Foundation. The paintings must be done on 6 X 6 canvases, but the subject and medium are your choice. Judges will select a winner who will receive a $100 cash prize. Chapters and Chapter members can enter as many paintings as they would like and can solicit the help of outsiders, if desired.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- The sides of the canvas should be finished.
- The back of the canvas should not have any type of hanging device.
- Canvases should be brought to the Foundation’s room in the conference center of the Hilton – Directors Row 6 – on Friday, April 29th no later than 12:30 pm.

All canvases will become the property of the NAJA Foundation. Each donor will receive credit as an in-kind donation to the Foundation.

Raffle, Prizes, and Shopping

The NAJA Foundation is able to bless various Chapters throughout the year with grant funds because of your support of their AEC Annual Raffle. We need your help; please consider a Chapter and/or member raffle donation. Here are some examples of raffle items for you to consider: baskets (pamper me, kitchen, stationery, mom’s night out, sweet treats, etc), weekend getaway at your vacation home, household decorative accessories, jewelry, purses, artwork, pottery, etc. All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. Please contact raffle chairman, Vickie Tidwell, at vltidwell@suddenlink.net or 870-219-6224 regarding your donation. There is also a form under Events that can be filled out and emailed to Tidwell. Raffle donations may be dropped off at AEC on Thursday afternoon, April 28, or Friday morning, April 29, in Directors Row 6 of the conference hall.
The Crownlet

Each year the Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS (JABOS) hosts its annual “Spring for the Kids Gala.” Active members and Life members come together with community sponsors, patrons, and supporters to share in a special evening celebrating the organization’s volunteer efforts. Attendees enjoy a magical night in an extravagantly decorated hall to match each year’s theme, as well as great entertainment, terrific food, dancing, and exciting opportunities to support the organization. This year the event was held at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino on Saturday, June 13, 2015, and marked the tenth anniversary of the “Spring for the Kids Gala.” The theme was “Jewels in the Jungle.” Over the past 10 years, JABOS has kept the central idea of the gala intact as the main fundraising effort; however, each year they review what worked and what did not as a way to continue to improve the evolving event. To celebrate 10 years, they raised the bar by making 10 changes to the event. This was the year for breaking records!

The Changes

1. SET A STRETCH GOAL OF RAISING $100,000. Historically, profits ranged between $50,000 - $80,000. It varies based on Chapter numbers and the economic status of the Gulf Coast; however, by making a goal within reach, but outside of their comfort zone, JABOS anticipated positive feedback and participation. It worked! They saw increased involvement from members, and everyone had a sense of purpose with the end goal in mind. Profits totaled $103,930.50!

2. CREATE SUB-COMMITTEES. This year JABOS took gala committees one step further. Committee members signed up for smaller sub-committees, giving the committee chairs a team to work with in achieving their goals. This defined roles, created accountability, and helped give members a focal point.

3. ADD FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES. JABOS introduced the “Split the Pot” Raffle to give supporters an opportunity to donate in smaller increments and a chance to win a minimum of $500. Members sold tickets prior to and at the event. TV screens displayed, in real time, the growing pot total during the event. It was a major success resulting in a $6,986.06 split with the winning ticket holder.

4. SET EARLY DEADLINES. Setting aggressive goals and creating more rigid deadlines for member requirements resulted in increased participation by members and improved ticket sales. Members were able to meet their requirements and had additional time to exceed them.

Thank you from NAJA

NAJA sends a BIG thank-you to the Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg, MS for its financial support of the Southern Area Meeting held at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg.

Christmas photo of JA of Grenada, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Grenada, MS used this great photo to create a Christmas card to send out to their sponsors and supporters. Great PR!

Use your hashtags

#WeAreNAJA
#whatsyourJAsuperpower
#AEC2016
INTERACTIVE GUEST EDUCATION. JABOS felt strongly about increasing awareness around the Junior Auxiliary mission and purpose and included project descriptions and highlights in the event program, posters placed around the event, streaming slideshow, and donation table. The additional mission, purpose, and project visibility allowed attendees to see firsthand how and why donations are so critical to Junior Auxiliary.

THEME REINFORCEMENT. The décor, invitation, and advertising reinforced the Jewels in the Jungle theme. Members hand painted jungle print wine glasses which were for sale at the donation table along with custom printed t-shirts. Children from a local dance studio danced to a jungle themed montage. The band opened with “Welcome to the Jungle,” and many of the auction packages centered on the theme, including an African Safari trip.

INCORPORATE ENTERTAINMENT. With this being such an exciting year, there was pressure to up the ante on entertainment. Guests received more favors and were entertained with a short jungle-inspired dance from a local children’s dance studio. There was an increase in guests from approximately 425 to 650-700, which JABOS believes was in part to hiring a more popular and exciting band. There is a struggle each year to try and find new, exciting ways to keep guest engaged. However, this year was not a problem. No one wanted to leave!

The Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs made the above changes to secure the financing of their growing number of service projects and community needs. They hope the tips will help other Chapters in goal setting for their upcoming fundraisers.

“When people ask me why I do this, it is very clear to me – I think back on one visit with a child that just needs a little guidance, or one hour spent watching a child so a mother can get much needed counseling, or giving a few outfits to a child whose parents lost everything to a fire or are homeless. To see the faces of these children, it makes all of this work so very worth it for me. I am reminded daily of why we do this and how just simple little things make such a huge impact on so many children’s lives.”

Lori Taylor D’Angelo

REVAMP THE LIVE AUCTION. This year JABOS focused on creating and seeking out packages geared specifically for the Live Auction. The main effort included partnering with donors to create exciting packages. It was a huge success! They met their goal of everything being 100 percent donated and profited $17,350.

PARTNER WITH A PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEER. This was important to JABOS. After all of their hard work, they wanted someone who could really showcase the fantastic auction items available.

MORE MEMBERS MATTER AWARD FOR 2015 AREA MEETINGS

Chapters with 25 or less members who had at least a 25% growth in the last year.

