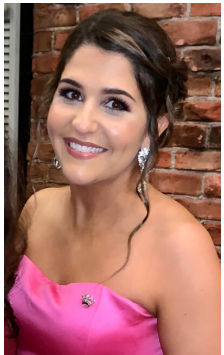




JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF GULFPORT FOR THE CHILDREN



Wow, what a year! We began the year by serving over 16,000 children with our Fill the Bus project, a school-supply drive partnership with the United Way. Once school began, our members served the community through Backpack Blessings, BOOST mentoring program, and Project N.O.W clothes/medical requests. We implemented a new project this year, Ladies Who Lunch, where JA members mentored girls at Bayou View Middle School and Long Beach Middle School. In September, we presented Lynn Meadows Discovery Center with a check so they can continue doing their amazing work. Throughout the year, members have been pen-pals with fourth graders at Anniston Avenue Elementary through our Pen-Pal project. In December, we held our 70th Annual Charity Ball at The Warehouse venue in Gulfport. Our finance chair, Laura McMahon, truly outdid herself putting on "The Greatest Show" for members, community partners and sponsors, and all our guests. It was such a success, and it would not have been possible without each member's help. The next week, we had our Looking for a Christmas Miracle project at Lynn Meadows. The theme this year was "Frozen" and children in our community came for an evening of crafts, food, and each left with gifts to be opened on Christmas morning. We served 101 children that night, and it was definitely an evening of spreading the Christmas spirit. After the holidays, we continued our monthly projects while gearing up for the Provisionals' project "Forever Friends" where thousands of stuffed animals were collected for children in CASA, pediatric units of local hospitals, and first responders. This year's Provisionals have been rock stars and they are going to do big things for our community! We had Read Across America Day on March 2 at Anniston Avenue Elementary. We also had the second annual Beach Day at the Wheel Way. The chair, Selena Rodgers, made this project even bigger and better than last year when it was a provisional project. Over 500 children were served at the event on March 7th and our members put in over 100 hours making this event the success that it was. It was incredible! Sadly, this was our last event of the service year as all projects have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. The pandemic has forced us to postpone our annual Chick-Fil-A shelter drive, FurEver Friends hospital distributions, and the monthly projects. On the bright side, I have been so proud of our members that have been brainstorming ways to continue serving our community during this hard time. I know we will fill any needs we can to best serve the children and community. It has been an honor to serve as President for the 2019-2020 service year. As you can tell, it has been a busy and successful year here. I am emotional writing this to you, because this service year is not ending how we all had hoped. However, I have no doubt the new service year will bring plenty of opportunities to help pick our community back up and continue serving the best we possibly can. To my amazing board: thank you. You have always gone above and beyond and have been so fun to work with; I am honored to have had you by my side this year. To the Chapter: thank you times a million. You never cease to amaze me with your ideas and willingness to step up and help our community when it is needed. I am so sad that our service year is ending without us all being together again in the same room. But I know if there is any group that can come out stronger and continue to serve our community, it is the ladies of the Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport. Life & Associate Members: thank you to each of you that have continued to support us. It means the world when we know that you are still there cheering us on. I hope we have made you proud this year.

For the children,

Sara Farragut

COVID-19 UPDATE



Junior Auxiliary members, with help from the community, provided medical goggles, spray bottles, and food to Memorial Hospital and Garden Park.



During this time of uncertainty in our country, we want our members to know that your health and well-being is our top priority, and we will get through this crisis together. Please know that as a Chapter we will continue to serve our community and the children of Harrison County. If you or someone you know is in need, please do not hesitate to contact any of our board members. We are here to serve!

Thank you!

PROVISIONAL PROJECT COLLECTS 1,160 STUFFED ANIMALS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN



This year's provisional class hosted a stuffed animal drive over a two-month period to collect new or gently used stuffed animals to be given to children going through the foster system with CASA of Mississippi. This project came to fruition after the class realized that there are nearly 800 children each year that transition from their homes into foster care through the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Harrison County. Usually the children who go through CASA are removed from their homes with just the items on their backs. The class wanted to be able to create a project that would be able to give these children something of comfort to take with them as they transition to their new homes. Members of the provisional class created collection boxes that were dropped off at several locations across the coast. At the culmination of the drive, they hosted a collection day at Walmart in Pass Christian for one final push. The drive was a huge success, and they were able to collect 1,160 stuffed animals. CASA of Harrison County received 750 stuffed animals, as requested, while the remainder will go to Memorial Hospital's pediatric wing, as well as local Fire and Police Departments. The chapter, media & community support was overwhelming, and members are considering this as a permanent project for the 2020-2021 service year.

LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER



JA members spread Christmas cheer to 81 students from five local schools through the *Looking For a Christmas Miracle* project. The children served this year attended school at Anniston Elementary, 28th Street Elementary, Central Elementary, Delisle Elementary, and Quarles Elementary. The project was held on a Thursday evening at Lynn Meadows Discovery Center where children made crafts, decorated cookies, took pictures with Santa to bring home, along with a satchel full of gifts from Santa!

Project chair, Danielle Owen, secured donations from Chick-fil-a Gulfport and other local businesses. The project was a huge success!



BEACH DAY AT THE WHEEL WAY

In August 2018, Junior Auxiliary provided funding for handicap beach access from Highway 90 to the water for individuals constrained to wheelchairs. The Wheel Way, as it has come to be known, provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to access the beach in a safe and comfortable way. The Wheel Way was the first of its kind when it was created in 2018. The provisional class of 2018-2019 created this project, which became a permanent project the following service year.



