Chapter Name
Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS

Submitted by Name and Email Address
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Chapter Address
PO Box 1488
Vicksburg, MS
39180

Education Chairman
Jessica Ashley

Population Category
15,000 - 29,999

Name of Project
Game of Life

Cost of Project
1500

Number of Active Members Involved
13

Number of Active Chapter Members
Number of People Served
500

Description of Need for Project
Game-of-Life-DeLong-2019-Need.docx

Digital Photo
Game-of-Life-2.jpg

Project Summary
Game-of-Life-DeLong-2019-Summary.docx

Project Evaluation
Game-of-Life-DeLong-2019-Evaluation.docx

Sent from National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.
Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS – Make-A-Wish

Norma DeLong Education

The Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg (JAV) has traditionally worked with elementary or preschool aged children, and established Game of Life to target older children within the community. The Vicksburg Warren School District had recently incorporated a CAPSTONE course within our middle schools that helps teach budgeting skills and a CAREER DISCOVERY course within our high schools that help teach different career options. After talking with the teachers of these courses, it was determined that it would be beneficial to have a project that focused on going into the schools and providing a workshop to go hand in hand with these courses.
Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS – Make-A-Wish

Norma DeLong Education

Game of Life puts students in real-life scenarios in order to prepare them for graduation, and topics covered include expenses associated with childcare, the need for insurance, housing and food costs, budget balancing, how to write checks, and more. In addition to JAV volunteers, Game of Life team members secure volunteers from the community to aid in the project, including experts in the areas of banking, insurance, and realty. The 2018-2019 school year marked year four for this effort, which has grown from a single annual workshop to four annual workshops. Each is a daylong event where students receive a career and annual salary prior to visiting 15 stations where they must “buy” things using a checkbook. Housing, auto payments, childcare, personal care, cell phones, savings accounts, and more are taken into account with multiple options at varying costs available.

With a population of just under 30,000, Warren County has a single unified school district with two public and two private high schools, and three pubic and two private middle schools. Of JAV’s 59 members, 13 primarily dedicate their efforts to Game of Life and reaching these students during a variety of sessions that are planned throughout the duration of the school year. Students participating range in age from 12-18, giving JAV a wide reach and the chance to see students grow throughout their involvement with the project. A rousing success touted by the organization via newsletter and social media channels, as well as highlighted by Vicksburg Warren School District leadership, more than 1,500 students were reach during the 2018-2019 school year.
Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS – Make-A-Wish
Norma DeLong Education

The Game of Life project has truly met a need within the community. During and after each workshop, students convey their shock when faced with real-world scenarios and many express that they “need to work harder in school to get a good job with a good salary.” These comments show that the kids are learning what it takes to succeed in life. The school district has also continually expressed their gratitude, saying they’ve come to rely on JAV for this valuable education experience.

This is a valued project that could easily be transitioned to other chapters with the approval of their local school district leaders, and would also be quick and easy to present. Each year workshop requests increase in number as Game of Life continues to be a vital part of their annual curriculum. With a hopeful increase in both budget and members assigned to the effort, more students can be reached in the Warren County community.