(Established in 2012)

NORTHERN AREA MEETING:
JA of Forrest City, AR | 39%
JA of Franklin, TN | 50%
JA of Lawrence County, TN | 30%
JA of Washington County, AR | 50%

SOUTHERN AREA MEETING:
JA of Lake Providence, LA | 43%
JA of Louisville, MS | 25%
JA of Scott County, MS | 34%
JA of Wayne County, MS | 37%
BROOKHAVEN RECREATIONAL SPECIAL NEEDS SOCCER TEAM

The Junior Auxiliary of Brookhaven, MS’s 2015 Provisional Class partnered with the city’s established Brookhaven Recreational Special Needs Soccer team for the Fall 2015 season in order to promote awareness, support for the parents, and get more children involved in this unique opportunity to participate in a team sport. Part of J.A.’s efforts centered on spreading the word that this program was available in order to allow more children to participate. Flyers were distributed at local businesses, and all nine schools in Lincoln County, in order to maximize participation and give everyone who wanted, a chance to play. For eight games this season, each Monday night, the Provisional class members and the children played soccer at the Brookhaven Sports Complex. While the children had uniforms like every other team involved in youth soccer, J.A.’s Provisionals decided to provide the parents with matching complimentary t-shirts emblazoned with the team name, so the parents could show their support for the team, and get them more involved. Junior Auxiliary Provisional members also wore special shirts in support of “their” team. The Provisional members made sure that each soccer match went off without a hitch, allowing the parents to sit back, and enjoy the action. Each child’s unique needs were considered, and options were made available to accommodate those needs, and plans were implemented in order to ensure that each child could participate to their fullest ability. “Kail’s Kickers” had an exciting schedule, and the Provisional class provided post-game snacks after each match. Medals were awarded to each child at the end of season during a pizza party. Although “Special Needs Soccer” was a community activity that had been ongoing, this year’s Provisional class felt that this was an event that could benefit from the dedication and volunteer efforts of Junior Auxiliary’s members – sharing some “J.A. Love,” so to speak. This project came about because one of the members has a sibling who is active in the league, so this is a cause that was near and dear to their hearts. Aside from a few minor grass stains, the Provisional class had a great time bonding with the kids and came out feeling very rewarded for their efforts. They even found themselves stepping in to coach the team on a few occasions where the coach was not able to make it.

DUDE THAT’S RUDE CAMPAIGN

Another project that was started this year by the Chapter was a “Dude That’s Rude” campaign. This year’s NAJA National Focus is “Keeping It Real in a Virtual World.” There are so many issues that could encompass as our children are exposed to so much through the pervasiveness of online material in our everyday lives, so the members of the Chapter began brainstorming soon after this year’s AEC on how they could address this issue in their community. After much deliberation, they decided that a typical “J.A. project” was not the way to go. It would reach too few children by having to take a “shotgun” approach. Therefore, they decided to create an awareness campaign, instead of a traditional project. That’s how “Dude! That’s...
Junior Auxiliary of Hammond, LA has been very busy this fall providing service to their community. In September, we helped 60 young girl scouts receive their Netiquette badges by providing a fun and interactive “classy lady training” and teaching them how to stay classy and safe when communicating online and through social media. Each scout attending our training at the “Believe in Girls” event was given a bookmark with things to remember before posting online. This service project demonstrated NAJA’s “Keeping it Real in a Virtual World” National Focus and the Girl Scouts Heart of the South NAJA partnership.

The Junior Auxiliary of Saline County, AR performed a special badge ceremony for their local girl scouts! Troops 6879 and 6420 allowed the Chapter to visit a troop meeting and share information about Stand Beside Her Week as well as about the work of the JA Chapter. Not only were JA members able to visit with these girls and share about the importance of being a female leader and the many contributions women make in the community, they were also able to learn about these troops and the many ways they too contribute to the community. This was an incredible opportunity to emphasize to these girls that female leadership opportunities are vital and highlight the similarities between what they do as scouts and what JA members do. The girls were very interactive, as were their parents, and seemed to really enjoy the event. The Chapter provided a brief program highlighting the historical contributions of famous female leaders including Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Marie Curie. Additionally the Chapter discussed the NAJA National Focus, Keeping It Real in a Virtual World, and highlighted the need for girls to build each other up and support other females instead of competing. The JA members present also focused on the mission of Junior Auxiliary, the Crown symbol and the importance of the five points, and how each of us are important and have the ability to make a difference.

To celebrate and commemorate their Stand Beside Her Event each troop member present participated in a ceremony where she received a rhinestone 5 pointed crown pin and tiara to serve as a reminder of the key contributions Junior Auxiliary members make to communities and in celebration of their leadership.
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
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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.
ABBEVILLE, LA

The Provisional Class of Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville, LA had the honor of partnering with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to revitalize the visitation rooms at their recently renovated Vermilion Parish facility. Forming a team with the DCFS staff, made up of Foster Care (FC) and Child Protective Services (CPS), the children and infant visitation rooms were decorated to create a more inviting and educational atmosphere. The rooms are available for guardians to visit with their children in a controlled, observed environment.

The blue room, as it is referred to for the older children, was given an attractive facelift from the Provisional class to include: repainting a kitchen set, rocker, and bookshelf, donating educational books, providing authentic artwork from Chapter supporters, donating bean bags for seating, and a 32” TV which will provide educational DVD’s for viewing. The infant room is collectively under construction with the newest Provisional class.

Learn more about this Project, Chapter, and more at www.jaofabbeville.org.

AMORY, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Amory, MS co-sponsored a Back to School Bash and 5K Color Dash with the Dream Riders, an organization that also focuses on the children of their community. The event helped to get students that showed up to class without the essential supplies for a successful school year.

ARKADELPHIA, AR

The ladies of the Junior Auxiliary of Arkadelphia, AR hosted Camp Kaleidoscope from July 13–16, 2015 at the Lower Lake Dam Pavilion on Lake DeGray from 5–8 p.m. each evening. Offering Camp Kaleidoscope, a free camp, has been a long-standing tradition for the ladies of the Junior Auxiliary. President Alannah McNeese, serving as emcee, welcomed the kids to camp and presented the events for the evening. Each night boasted a schedule full of activities for the children as well as a boxed dinner in a picnic-type atmosphere which was served to each child every evening of camp. Snacks and ice-cold water were also readily available. Children were treated to a mixture of traditional and non-traditional camp activities. “We planned an obstacle course, several craft projects, exciting games and fun in the sprinklers,” explained co-chair Lacy Wolfe. Spread throughout several days, campers enjoyed fun events like the wet & wild obstacle course and on-site jungle gym, spontaneous dance parties, creating chalk art and giant bubbles, and showing their artistic side by designing their own puppets and camp bandanas. The campers also got to experience entertaining — and educational — guest speakers each evening; Monday brought Bill Rogers from Clark County Search and Rescue who taught the children what to do if they get lost and how to help yourself in a troublesome situation while, on Tuesday, Officer Hawthorn of the Clark County Sheriff’s Department gave tips on how to stay safe and “say no” to strangers. On Wednesday campers were treated to a presentation and fire truck display by the Arkadelphia Fire Department while Linda Goodner of Arkansas Game & Fish taught the children a rhyme about the food chain of the Arkansas wetlands on Thursday.

BOONEVILLE, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Booneville, MS has partnered with the athletic department at Northeast Mississippi Community College in a new program called athlEATS. This program provides happy meals delivered
by NEMCC athletes to local elementary students who have been selected by their teachers. Teachers select students who need a “pick me up” or who deserve a reward based on the merits of improved behavior. Upon being contacted by a teacher, JA is then responsible for purchasing the happy meal, picking up the student athlete, and driving them to and from the local school. This partnership has provided mentoring opportunities not only for the student athletes and elementary students, but JA members have had the opportunity to forge relationships with the student athletes as well.

