



# Top Projects

*From the 2015 Award Entries*

These programs and projects were selected as the Top Projects by the GFWC Special Project, Community Service Program, and Advancement Area Chairmen. The lists were comprised from the State Award Entries and Club Creativity Award Entries submitted by state chairmen.

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## **JUNIORS SPECIAL PROJECT: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

### **Capes for Heroes**

The program Capes for Heroes provides capes for children with disabilities, life threatening illnesses and kids that just need to be empowered. GFWC Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club (CA) had 12 members that made 67 capes. The capes give deserving children an extra boost of strength and courage to make them feel like the superheroes they are.

### **“Trick or Treat” for the Food Pantry**

The GFWC Iowa Tuesday Club (IA) decided it would be fun to “Trick or Treat” for the Food Pantry. They had two articles in their local newspaper. The first asked citizens to have non-perishables ready for them when they came to the door on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Club members in costume went door-to-door and collected the items. The second article was a “thank you” to the community for the 120 pounds of donated food.

### **Teen Maze**

The Bremen Junior Woman's Club (GA) hosted an interactive event that allowed the teens to experience the potential implications of positive and negative choices. The teens advanced to 17 various scenes and stations that were designed to give them a realistic view and experience regarding the consequences of poor choices such as early/unsafe sex, drug/alcohol use, texting and driving, failure in school, etc.

### **Toilet Paper Roll Safety Project**

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster (MD) did a project to prevent children from choking on small toys. The project consisted of attaching a decorated toilet paper roll to cardstock paper with the following statement: “Any toy or toy part that can pass through this tube is a choking hazard for children less than three years of age.” The club members demonstrated the danger to parents and children using different sized toys.

### **Halloween Costumes**

The GFWC Hudson Junior Women's Club (NH) coordinated donation boxes in the community to collect new and gently used Halloween Costumes. The costumes were distributed to children serviced by their local food pantry.

### **First Day Pet Project**

GFWC Vi-sa-wen Woman's Club (AZ) held the First Day Pet Project for their local preschool children. Stuffed animals were collected and distributed on the first day of school, providing the anxious young students with a “pet” to help them with the transition from home to school. The teachers planned to have a classroom zoo to keep the “animals” contained in the classroom.

### **No Excuse for Child Abuse**

The Barbourville Junior Woman's Study Club (KY) sponsored a “No Excuse for Child Abuse” 5K walk/run for Prevent Child Abuse Month in April. Over 150 participants walked or ran in this event which included a Kids Dash. The children were encouraged to dress in wacky costumes. Participants were given a shirt and a “swag bag” with information on child abuse awareness and steps to prevent abuse. Profits were donated to Prevent Child Abuse KY.

**Blue Jean Quilts**

The Kalamazoo Area Women's Club (MI) collected old and slightly used blue jeans. Their members gathered to cut out squares, sew them together and finish the quilts. The quilts were donated with sets of sheets to a residential facility for children.

**Medication Safety "Look Alike"**

The Junior Woman's Club of Woodstown (NJ) participated in their town's Health and Wellness Curriculum Fair. The club members made a medication safety "look alike" display and the local Wal-Mart's pharmacist was on hand to answer questions. They handed out information cards and medication safety sheets that were provided by Wal-Mart.

**Children in Crisis**

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Butler (PA) partnered with several local agencies that serve young adults transitioning from foster care to independent living. By bringing these groups together the club was able to provide six two-hour sessions on independent living which helped give these young adults the confidence to be productive citizens. The topics at the sessions included resume building, job searching, interviewing, relationships, social media, financial management, and cooking basics.

## **SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**



### **Denim Days Step Forward**

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, the White Lake Fortnightly Club (SD) conducted a Denim Days Step Forward Project with a school, a local bank, and a local Nursing Home. The community was encouraged to donate \$1.00 for the privilege of wearing denim one day during a designated week. All proceeds were given to the local Safe House.

### **Showing and Glowing of Purple**

Winterport Woman's Club (ME) partnered with their county domestic violence agency to create a "Showing and Glowing" of Purple during October. The club distributed purple lights to area businesses and purple light bulbs which were purchased by community members for display in their homes. A town community sign stating the club's support for the awareness and prevention of domestic violence was displayed.

