Information processed by the form:

- Chapter Name: Junior Auxiliary of Searcy
- Chapter Address: P.O. Box 156
- Chapter Address 2: CHAPTER ADDRESS
- City: Searcy
- State: AR
- Zip: 72145
- Population Category: 2: 15,000 - 29,999
- Name Of Project: Sunshine School
- Project Category: B: Outstanding Existing Project
- Total Hours Of Service: 275
- Active Membership: 22
- Members Participating: 22
- Purpose Of Project: To provide support, when and where needed to the Sunshine School students and teachers.
- Cost Of Project: $700
- Number Of Persons Served: 75
- Project Description: Junior Auxiliary of Searcy championed the establishment of the Sunshine School in 1964. In the early years the Sunshine School was a half-day school for seven special education students. It helped to meet the parent’s need for a place where their children could be accepted and cared for outside of the traditional public school offerings. The Sunshine School has since evolved into a full time school program that serves developmentally disabled students of all ages including adults.

Because of our involvement since the beginning, the Sunshine School is at the heart of Junior Auxiliary of Searcy’s service to children in our community. All of our active members are required to get a minimum of 12 service hours each year from our Sunshine School project. Because this project is so important to our chapter, and our mission to help the children of White County, the Sunshine School Chair serves as a member of our Board. This enables us to always have a handle on the needs of the school and elevates the importance of this project to our members.

Sunshine School is a year-around project that requires work by all of our members. In August each year we help with Sunshine School Day Camp. This is a three day long camp that takes place at the end of their summer break. We help the students in arts and crafts and swimming. Some of the crafts that are made each year during this camp are auctioned off at our Annual Charity Ball. Every October we put on a Halloween Carnival for the students, their families, and the teachers, which includes games, prizes, snacks and a costume contest. The students and teachers all get into the spirit during this event and we always look forward to seeing what creative costumes they have come up with. We host an Annual Teacher appreciation Day for the Sunshine School teachers were we prepare and deliver lunch to them as a way to say thank you for all they do caring for and teaching these students every day. In the spring we have our annual Easter Egg Party with the students where we help them hunt Easter Eggs and decorate cupcakes. We also get involved in our local Special Olympics by spending an afternoon preparing sack lunches that are served to the athletes at the event.
In addition to the annual events we do for the Sunshine School we also provide monthly support to them. Every two weeks a group of members get together and shop for a less fortunate family from the school, providing them with meals and groceries. We also help the school celebrate at their monthly birthday party where we provide cake, ice cream and cards for all of the students who have birthdays that month.

It is hard to put into words the pure joy that is received from being around the Sunshine School students. Our members can’t help but smile when working with them. It doesn’t take long to create a bond with the students and we look forward to seeing them out in public and them recognizing us as the person who helped them paint at summer camp, gave them a birthday card, helped them hunt for Easter eggs or just visited with them at one of our events throughout the year. Anytime you are working an event for the Sunshine School you should always expect to receive a hug or two.

We are committed to serving the Sunshine School by helping out with any needs that arise. We stay in constant contact with the school and inquire about additional ways we can help the students and their families, and are always looking for ways to grow this project. Some possible ideas for additions to this project in the future include getting more involved in helping the school during Special Olympics, and starting a SunRun 5K/Fun Run that will bring together the community and the Sunshine School students.

The Sunshine School is such a wonderful part of our community that meets so many needs of the families they serve. Junior Auxiliary of Searcy is privileged to have worked with them since their start. We have many Life and Associate members who are still involved with the Sunshine School today, because of their experiences as an active member. We hope that through our work on this project we are able to help ensure that the Sunshine School is around to serve the students for years to come.

About the site that sent this information:
-------------------------------------------
Site Name: National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.
Site URL: http://najanet.org
Form URL: http://najanet.org/view/36