**BYRAM-TERRY, MS**

The 2015 Provisional Class of the Junior Auxiliary of Byram-Terry, MS planned and executed a “community-wide” Trunk or Treat for the children of Byram on October 29, 2015 at the Davis Road Park in Byram, MS. The theme for the event was “Invasion of the Superheroes.” This event was the first of its kind for the City of Byram. The focus of the project was to provide children a “free” safe alternative to “trick or treating,” while also bringing together the residents, local organizations, businesses, and civil and public servants.

Each entity sponsored a decorated trunk filled with candy and snacks and provided information about their organization or business. The Mayor of Byram, city aldermen, the fire department, along with the Fire Chief, and the Byram Police Department all interacted with the children and provided information on health and safety. More than 200 children benefited from this event. Several youth were able to sign up for Girl Scouts, cheerleading and football while others received a history lesson on the British sci-fi show, “Doctor Who.” The teenagers also received information on scholarship opportunities available at Jackson State University.

This incredible Provisional project brought together civic and city leaders, Junior Auxiliary personnel and local businesses that encompassed the essence of community and provided the children of Byram an optimal and supportive environment in which they seemed to thrive.

The successful inaugural event impressed upon the mayor of Byram its importance to the community and its citizens, and he eagerly anticipates its reoccurrence next year!

**CABOT, AR**

Recently the Junior Auxiliary of Cabot, AR hosted a canned food drive with support from their Life and Associate Members. Lead by Life/Associate Chair, Tina Hibbs, the event turned out to be a huge success. Provisional and Active members joined in the event which gave all classes of ladies in the Chapter a chance to meet. It was a great way to help children in the Cabot School District and also bond with fellow JA members. The food drive was held the morning of September 19, 2015 at Harp’s Foods and was supported by numerous contributions from companies and patrons of the store. In all, over 1,800 canned items including canned meat, vegetables, fruit, snacks, soups, breakfast items and drinks were donated. Junior Auxiliary also collected over $500 to purchase additional items. The food was then distributed to each of the schools in the district and will be sent home in backpacks over the course of the year. Since the event, another store in Cabot has offered to host a food drive in the Spring.

**CLEVELAND, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, MS held their Fall Special Sports event, “Hoop it Up”, on October 24, 2015. Twenty junior high and high school students from Cleveland area schools came to the Delta State University Gymnasium and spent several hours playing basketball with the Delta State Statesmen and Lady Statesmen. The kids were divided into small groups where they could get one-on-one time with the players. The groups rotated every 7 minutes to different areas practicing drills such as dribbling, passing and shooting the basketball. The kids and the JA members always enjoy the special sports events. It is a great Saturday activity to get the children up and moving as well as giving them a chance to interact and play with college athletes. That really puts a smile on their faces. After the games were over, pizza and drinks were provided and the DSU players autographed the 2015-2016 schedule posters for each child. The children that participated in “Hoop It Up” will be invited to come watch an upcoming basketball game and will be recognized during halftime.

**CLEVELAND, TN**

Chapter members of the Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, TN recently completed an annual service project, Jackets for Juniors. In its sixth year, this event provides a warm coat to any middle school student that needs one, across their town. After speaking with several administrators and guidance counselors, this Chapter could not ignore this growing need of the local children. What began as a Provisional project was lovingly adopted as an annual service project. This Fall, the Chapter, under co-chairs Autumn Massengill and Jessica Owens, provided 180 new coats to three local middle schools. 25 members provided new coats, and the additional coats needed were purchased through a donation and project budget. Luz Price, an area middle school counselor, was very grateful for the high quality coats that were donated. She said many of the students have nothing warm to wear for the cold months and others are wearing worn out or ill fitted jackets. Students are frequently in tears when they receive their new coat. One student admitted he had never had a new one. Jackets for Juniors will continue blessing the children in this town long after the coat is outgrown. It truly is “more blessed to give than to receive” Acts 20:35

**COLLIERVILLE, TN**

Junior Auxiliary of Collierville, TN, in partnership with Main Street Collierville and the Town of Collierville, hosted another successful community-wide annual “Scare on the Square” event on Friday, October 30th. Scare on the Square is an event held on the Historic Town Square that includes trick or treating with the Town Square Merchants, and games and crafts with the JA of Collierville. This event offers a safe alternative to trick or treating through neighborhoods and is the perfect way for families in the beautiful Collierville community to come together and celebrate what Collierville has to offer. This year, in addition to the traditional festivities, the JAC collected new and gently used youth sized coats for distribution to Collierville children in need. Collierville residents are always so willing to help their neighbors,” said Amy Knight, JAC President, “This was a great event to offer an opportunity to help someone
in need as we are approaching cooler temperatures.” 57 coats were delivered to Collierville Schools and JAC would like to see an even bigger number next year.

COLUMBIA, TN

Cowboy Up is one of Junior Auxiliary of Columbia, TN’s longest standing projects. This project was formed in 2005 in an effort to help aid in the awareness of suicide education and prevention after then Active member Regina Peery’s brother was tragically lost to suicide. One of the aspects of the project each new year is putting together materials for the guidance counselors of the local school district’s middle schools. Materials and information for this project are gathered both from The Jason Foundation and The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network. In each bag that is distributed is a CD including the powerpoint that guides the presenter in giving Cowboy Up’s message and information, a few T-Shirts to give to students who show a good “Cowboy Up Attitude” attitude, bracelets that display the acronym for Cowboy Up, B1 Cards provided by the Jason Foundation, and surveys that the students fill out upon completion of the project. The guidance counselors and JA members then use the materials to teach the students Cowboy Up’s message of suicide education, suicide prevention, and hope. In addition to the services provided to the middle school students, Cowboy Up has spoken to several youth groups throughout our area, organizations, and conferences in hopes of spreading this message to those in need.

COLUMBUS, MS

In an effort to prevent bullying, Junior Auxiliary of Columbus, MS presented its Stand Up Speak Out service project. Watch the news, read the paper, or search the web… and one will likely find the topic of bullying in today’s headlines. The Provisional class of 2018 answered the call of the community to address the terrible effects of bullying by responding to a request from a local middle school. The result was a program designed to educate students, teachers, and parents about bullying. JA members took the Stand Up Speak Out project into the classrooms of 6th graders at Columbus Middle School, New Hope Middle School and Caledonia Middle School in October during National Bullying Prevention Month. The Stand Up Speak Out program first identifies different kinds of bullying and different players in bullying situations. The program’s central focus is the bystander, who plays the most important role in any bullying scenario. The “bystander” is defined, and students are given advice on how important bystanders can be in either stimulating or defusing the bullying. How to avoid becoming the target of bullying is discussed as well as how to react both as a target and as a bystander. The power of individual actions and positive decision making are emphasized as tactics to not only counter bullying but as valuable skills for life. The Stand Up Speak Out program is split into two classroom sessions and an assembly format with a guest speaker. The Second session occurs during the Spring semester with the assembly at the end of the school year. Tyson Lee, a Columbus native and former quarterback for the Mississippi State Bulldogs, will be the guest speaker at this year’s assembly. Since its inception in the Fall of 2013, the Stand Up Speak Out program has been extremely well received by students, school officials, parents and community leaders.

