

# JA SERVICE PROJECTS



## CIVITAN CAMP CARNIVAL

Civitan Camp Carnival was initiated to provide a carnival-themed atmosphere with fun games and interactive activities for children attending the Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp. The carnival is held on the final day of camp as the campers are waiting for their parents/caregivers to arrive. Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp, founded in 1961, is a local, non-profit organization operated by an all-volunteer staff that allows children with significant disabilities to enjoy camping experiences.

## ROCK-A-BYE MOMS

Rock-A-Bye Moms allows JA members to care for young children with disabilities through the night during the week of Civitan Camp. Civitan Camp is a week of summer camp for children with disabilities. Each child is assigned a counselor during the day, and at night, JA members take over the role of caregiving so that counselors can rest.

## SMART ART

Smart Art is designed to expose children to a variety of artistic mediums that they may otherwise never experience. JA members prepare art projects, music and other artistic mediums for the children in two morning events. Participants are given gift bags containing art supplies and books so that they can continue to explore and enjoy the arts at home.

## WARDROBE WAREHOUSE

Wardrobe Warehouse helps to provide needed warm clothing and blankets to area families through a single community-wide distribution event. Wardrobe Warehouse hosts an annual Coat Drive in the late fall.

## BACKPACK BLESSING

Backpack Blessing is designed to provide nutrition to food-insecure children when they are not able to receive meals at school. This project packages food into discreet bags and delivers them to schools on a weekly basis. The school counselor then distributes to the children enrolled in the food program.

## CHILDREN'S CENTER PLAY THE SAME

The Children's Center (TCC) is a non-profit organization that began in 1974 with the mission of serving young children (ages birth - 5) with disabilities and complex communication needs and their families (i.e., developmental delays, Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Blindness, etc.). The goal of this project is to give these families an opportunity to socialize and share experiences, hardships, and the immense love they have for their child with other families served. Along with giving the parents and families a safe space to communicate, we offer a supervised "play date" with typically developing children in our communities and let parents outside of TCC give their child an opportunity to interact with a child with a disability and learn that, though they may "look and talk differently," we all PLAY THE SAME!

## CONFIDENCE KITS

The Confidence Kits project is designed to meet the hygiene needs of youth that do not have access to these products from other avenues. JA creates bags of products to be distributed by the counselors at local schools in discreet packaging. A pamphlet will be provided in each bag with a daily checklist of hygiene tasks.

## CROWN CLUB

Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg's Crown Club mentors young area women entering the 10th - 12th grades. The mission of Crown Club is to support young women's growth through community service.

## GAL PALS

JA of Hattiesburg partners with the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter to support and encourage the women and children living there. Members meet with DAFS residents monthly and do activities, hold seminars, and provide family-friendly fun. Members may also be asked to help with facility needs or the needs of specific individuals living there. The goal of this project is to provide some fun and bonding for women and children going through a very difficult time and to support them as they work to restart their lives.

## GET R.E.A.D.Y!

Get Ready provides an educational opportunity for young women entering the workforce. A seminar-style session is held to educate women on resume/application writing, how to dress professionally, preparing for interview questions as well as providing workforce resources.

Sessions are repeated 2-4 times per year at local high schools and/or community colleges.

R-Resume, E-Education, A-Application, D- Dress, Y-You!

## GIRLS ONLY.

The Girls Only. project is designed to help meet the feminine hygiene needs of teenage girls and women who might otherwise have to miss school, work, or other important events due to a lack of these necessities. JA members hold supply drives as needed throughout the year to accumulate feminine hygiene products for distribution through Edwards Street Fellowship and establish an ongoing "feminine hygiene products bank" by which these supplies can be continuously provided to populations served by Edwards Street and local schools.

## JA ROOM MOMS

JA Room Moms partners with a local underserved school to assist its students and teachers. Members plan events, spend time in classrooms, and support the needs of both students and teachers.

## KID'S CULTURE

Kid's Culture supports children in a local school. The goal of this project is to encourage young children to imagine and create culture within their own circle. Additionally, Kid's Culture strives to build relationships and foster individual creativity for young students.

## PENNINGTON'S NIGHT OUT

Pennington's Night Out provides a night of dinner, entertainment, and fun once a month for children and families who participate in ARC. The committee members work closely with the ARC to coordinate themes and dates for the events. ARC is a non-profit organization that provides programs, experiences, and respite care for individuals with disabilities.

## PINEBELT DIAPER BANK

The Pinebelt Diaper Bank was created with the intention of helping provide diapers to families across the Pinebelt struggling to purchase them. The diaper bank was also created with the intention of preventing health concerns in babies, which may arise if diapers are not changed consistently. Diapers are not covered by federal assistance programs or social welfare systems like WIC or food stamps because they are considered a "hygiene item" and not essential items. JA members bundle diapers and distribute them throughout the community. JA also holds diaper drives as needed.

## PROJECT PINEBELT

Project Pinebelt was developed out of a need for more community involvement and support in the Pinebelt. Project Pinebelt will serve as the hands and feet of Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg. The project will function on an as-needed basis, directly determined by community needs and requests. It will support the Community Enrichment Committee by acting out and gathering support from the chapter to meet the need brought to the committee.

## SHOWERED WITH LOVE

Showered with Love is a project that hosts baby showers in coordination with Hope Clinic each month. Hope Clinic provides pregnancy support services for underserved women. Members will provide light refreshments, small decor, and act as hostesses each month for the Hope Clinic baby showers. JA also provides a small baby gift for each mother of honor. There are typically 3-5 mothers showered per month.