Beach Day at the Wheel Way, in celebration of National Disabilities Awareness Month, hosted an event on March 7, 2020 and welcomed all individual with special needs and their families to come celebrate at this free event held in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park's Institute for Disability Studies and the City of Long Beach. The event featured several activities for children and their families to enjoy, such as beach yoga, a sensory tent, nerf target shooting, and an Imagination Playground. The chapter received immense support from the community, various organizations, and media outlets.



BEACH DAY AT THE WHEEL WAY



In Mississippi alone, 16.7% of the state's total population has a disability of some kind. A total of 6.8% are between the ages of five and fifteen. Junior Auxiliary members saw a need in our community that we were able to fulfill. Fifty-seven community organizations participated in the event and provided valuable resources and information to families of children with disabilities. Beach Day Project Chair Selena Rogers said, "I am so proud to be able to bring this event to our community and to be part of an organization such as Junior Auxiliary that is leaving a mark on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I was there when we celebrated the opening of the Wheel Way and saw first-hand how this project allowed an individual to put their feet in the sand for the very first time. It was exciting and overwhelming. I am also proud to see just how much this project is growing and the joy it brings to so many."

JA HAPPENINGS

COLLEGE BOUND

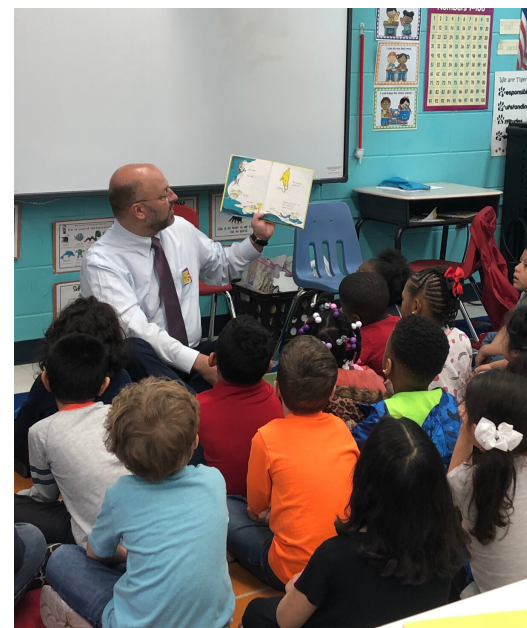
Junior Auxiliary awarded nine local students over \$9,000 in college scholarships. Students are selected based on superior academic achievement and merit, leadership potential, community involvement, and financial need. The following students were awarded scholarships:

Katie Baker, Abigail Chambliss, Emily Cuevas, Dameon Holmes, Katie Huey, Julia Geertsema, Sophia Nelson, Grace Patterson, and Matthew Wingerter.



READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

On March 2, students at Anniston Elementary joined millions of their peers to celebrate Read Across America Day. The Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport hosted the event and invited community leaders and elected officials to join the fun & read to students in kindergarten to second grade. "We wanted to show the students that reading can be fun and create a positive memory to encourage them to continue reading," said chair Torie Clark. This event was a huge success & is one of our events held through our Boost project.



SAYING GOODBYE TO THE CLASS OF 2015

The class of 2015 will become life/associate members this year. What a great 6 years it's been! This class has seen numerous board members, project chairs, and outstanding members. We are sad to see them go, but thankful for their commitment to the Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport!



Outgoing class: Courtney Blacklidge, CC Bradberry, Megan Chiniche, Shundral Cole, Austin Coomer, Christen Duhé, Mandy Guy, Jesica Hage, Angelle Hahn, Maggie Hester, Adrienne Jones, Jessica Knesal, Jenny Levens, Molly McGuffee, Jennifer Ratcliffe, Mallory Savner, Ellen Taylor, Kristi Ward

WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2020

This year has turned out to be quite a unique one for everyone. Since our Spring Social- where we induct new members- has been postponed, we wanted to take a moment to recognize this outstanding group of women.

The class of 2020 stepped up to the plate in a big way with a fantastic provisional project, X total service hours, and helping out in various other ways, like graphic design & expanding projects to serve additional schools. We are so proud of these women and have no doubt they will continue to do great things for our chapter!



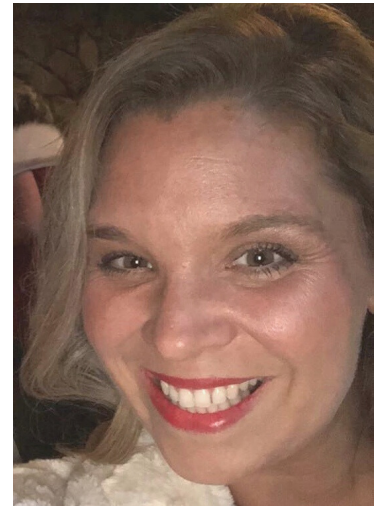
Congratulations to the Class of 2020 on your active member status!

Class of 2020: Katie Burwell, Margaret Carr, Maggie Day, Angelica Espinal, Morgan Haden, Jessica Hisaw, Caitlyn Hardy, Courtney Jacobs, Claire Johnson, Jamie Karian, Laura Koury, Priscilla Perry, Abigail Rea, Gabrielle Rose, Holly Schankin, Lauren Sullivan, Melissa Walker

LOOKING AHEAD

From our 2021 finance chair, Melanie Reilly

Save the date for the Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport's 71st Annual Charity Ball taking place on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at the Golden Nugget in Biloxi, MS. Join us for an evening of fantastic fare, food and fun, as we raise money to support our many projects that serve the children in Gulfport, Long Beach, Pass Christian and West Harrison County. The theme for the night will be revealed soon. Be sure to visit www.jagulfport.org/charity-ball for ticket and sponsorship information.



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