CONWAY, AR

Junior Auxiliary of Conway, AR held their Inaugural Dragon Boat Festival on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at Beaverfork Lake Park in Conway. The festival was a large scale effort to raise funds to support the mission of their Chapter, which is to render charitable assistance to youth in need in the Faulkner County area. They wanted to honor the legacy of past members that were instrumental in starting projects like HAVEN and Faulkner County Day School. Dragon boat racing is a team sport that appeals to all ages and is growing fast worldwide. It has also become an extremely popular vehicle for fundraising and a tool for corporate team building.

For their first dragon boat festival, they had 8 teams, consisting of 20 paddlers for each, participate in the race and compete against each other in three heats. The top 3 teams with the fastest race times were awarded with a variety of prizes generously donated by local businesses. Team TRS Wellness was awarded with the Golden Paddle for winning first place by averaging the fastest race time overall. The festival was filled with tons of entertainment for all ages. There was a Kid Zone with bounce houses and a face painting artist for children. Sharpe Dunaway provided entertainment of music and emceed the entire event. The crowd participated in raffle drawings and helped judge the costume competition of drummers who represented each team. Approximately 400 individuals attended the event and the Chapter had the support of various companies in this fundraiser to help make the Conway Dragon Boat Festival a huge success. In this first year venture, the Junior Auxiliary of Conway raised close to $20,000 in sponsorships and donations to go towards the funding of their projects.

CORINTH, MS

CyberSmarts is an educational project put on by the Junior Auxiliary of Corinth, MS that seeks to promote safe practices and appropriate uses of today’s technology among students. Using power point presentations, short video clips and songs, and interactive games and discussions, JA members educate students on the dangers of technology and social media, as well as how to be a responsible digital citizen. They feel it is necessary to teach and talk about manners and etiquette in the online world with today’s technological teens, tweens, and even younger! This educational program was taught at the Lighthouse Summer Camp for two days and reached around 50 children.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Crystal Springs, MS is very excited about their current Child Welfare project. The Chapter has chosen to partner with their local middle school to mentor and counsel a group of girls throughout their middle school and junior high journey. This is the second year on this journey with these girls and the Chapter has found positive results thus far! The girls have shown great interest in the program. The journey began last year with a group of fifth grade girls educating them on many dynamic topics such as social skills, health care and hygiene, and healthy eating habits. The Chapter brings in engaging speakers to educate the girls on topics that focus on life skills to help them through
these “critical years” of adolescence. They are continuing the mentorship program this year with the same group of girls as sixth graders and will continue mentoring them until their eighth grade year ensuring that they establish an ongoing relationship and commitment between the Chapter members and students. The plan optimistically allows the JA members to meet with these girls once each nine weeks and provide them with skills such as but not limited to emotional support, health care and hygiene advice, healthy eating habits (nutrition information), anti-bullying, pregnancy prevention: abstinence, and social skills. To extend this project further, the Chapter also focuses on 11 of the most critical girls in this class that the school administration and teachers recommend. They meet with and mentor these girls once a month in a small group setting to focus especially on topics that will help them strive to become better students and members of the community.

DESETO COUNTY, MS

2015 marked the 15th year for the Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, MS. November 13, 2015 was celebrated with their annual fundraiser, “Crown Benefit: A Night at the Speakeasy”. This fundraiser is in its second year and retired the former fundraiser Catfish & Khakis. The Crown Benefit has shown success with the community drawing in more than 400 guests to the Landers Center and hosting the best cocktail party in DeSoto County. This year, JADC raised more than $38,000 in sponsorships and still counting. The Crown Benefit funds JADC to operate their ten service projects. Due to last year’s successful event, they were able to add two new service projects.
GREENWOOD, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Greenwood, MS recently co-hosted their 2nd annual Health and Safety Fair with Greenwood Leflore Hospital. The event was an amazing success and attendance surpassed any expectations! The Pediatric Connection committee worked with the hospital in planning educational and hands-on activities that would help children in a variety of ways. Committee members work with the hospital to enhance the environments and educational outreach at the locations where they provide services to children. The Chapter raffled off several children’s bicycles that they could enter to win by participating in a bike safety rodeo. JA members were trained to fit bike helmets purchased through MS Brain Injury Association to help raise awareness of the importance of wearing bike helmets at all times. JA members also did hands-on crafts and pumpkin painting with children. The police and fire departments were on hand along with Sparky the Fire Dog and Smokey the Bear for kids to interact with. Children were also able to engage in educational booths that taught about: water safety, gun safety, asthma education and the importance of healthy choices you can make each day. The Chapter also chose to use this annual event to help Life Member Jenni Hargett and her sweet daughter Cate who has a rare blood disorder called Diamond-Blackfan Anemia. JA members worked very hard on coordinating MS Blood Services and the Match bone marrow registry to also attend during the health and safety fair to give people an opportunity to donate blood and to be swabbed to be a potential bone marrow donor in honor of Cate. So many children across the county were able to engage in hands on learning activities and the community and JA members were able to help a Life member and her child at the same time.

GRENADA, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Grenada, MS is blessed to get to work with the Joe Rowland Home for Boys in their community. When young men need a nurturing environment after domestic hardships, they find help at this home. The JA Joe Rowland Committee works closely with the home’s director to find ways to help the boys thrive in their daily lives. “We have paired with the Joe Rowland Home in the hopes to be a positive influence for the boys. We want to show them how they can have a successful future, regardless of their past or current circumstances.” says Tasha Brown, committee chair, “And most importantly we, the ladies of JA, want to show them that we care!” added Brown. Each boy gets a birthday gathering at the restaurant of his choice and the committee members provide other fun activities for the boys to get involved in throughout the year. The JA ladies treated the boys to a fun-filled Summer cookout that included lots of great food and a lively corn hole tournament. In another project, this year’s Provisional class decided to reach out to middle school students and their siblings who have limited access to food on the weekends. These ladies saw a very real need within this age group of kids. Their project, “Lovin’ Lunchboxes”, sought to meet the needs of these students. Bags of food and snacks are filled by these members each week and sent home every Friday. Twenty students are currently being served, and students happily anticipate receiving their weekend supplies. Meeting the basic needs of these children and seeing their happy faces has been a very rewarding experience for the 2015 Provisional class.

