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SOCIAL WORK SPOTLIGHT



December is a month that is focused on giving to others, and Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County gives so much to our students. Junior Auxiliary represents a serious endeavor by women to serve and be a vital part of the community in rendering charitable services which are beneficial to the general public with a particular emphasis on children.

Junior Auxiliary has helped our school system since 2004 with the P.A.L.S. program. This year they introduced the new DeSoto's Kids program.

P.A.L.S: Providing Aid, Lending Support, or "P.A.L.S.," was designed to reach DeSoto County school children who are in need and do not fit within the parameters for traditional assistance programs. Junior Auxiliary members work with teachers, counselors, schools, and CPS to supply personal hygiene items, school supplies, glasses, clothes, and various other items to assist these children. It has proven to be a vital support system used by our school district since the creation of our chapter.

DeSoto's Kids: DeSoto's Kids provides aid to children in the area of needs & wants. Whether it be a Christmas gift, soccer cleats, a birthday cake, etc., this project is intended to put smiles on the faces of children who might not usually receive these gifts. Requests must go through school counselors or through DCS social workers.

Junior Auxiliary also manages many other programs to assist children such as Jump Back to School, Coats for Kids, Girls U, Character Cabins, JA Cares, and the High School Scholarship program. To learn more about what Junior Auxiliary does for our county visit www.jadesoto.gives.



If you are interested in giving back to Junior Auxiliary, please consider going to their annual fundraiser. You can purchase tickets through any JA member or by going to the JA website that was listed above. The DeSoto chapter only conducts one fundraiser a year to fund all their amazing projects that go to help so many of our school children. We appreciate all JA does for us and know they would love to have the support of our DCS community at this event.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, FAMILIES FIRST FOR MISSISSIPPI HAS SUCCESSFULLY SERVED THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI BY PROVIDING SERVICES TO MEET THE VAST NEEDS OF MISSISSIPPIANS THAT SPAN OVER GENERATIONS AND CROSS DEMOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS. WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY SYSTEM TO CREATE SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYEES, PROVIDE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS, AND PROVIDE STABILITY FOR FAMILIES TO FLOURISH SUCCESSFULLY ACROSS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

SERVICES ARE DELIVERED JOINTLY BY TWO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER (MCEC) AND THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI (FRC). THE UNITED EFFORTS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS STRENGTHEN FAMILIES OF ALL BACKGROUNDS AND LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES BY PROVIDING SUPPORT AND SERVICES - FROM PARENTING CLASSES, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY ASSISTANCE, AND WORKFORCE AND JOB READINESS. FAMILIES FIRST FOR MISSISSIPPI OFFERS THESE SERVICES THROUGH SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, CLASSES AND PRESENTATIONS HELD IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY CENTERS, CHURCHES, AND STATE AGENCY OFFICES. FAMILIES FIRST FOR MISSISSIPPI WORKS DILIGENTLY TO POSITIVELY IMPACT LIVES AND CREATE HOPEFUL FUTURES FOR ALL MISSISSIPPIANS.

THE WHOLE FAMILY CONCEPT INVOLVES ALL AGES AS WELL AS UTILIZES PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO FILL ANY GAPS AND ELIMINATE ANY DUPLICATIONS BETWEEN SERVICES. FAMILIES FIRST FOR MISSISSIPPI'S CORE SERVICES STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT THROUGH JOB READINESS, SUPPORT FAMILY FINANCIAL STABILITY, PROMOTE LITERACY, INCREASE GRADUATION RATES, SUPPORT POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND PROMOTE PARENTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT. IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE STUDENTS ASSISTANCE WHO ARE AT RISK OF NOT GRADUATING, FAMILIES FIRST FOR MISSISSIPPI OFFERS COURSES IN A FLEXIBLE AND HASSLE-FREE ENVIRONMENT AS AN OPTION TO EARN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. OUR COURSES PREPARE STUDENTS FOR POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS, MILITARY, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

THANK YOU TO FAMILIES FIRST FOR PROVIDING THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS AND HOLIDAY TOYS TO OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THIS YEAR!

Contact Information

- SARAH SAMPLES: REQUEST FORM CAN BE FOUND ON THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.DESOTOCOUNTYSCHOOLS.ORG/MENTALHEALTH](https://www.desotocountyschools.org/mentalhealth)
- ANNA JOHNSON: REQUEST FORM CAN BE FOUND BY USING THE FOLLOWING LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.DESOTOCOUNTYSCHOOLS.ORG/BEHAVIORSERVICES](https://www.desotocountyschools.org/behaviorservices)