### **Domestic Violence Centerpieces**

Three Junior Clubs – Metamora, Germantown Hills, and the Encore Club (IL) provided 10 centerpieces for their district convention that benefitted the Prevent Child Abuse America affiliate in Peoria. Each centerpiece included a set of pajamas, socks, underwear t-shirt, a onesie, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, brush, comb, soap, book, coloring book, crayons, puzzle, stuffed animal, and a blue and silver pinwheel.

### **Blow Away Child Abuse**

Top of the Pines Club (AZ) participated in a Prevent Child Abuse America Pinwheel Program with a "Blow Away Child Abuse Project" at a booth at the local car show. Over 500 pinwheels with labels about their club and PCAA were distributed, as well as homemade cookies.

### **Home Visitor Supplies**

The Kanawha Woman's Club (VA) assisted Prevent Child Abuse America Virginia with the collection of supplies to be used in a training of home visitors from the Healthy Families program. The supplies were used to make developmentally appropriate toys and activities that the home visitor will use to teach parents how to help their children learn.

### **Survivor Assistance**

After hearing a guest speaker at a club meeting who was also a survivor of abuse, the Progress Club of South Bend (IN) purchased an annual pass to a local zoo for the speaker and helped her complete the paperwork for the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship.

### **Personalized Journals for Survivors**

Members of the Citrus Heights Woman's Club (CA) learned about the counseling process for women fleeing from violent environments and the need to have journals for the women to record their thoughts. They purchased plain journals and decorated the covers with all kinds of embellishments and inspirational sayings.

### **Shelter Items for Festival of Trees**

The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Club (NY) decorated two trees at the Festival of Trees community program with items needed by two local shelters. A "Warm Up Tree" was decorated with mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and other items for the winter months. The "Look Good Feel Good Tree" was filled with personal care products.

**Mardi Bra Party**

The Central Valley Contemporary Club (NJ) worked with Distributing Dignity, an organization which gives donations of new bras and personal hygiene products to shelters across New Jersey. The club held a Mardi Bra party in October with invitations to other women's groups in the community and the two founders of the organization came to speak at the meeting which was open to the public.

**SHARP Kits**

The Federated Woman's Club of Hershey (PA) assembled SHARP (Stalking, Harassment, and Rape Prevention) Kits, and donated them to the YWCA Rape Crisis Center. Each kit contained a cell phone and charger, a small paper tablet and pen, a flashlight, a whistle, a datebook, and a canister of pepper spray. The items were gathered into non-transparent cosmetic bags.



## ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### **Historic Driving Tour Map**

The Woman's Society of Batesburg-Leesville (SC) created a Historic Driving Tour Map of their community. The club's members designed, published, and distributed the multifold brochure map that shows 42 color photos of historic homes and sites. The club members worked with a local historian to insure the accuracy of the information on the map, which includes a short description of each site. The maps were distributed to the local Chamber of Commerce, public libraries, county offices, and other prime locations in their community. The brochure also has contact information about the club and clearly identifies the club as members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

### **Embellished Slippers**

The Okolona Woman's Club (KY) held a very enjoyable and beneficial project for a local women's shelter. The club purchase plain terry cloth slippers and then held a workshop to decorate them with ribbons, buttons, bows, and etc. Members of the club had great fun creating these beautiful gifts of caring for the women in the shelter.

### **Paint the Town**

The Calhoun Woman's Club (GA) partnered with the Atlanta Paint Disposal Company to facilitate a massive paint give-away event entitled and publicized as "Paint the Town." Paint colors that had been discontinued, plus brand-new craft and wall paint from all over Georgia were brought to a rented warehouse. Club members notified newspapers, contacted United Way, school systems, and church organizations, as well as individuals and families in 7 counties and 2 states about the event. Recipients of the free paint donations shared information about their projects, such as painting puppets, school crafts, theatre backdrops, and holding neighborhood arts and crafts classes.