GULFPORT, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport, MS launched a new project this summer and are thrilled to report it was a smashing success. “Fill the Bus” was a school supply campaign that culminated July 31st at area Walmart stores across the coast. Junior Auxiliary partnered with United Way of South Mississippi to collect supplies for children who often come to the first day of school empty-handed. They worked with Walmart stores in Gulfport and Pass Christian, as well as other locally-owned businesses to collect a whopping 4,665 supplies! On July 31st, JA volunteers and students from area schools literally filled school buses in the Walmart parking lots with all those supplies. Dentists with South Mississippi Smiles joined JA members in educating more than 180 children who were shopping with their parents that day about the importance of good dental hygiene. That means the total number of children served for this first-time project was 4,848! The school supply collections were dispersed between four school districts in their service area.

HAMMOND, LA

Junior Auxiliary of Hammond, LA held its inaugural Jolly Jingles Market, their newest finance project. This one-day holiday shopping extravaganza offered holiday shopping, entertainment and family fun to over 2,000 shoppers who visited from all over the region. Adults were able to do some early holiday shopping by visiting with 89 vendors selling various items like gifts, jewelry, gourmet food, art, crafts and more. Children got to visit and take pictures with Santa, life-size elves on the shelf and other life-size mascots. The Chapter also gave out door prizes and entertained guests with holiday tunes and singing from local elementary school children. To promote JA’s focus on children, this Chapter partnered with local Boy Scout troops to run the market. Over 86 Boy Scouts served as volunteers at the event greeting guests and helping vendors set up their booths. Boy Scouts also hosted a pancake breakfast the morning of the market and served over 900 pancakes! The Chapter donated over $1,500 to the Boy Scouts from the pancake breakfast proceeds and helped the scouts earn community service hours to earn badges. Through Jolly Jingles the Chapter raised over $7,000 which will help them fund their various service projects this year. Of course, no amount of money can compare to the look on children’s faces as they talked with Santa and took pictures with their favorite elves.

HATTIESBURG, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg, MS is known throughout the Pine Belt as a champion for children and families. Each year, the Chapter partners with local service agencies to make an indelible mark on the Hattiesburg community. Utilizing funds they strategically saved throughout the years, JA awarded over $41,000 in grants to four partner organizations: Edwards Street Fellowship, Kids Hub Child Advocacy Center, The Institute for Diverse Education and the DuBard School for Language Disorders. JA awarded $5000 to Edwards Street Fellowship for its Empty Bowls project. Empty Bowls Hattiesburg fights hunger by raising funds and awareness for the Edwards
Street Fellowship Center (ESFC) food pantry. Their food pantry currently provides emergency and supplemental food to around 1,200 households per month who are facing hunger or food insecurity. This Chapter granted $9,300 to The Institute for Diverse Education (TIDE) to provide a student scholarship for full tuition. TIDE school is a group of educators, parents, behavioral health and business professionals committed to creating a dynamic educational setting where every student is taught in his optimal zone, and empowered to become his best. TIDE School began operation in August, 2015 as a special purpose coeducational middle- and high school for students who have average or higher intellectual ability, yet experience learning challenges such as dyslexia or other specific learning disorder; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; anxiety disorders, and/or other issues that complicate their learning experiences. The third recipient, Kids Hub Child Advocacy Center, received a grant for $9160.40 to be used for training and educational materials. The mission of Kids Hub is to utilize a multidisciplinary approach when responding to child abuse in a way that helps to reduce trauma for child victims and their non-offending caregivers through the use of advocacy, education, prevention and referrals for appropriate services. Finally, JA donated $18,267 to the DuBard School for Language Disorders to purchase 33 iPads for educational use. The DuBard School serves children with severe language-speech disorders, including developmental aphasia and childhood apraxia of speech, deafness and hearing impairments, as well as those with the written language disorder of dyslexia.

HUMBOLDT, TN

Junior Auxiliary of Humboldt, TN was recently recognized for the Non-Profit of the Year award at the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce Banquet held September 24, 2015. This award was particularly special because it was the very first time the Non-Profit of the Year award was given out to an organization in their community. The Humboldt Chamber of Commerce Director, when announcing the winner of the award, said it like this, “Tonight we recognize an organization that focuses on making a difference in the lives of children, specifically those most at risk, in an effort to break the cycle of dependency. The members come from all walks of life, committing to providing community service for projects year-round. In fact, last year the 34 members of the organization performed 961 hours of service that reached 1,950 children…. Bottom line: this organization strives to help the most vulnerable of our most vulnerable members of society.”

INDIANOLA, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Indianola, MS offered the perfect opportunity for the community to get involved for a worthy cause: The children of Sunflower County. This Chapter’s 1st Annual “Stuff the Bus” event was held on Saturday, July 11, 2015 in the parking lot of Walmart. Carrying on their tradition of providing backpacks for underprivileged children in their community, they decorated a bus and collected donations to help fill backpacks to bring the people of the community together and get them involved in their work! The event was a success as supplies were collected to fill 408 backpacks, which were then delivered to six public schools across the local district. Nineteen members in the Chapter participated in this event and the backpacks were hand-delivered to the children. The Chapter also partners with the Indianola Promise Community, delivers Thanksgiving meals, adopts a family during Christmas, runs a Health Awareness Seminar, educates teens about the dangers of drugs and driving under the influence, and mentors a young girl in their community weekly. It awards thousands of dollars in college scholarships annually. Mainly, wherever the Junior Auxiliary sees a need involving children, it tries to respond.

JONESBORO, AR

The Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, AR has a longtime projects called Girls Enrichment. The Girls Enrichment project serves as an outlet for Junior Auxiliary members to offer guidance and friendship by mentoring girls through cultural, vocational and educational programs. Monthly activities are planned as a reward for good behavior and effort in school. “This year we restructured the project and teamed up with the Hispanic Center of Jonesboro,” said project chair Emily Gairhan. “I have worked very closely with Gina Gomez, who is the director. She felt there was a need in the Hispanic community to involve adolescent girls in extracurricular activities like Girls Enrichment. Gina was able to recruit 12 girls to pair with our 12 JA members who serve on this committee. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at a different location, and we provide the girls with an activity and dinner. It is a wonderful way for them to interact with their friends, but also form relationships with their JA member. This group of girls maintains above-average grades and have outstanding conduct at school. They are very deserving of this project and what it has to offer. I feel this has been a successful transition, and hope we can grow with the Hispanic Center in the future.” The Hispanic Center of Jonesboro is a community-based nonprofit organization serving the Latino community and all residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Their mission is to provide community leadership that improves quality of life and supports youth enrichment. In September, the group had a blast at a painting party at Visual and Performing Arts school, hosted by principal and artist Dale Case. In October’s “Boo on the Ridge” event, members and participating girls were treated to a night at the local Crowley’s Ridge Nature Center. Shaun Merrell, director of the Nature Center, led the group through exhibits revealing the natural forces that formed the 200-mile-long ridge and native wildlife, ranging from large game animals to small insects. There was also an interactive chance for the group to get up close and personal with an owl, baby alligators and snakes. After the tour, the girls got to enjoy dinner complete with barbeque, chips, desserts and drinks, along with pumpkin painting to round out the evening. The girls were able to show their creative side painting and decorating pumpkins with everything from their favorite Red Wolves or Razorback sporting teams to monograms and abstract design. The November event was a Mexican fiesta, which gave the girls an opportunity to share a part of their own culture and traditions.

LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA

The Junior Auxiliary of Lake Providence, LA hosted their first annual “Back to School” clothing drive. The Chapter members collected new and gently used
LAWRENCE COUNTY, AR

Junior Auxiliary of Lawrence County, AR raised over $10,000 at the third annual Halloween Bash, which was held Saturday, October 17 at The Studio in downtown Walnut Ridge. Attendees of the event were dressed in unique costume attire and enjoyed a silent auction, dinner, and dance. The Chapter wishes to thank the many businesses, farming operations and individuals who helped with financial sponsorships of the event. The money raised will be used for their Service projects such as Adopt-A-Family, If the Shoe Fits, Prom Princess, Polar Express in the Park, Holiday Meals, and Scholarships for Seniors. Clay and Penny Sloan were named couple costume contest winners and Heath McEntire was the individual costume contest winner.

MADISON COUNTY, FL

In October of 2015, Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, FL hosted their 2nd annual Crowns for a Cure breast cancer awareness run. Runners of all ages participated in a night run 5K lit by glow sticks and pink luminaries. This project was created to provide mammograms to women in the community who otherwise could not afford them. The 2014 run helped over 20 women in the Madison community and the 2015 run looks even more promising. The goal of this Chapter is to continue to increase the numbers each year to address this need. Early detection is crucial in fighting this disease.

MCCOMB, MS

The ladies of the Junior Auxiliary of McComb, MS volunteered to assist Shale Lodge, LLC and CMS Consultants with the Second Annual Tuscaloosa Marine Shale Charity Golf Tournament on September 21-22, 2015. The two-day event, which included a silent auction, golf tournament, and reception, was attended by city, county, and civic officials and supported by both local and regional sponsors. All proceeds of the event were donated to the Chapter to be used for its annual Camp Sunshine, a week-long camp for handicapped children and adults. Each year, over one hundred campers and one hundred eighty-five volunteers attend the camp held at Percy Quin State Park. The Chapter was humbled and honored to accept the donation of $25,026 toward such a worthy project.

MERIDIAN, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Meridian, MS values the hard work and dedication of teachers, counselors, and librarians in the community and understands the budget constraints impacting many school districts. As a way to support teachers and other educators and to reach many children in the community, Junior Auxiliary of Meridian offers Teacher Mini-Grants to teachers and other educators in the Meridian and Lauderdale County area. In Fall 2015, nine (9) grants were awarded, ranging in amount from $213.00 to $1,500. The winners represented schools across Lauderdale County, Mississippi, serving students in elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as in subject areas such as Art, Music, Special Education, and Gifted Education. Winning applicants included “Movie-Making and Middle School”, a project enabling middle school students to create public service announcements; “Human Impact”, a project designed to show 9th grade biology students the impact by humans on the environment through science experiments and activities; “Printmaking Through History: From Hokusai to Kollwitz”, a study by high school art students of the history of printmaking with hands-on printmaking projects; and “Drumming for Character”, a program for 5th and 6th grade students to learn about and develop positive character traits through exciting, entertaining music activities with percussion instruments. Applications were judged by a panel of independent judges using a rubric based on the grant criteria. A reception for grant award winners is planned with invitations to local media and school officials.

MILAN, TN

Junior Auxiliary of Milan, TN completed their annual Stuff the Bus fundraiser in August 2015. They were able to collect school supplies for all the Milan Schools supply closets for students who may not have supplies for the school year. In September the Chapter held its Annual BBQ and Blue Jeans Fundraiser. They sold BBQ sandwiches, chips, dessert and drink for $6.00. The event was held prior to a Milan High School Football game. The money raised goes towards their Angel Tree Project. In November and December they began collecting items for their Angel Tree Project. This project allows the Chapter to connect with the school counselors to identify families who need help with Christmas presents for their children. They in turn take the wish list the children provide and ask the community to help by putting paper angels with toys listed on Christmas trees throughout the town and the community takes these angels, purchases the item and returns it to the locations. The Chapter receives funds from the United Way to provide school clothing and various hygiene items. They then have a wrap party prior to Christmas week with Chapter members and the Crown club members. The families will be given a specific time to pick up the wrapped items and are also given a basket with food and household items. About 40 children are served each year with this project.
they are all excited about. Backpacks for Kids allows children who are not able to purchase school supplies on their own to be able to start the new school year with everything that they need. They also supply the schools with backpacks for children that move into the area and do not have the supplies. The Chapter has also completed their Annual Swimming Lesson Project where they had several participants including their newest “Mommy & Me” division. They are currently working on several large projects like the Christmas Box project and the Annual Toy drive where the Chapter will team up with a local business to host a day full of Christmas joy as the community comes together to bring donations of all kinds.

NEW ALBANY, MS

Junior Auxiliary of New Albany, MS played a huge roll in Full Steam Ahead Museum Madness 2015 at the Union County Heritage Museum this past summer. The children had a week at the museum to learn about Grossology, “Math is Art”, Microscopes and the Cellular World, Animals and the World of Taxidermy, and also Bugs, Butterflies, Beetles, and More! Junior Auxiliary of New Albany, along with their local bank (BNA Bank) and Toyota, helped to make this possible. The children learned a great deal about animals and bugs and had a great time! Junior Auxiliary members took turns during the five days and learned a lot as well.

OXFORD, MS

The Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, MS supports an ongoing service project called “Camp Sunshine”. This project provides an overnight adventure-filled camping experience for young girls just completing the fourth grade. This is a project this Chapter and community anticipate each summer. A majority of the girls who participate have never been to any kind of summer camp. The girls arrive at Camp Hopewell, located just outside the Oxford city limits, to enjoy a fun filled day of swimming, painting, tie-dying, exercising, watching movies, and making crafts. Last summer, Camp Sunshine had a record breaking year by serving over sixty girls. Over forty members of the Chapter participated in this project.