### **Pajama Storytime Posters**

The Women's Citizenship Club (CO) developed a program to help the Alamosa Public Library reach more young readers. The members engaged 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to create posters to advertise Pajama Storytime. The young readers brought a special stuffed pet to the library to be left overnight. The next morning the children picked up their pets and were given a picture of what their pet did overnight. The next phase was for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to create posters of what their pets did during the Pajama Storytime. These posters were judged and prizes awarded. The posters were then displayed at the library.

### **Christmas in the Park**

The GFWC Double Springs Study Club (AL) sponsored the 8<sup>th</sup> annual "Christmas in the Park" project in December. The club collaborated with other civic organizations in the area, the Kiwanis Club, high school Key Club, Gateway super market, and the First National Bank. There was food, dancing "Frosty the Snowman," singing elves, and, of course, Santa. Hand painted 72-4ft by 4ft Christmas cards depicting the 12 days of Christmas greeted the people throughout the park. This event was open 24/7 all during the month of December.

### **Sewing Camp**

The Poplarville Women's Club (MS) arts committee taught a five day sewing camp for a group of 10-year olds at a local 4H camp. The members taught 4 hours each day and the girls learned to make pillowcases, table runners, colorful skirts, and purses. The members felt since classes are no longer held in school, this was an opportunity to teach a very useful skill.

### **Sweetheart Valentine Dance**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Safford (AZ) sponsored a very special event for 80 individuals with disabilities. They held a Sweetheart Valentine Dance with a DJ and refreshments. A professional photographer was on hand to take pictures of the sweethearts. Each attendee received a corsage and a stuffed animal.

### **Ugly Sweater Contest**

The GFWC Seward Woman's Club (NE) held an Ugly Sweater Contest. The event was held during their Christmas Celebration in their community from Thanksgiving until Christmas. The club advertised, supplied the prizes, secured judges, and had a great time looking at all the ugly sweaters.

### **Art Chair Auction**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Covina (CA) collaborated with the Pacific Art League and transformed 28 folding chairs from the 1930s owned by a member into works of art. Local artists painted the chairs with unique designs. The club advertised in newspapers and 28 businesses displayed the chairs for 1 month in their store windows. On the Friday prior to the Saturday auction the chairs were exhibited and artists acknowledged. Saturday evening was a ticketed event with dinner and live auction. This was a very successful event for both organizations with lots of visibility and profitability.

### **Recycled Tire Sculpture**

A Gun Lake Area GFWC clubwoman (MI) attended a series of classes at the Battle Creek Art Center and brought back her ideas for a tire sculpture. A sculpture was designed and created by the clubwomen and has been permanently placed on a garden berm at the Yankee Springs Township Park. The sculpture consists of 8 recycled tires that were cleaned, primed and painted to appear as a full mural. It was installed using metal posts and concrete. The 22 members had a great time being creative and the local newspaper featured the members and their creation on the front page after completion.

# CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



## **Outdoor Learning**

The Woman's Club of Vista (CA) was "Inspired by Nature." This environmental education program brought children outdoors to learn about the environment and gardening. The program included monthly classes organized and taught by a Vista member with other members volunteering at events and in classes during the year. The children "got their hands dirty" while their minds were busily learning about "bugs" and Monarch butterflies, Earth Day, Water Wonderland, Fall Fun, Pond Ecology, and so on. Other volunteers recruited by the club were Vista Boys and Girls Club, the elementary Torch Club, and middle school students.

## **Paint Recycling Project**

The Calhoun Woman's Club (GA) partnered with the Calhoun Fire Dept., Electric Dept., EMS, and a several other organizations to facilitate a massive onetime paint recycling project. The club worked with Atlanta Paint Disposal Co. to have over 204,000 gallons of craft and wall paint moved to an empty store so the paint could be processed for recycling. All the paint was stacked to facilitate easy access for local charities, schools, and churches to come and receive gallons of paint. The overall project donated 446,602 units of paint to about 288,450 individuals in GA and AL.

## **Wetland Education for Students**

The Woman's Club of Elizabeth (WV) held 30 minute classes for students in 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade on *Wetlands*. The 21 learning stations with nine sessions offered information on bees, wildflowers, forestry, acid rain, a bug's life, water shed, fishing, gas and oil issues, archaeology, nature center, soils, living earth, furbearing animals, etc. The club arranged for presenters and sponsors that helped provide T-shirts for the event which was designed by the winning student. They also hiked through the wetlands to complete their experience.