ROGERS-BENTONVILLE, AR

Junior Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, AR has many projects with a long-standing history in the community. In association with Reading is Fundamental (RIF), JARB began distributing books to local elementary schools in 1977. Due to recent changes, JARB no longer receives funding from the federal government for RIF. Based on the large number of books purchased each year, this project by far receives the most money from their annual budget. Despite the loss of funding, the members knew that this beloved project must continue. JARB changed the name of the project to “Building Literacy,” but the mission stays the same: to motivate young children to read by making reading a fun and beneficial part of everyday life. Three times per school year, JARB holds a book distribution at fourteen elementary schools in Rogers and Bentonville to provide second-graders with books through a fun and interactive event that encourages reading. The students are thrilled to have a book to take home and call their own. By the end of the school year, each second grader at participating schools will have received three books. JARB distributed over 4,000 books during the 2014-2015 school year to 1,340 students. Statistics show that a child who is not a proficient reader by fourth grade is four times more likely to drop out of school.

SCOTT COUNTY, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Scott County, MS recently proved superheroes don’t just fly and jump... they use those super human skills to help kids! JASC sponsored a kid’s fun run at the annual Wing Dang Doodle festival held in Forest, MS and rewarded kids for getting active! Local JA members continued to use their super skills throughout the festival at the JASC promotion tent where members were able to connect one on one with women from all over the county. JASC concluded the festival with a raffle drawing that raised over $1000 for the Chapter.

SEARCY, AR

Junior Auxiliary of Searcy, AR recently participated in the 19th Annual “A Day of Caring”, which is a medical mission event organized by Unity Health. At the event, JA of Searcy also helped to give out underwear. JA of Searcy also helped to prepare and serve 1,900 lunches to all of the “A Day of Caring” families and volunteers.

SLIDELL, LA

“TGIF!!!!!! Only in Louisiana will you wake up to being flocked!!!! Thank you thank you thank you!!! Someone loves me!!! I wonder who???” This is a quote from one
of the many thrilled Slidell residents that was “flocked” as part of Junior Auxiliary of Slidell, LA’s newest fundraiser. Throughout October, JAS painted the town pink with two flocks of 20 flamingos. Slidell residents reserved flocks at $25/each and designated a friend or family member’s yard for JAS to place the flock until sundown the following day. The fundraiser idea originated from last year’s Provisional class and was adopted as a Chapter-wide project this year to be implemented in October and April. October’s run was wildly successful and raised $1,275. “Flock Slidell” is not only a great way for JAS to raise money, but it helps residents celebrate friends and special occasions in a unique way, it helps promote Junior Auxiliary of Slidell through the uniquely incorporated signage with each flock and the many pictures posted to social media, and it promotes sisterhood within the Chapter as the flocking crew works together on their nightly “missions.”

TANEY COUNTY, MO

Imagine being an injured child waiting in the Emergency Room or being admitted to the hospital. Junior Auxiliary of Taney County, MO [JATC] members understand that a small stuffed animal can help alleviate a child’s fear and anxiety in this situation and Tender Critters is one of the Chapter’s longest running service project. JATC is grateful to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 913, who recently donated approximately 75 stuffed animals for the Tender Critters project. They have partnered with JATC for several years and their contributions are added to the members’ own donations to supply Cox Hospital with new stuffed animal deliveries several times a year. According to a volunteer in the ER, the stuffed animals really work with the kids. When a child comes in and is nervous and hurt, the stuffed animal provides comfort and often results in a smile and a “thank you”. Tender Critters is a year-round service project because the need never ends.

TIPTON COUNTY, TN

Junior Auxiliary of Tipton County, TN’s Crown Club hosted a “Trunk or Treat” at the Boys and Girls Club in Covington, TN. JATC is strengthening its ongoing relationship with the Boys and Girls Club and continues to find ways to help that organization. The Crown Club girls decided to host a Trunk or Treat for Halloween. All 18 ladies decorated their cars and wore costumes! It was also attended by 5 Active members and 2 Life members. The Boys and Girls Club had 5 families inquire about joining that night as well. It was a wonderful night for adults and kids alike. Two organizations have joined forces to make a positive impact on Tipton County.

TUPELO, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo, MS has initiated a new program called Class Crowns designed to assist third graders in the Tupelo Public School District with reading comprehension and fluency. In early August 2015, seven JA committee members went through a stringent training process called “HELPs,” (Helping Early Literacy with Practice Strategies) with educators from the Tupelo Public School District. Following the training, each JA member was assigned four children at Lawhon Elementary School with whom they work on reading comprehension throughout the school year. Members meet with their kids weekly to focus on reading fundamentals and developing ongoing relationships with the children. Reading progress of each child is tracked utilizing graphs to help them meet individual reading goals, and JA members turn in their graphing sheets to the school where they are reviewed and progress is tracked.

“The one-on-one tutoring time that the Class Crown volunteers provide to our students enables these children to get added help with their reading and reading comprehension skills. This extra help is benefiting our students tremendously as we have already seen several of them move up in reading groups and show more confidence in their ability to read,” said Mary Ann Plasencia, Community Liaison for the Tupelo Public School District. “Through this program the children are also able to build relationships with these JA volunteers, which exemplifies the very meaning of community.”

VICKSBURG, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS launched their first ever “The Game of Life” at Vicksburg High School. This new service project was launched in September 2015 to reach high school teenagers and give them a real life experience on what it’s like to budget a monthly income with living expenses. The one day event reached almost 400 students and involved over a dozen local businesses who donated their time and resources to make the event possible.

As students rotated through the gym they were given a packet that included an assigned career and their income. They then went around to different stations where they had to pay taxes, housing, utilities, daycare, etc. Depending on the choices they made, their bills fluctuated. For example, if they purchased a house, their insurance and utilities cost more than if they chose an apartment. They paid for these expenses by learning to write checks. At each station there was a volunteer from a local business to offer real life knowledge, such as an insurance agent, grocery store employee, car dealership personnel, or accountant. The event was a huge success. The students enjoyed a fun day that made them think about how their decisions affect their lifestyle.

WINONA, MS

Junior Auxiliary of Winona, MS hosted their Second Annual Glass Slipper Pageant on November 7th at the Montgomery County Coliseum in Winona, Mississippi. The pageant had 28 contestants this year, ages 0-18 years. There were approximately 500 guests in attendance and the young ladies had a wonderful time in their beautiful dresses. The funds raised from the Glass Slipper Pageant help this Chapter sponsor other Service projects throughout the year, such as providing funds to purchase Christmas gifts not provided by the community for their Project Angel Tree. Project Angel Tree involves setting up small Christmas trees at local businesses adorned with paper angels who are listed with gifts for needy families. The gifts range from something as simple as notebooks or other school supplies, to winter coats. Funds raised from The Glass Slipper Pageant also help with their Child Welfare activities, which acts as a safe “parent’s night out” for local community families, establishing lasting relationships with children grades k-3rd while providing them with a fun environment for learning and character building activities.
The Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, MS is honored to have Adrian Shipman as a Life member. Adrian has served NAJA as Membership Committee Chair, Education Committee member and currently is on the Foundation Board of Trustees. She is a wife and mother of two children in the Oxford School District. The Oxford School District has recognized Adrian for her volunteer work, her involvement in the district, and her stand for public education and for all public schools. She is Oxford Elementary School 2012 Parent of the Year, Oxford School District 2015 Citizen of the Year, co-founder of the “Charger Connection” mentoring program and past PTO president in the Oxford School District. Adrian was the Mississippi Association of School Administrators “Friend of Education” 2015 recipient. She was a strong advocate for “Initiative 42 for Better Schools” and was instrumental in getting the wording changed on the November ballot. When asked why she does what she does for her community, Adrian said, “I believe with all of my heart that EVERY child deserves every opportunity possible in order to succeed!”

Lucy Richardson Janoush, a Life member of the Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, MS, was honored in November as Delta State University Alumnus of the Year for having served the University and brought distinction to it. In January she was honored at the 2016 Crystal Ball Gala where she was named the Margaret Maddox Woman of the Year by the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi. Although Lucy has held various positions in a variety of businesses, her volunteer work has also been extensive. Since 2011, she has served as President of the Cleveland Music Foundation, the entity that owns and operates the new GRAMMY Museum© Mississippi facility, opens in March of 2016, and Lucy has been key in its work. Her educational background and current professional role at Delta State University also contribute to her ability to contribute to the community.

Lucy was Junior Auxiliary Chapter President...
in 1998. She has served on the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce board of directors for 24 years and counting and served as President for the 1994-95 term. In 1996 and 2012 she received the prestigious President’s Award and was honored with the Kossman Award for outstanding volunteer service in 1997. Janoush was a member of the Cleveland-Bolivar County United Way Board of Directors from 1987-2013 and served as that group’s campaign chairman, vice president, and president. Since 1991, she has been a member of the Bolivar County Literacy Council Board of Directors, was on the Bolivar Medical Center board for five years and has been an elder in First Presbyterian Church since 2012.

Life member Sherri Bevis and Active member Shundral Cole of the Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport, MS were recently honored at the Success Women’s Conference, in Biloxi, MS, that was sponsored by Gulf Coast Woman magazine and Lighthouse Business and Professional Women. From over 40 finalists, Sherri was chosen as the recipient in the Government category and Shundral was the recipient in the Young Careerist category. Sherri is the South Mississippi Service Coordinator for Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann. She was Chapter President, served on the board of the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, past President of the Hancock County MSU Alumni Association, and a member of the 2015 Leadership Mississippi class. Sherri currently serves on the NAJA Public Relations Committee.

Shundral is an assistant United States attorney in the criminal division for the Southern District of Mississippi. She is a board member for Coast Young Professionals, a member of the 2014-15 Leadership Gulf Coast class, assistant secretary for the Magnolia Bar Association, Vice President for the Harrison County Young Lawyers Association, and involved in several other law associations.
“...Giving is the face of Junior Auxiliary and the face of volunteerism. We all have experienced the takers – those who have a “what’s in it for me” attitude or who take far more than they give. They can defeat the best intentions of any group. But today I give you permission to be a taker and take from this organization.

• Take away the motto of Care Today – Character Tomorrow because if you give as you should, you will take away a change in YOU. As a committed member you will have more confidence in yourself, will truly have a heart for the less fortunate, and will be keenly aware of the needs of others.

• Take away a caring attitude for our schools, your church, our city. Be involved in the community, vote, and support our elected officials.

• Take away a responsibility to care for the elderly and the youth - have multi-generational friends – you will learn from the young and the seasoned ones.

• Take away your newfound talents and abilities. You will find new gifts in JA. I tied my first Christmas bows in JA and learned to “bank greenery” for needed floral arrangements for JA events. Do not be afraid to tackle a task you have never done.

• Take away an “it can be improved or changed or corrected” frame of mind. Status quo is not always a good thing so breathe new life into something that is becoming stagnant.

• Take away a newfound passion for volunteering and recognize the opportunities to give that are all around you.

• And finally, the most important thing to take from Junior Auxiliary is to take away your JA friendships. Look around at those who are your “sistas” in this chapter and value these friendships and this association. JA members, these “sistas,” are the most valuable asset of Junior Auxiliary – not its history, projects, Clothing Room, Crown Club, or Ingénues. It is the members and what they mean in your life that is the treasure far more valuable than any jewel in the JA crown. These are the friends you need to cherish for the rest of your life. They will be there with you, by you, and for you when you weep tears of joy and those of heartbreak. JA friends will see you through the empty nest, aging parents, and horrid teenagers. They will wipe your tears when parents die and cry tears of joy when children marry and grandchildren are born. They will hold your hand in sickness and even sleep, if necessary, on your loveseat by your bed when you are bedridden with a broken leg. They will clean your refrigerator before your mother comes to visit or turn on the lights and stock the fridge when you return from burying that loved one. For the rest of your life these JA friends will play with you, laugh with you, lift you up in prayer, celebrate great events with you, and cheer for you.
As I look around the room my heart is warmed by the dear cherished friends I see in this room. Some of you were Professionals or Actives with me. Some of you were members before me who set the bar. Others were after me and raised that bar. Some of you I have known from birth, planned your weddings and shared the births of babies and grandbabies. Some of you are new-found friends who add youth and fresh ideas to my life. Each of you has value beyond expression to me.

I enjoy Carol King’s music and find the lyrics of *Tapestry* express what you, my treasured Junior Auxiliary friends, and my inherited daughters and family mean to me.

You, friends, and our shared memories, our experiences together, give my life those rich and royal hues. And through our association in life we have an ever changing, growing, evolving relationship that is truly magic - a wondrously woven tapestry.

I feel and see your beauty. However, it is possible to hold you, this organization and what it stands for, and especially this day forever close to my heart.

Once again I want to thank you for this honor and express my renewed commitment to the Grenada Junior Auxiliary. Fellow Life members, I trust you join me in this recommitment. Actives, call on us; we are more than willing to continue to be of service.”

TO STAY IN CLOSER CONTACT WITH NAJA, please send us your email address to receive monthly email newsletters and other communications from the Association and Foundation. Email your name and Chapter to najanet@bellsouth.net. You can also follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/NAJAinc/.

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MY LIFE HAS BEEN A TAPESTRY OF RICH AND ROYAL HUES, AN EVERLASTING VISION OF THE EVER-CHANGING VIEW, A WONDROUS WOVEN MAGIC IN BITS OF BLUE AND GOLD, A TAPESTRY TO FEEL AND SEE, IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD.

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