## **Benefits of Trees**

Women's Club of Odessa (DE) held a forestry project. The goal was to educate the students about the importance of trees in reducing global warming and providing clean air by actually planting trees. This project revitalized Arbor Day. Volunteers from the club along with the school administration, teachers, students, families, and friends participated in planting trees along with the help of workers with disabilities. The students learned through active participation the benefits of trees in the community.

## **Conservation Themed Backpacks**

Solon Women's Club (IA) has made 4 backpacks with different themes for children and families to check out at the library. They plan to add more bags in coming years. The focus was to encourage outdoor exploration. The four bags included: books, bags, tools, and Nature Explore supplies. The four different backpacks consisted of topics including Birds, Bugs and Butterflies, Bugs and Spiders, and Reptiles. These bags were also filled with coloring books, crayons, magnifying glasses, toys, stickers, measuring tapes, binoculars and activities.

## **Monthly Swap**

Boardman Poland Junior Women's League (OH) decided that what may be "old" to one, might be desirable to other members. They decided to hold a jewelry swap. They rethought this idea and decided to swap books, magazines, scarves, jewelry at meetings on different months the swap was held. They even brought flowers and bulbs to plant in gardens. It was very popular among the members (and so easy to do)!

## **Mats for the Homeless**

The Paradise Valley Woman's Club (AZ) and DeQuincey Club (LA) collected plastic grocery bags which were then crocheted into "Mats for the Homeless" and donated to a local group for distribution. It takes about 700-800 bags to make into blankets or mats.



**Hypertufa Containers**

GFWC Tishomingo's Daughters (OK) supported a "GO Green" recycling project with a container garden project using Hypertufa. Members were enlightened on how to make this project that looks like stone but weighs a lot less. The recipe includes peat moss, perlite, and Portland cement.

**Reuse-A-Shoe**

Warwick Women's Club (RI) participated in Nike "reuse-a-shoe" program which takes worn out sneakers and makes Nike Grind, a material used in sports surfaces and playgrounds. This club collected 145 pairs of sneakers from businesses and schools to donate.

**Feed Bag Recycling**

In the community of Nisqually Woman's Club (WA), plastic was banned, so here was an opportunity to use animal feed bags and turn them into shopping bags. Not only did it reduce waste, they sold bags and netted a profit!



## EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### **Beach Buddies Books**

GFWC Woman's Club of Point Pleasant (NJ): "Beach Buddies Books" is a project which brought books to children while on vacation at the Jersey shore.

### **Books Till Six**

GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club (VA): "Books Till Six" supplied books for the Roanoke Children's Hospital Pediatric Unit.

### **Magic Bus**

GFWC Cosmopolitan Woman's Club (NM): "Magic Bus" supplies school buses to classes for field trips.

### **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**

GFWC Salem Women's Club (NH): "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" promoted reading to families from infancy to school.

### **Ice Cream for Reading**

GFWC Women's Club of St John (IN): "Ice Cream for Reading" promoted reading in elementary school and the prize goes to the class that read the most...an ice cream sundae party!

### **Light Up a Child's Night**

GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne (WY): "Light Up a Child's Night" allows children from under-privileged families the ability to bring books home.

### **The Puppet Ladies**

GFWC Goddard Woman's Club (KS): "The Puppet Ladies" clubwomen performed puppet shows for area elementary aged children.

### **Back to School, Wishes on Wheels**

GFWC Escanaba Woman's Club (MI): "Back to School, Wishes on Wheels Program" collected and donated school supplies and back packs for area children.

### **Teacher Appreciation Writing Contest**

GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (MA): "Teacher Appreciation Writing Contest" honors teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

### **Inventor's Month**

GFWC Violets Woman's Club (GA): "Inventor's Month" is dedicated to recognizing the creativity of inventors, everywhere and encouraging students....you are the inventor of your own destiny!

# HOME LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



## **HeartScarves Project**

Yorba Linda Woman's Club (CA): Distributed in hospital and at support network meetings, each hand-made red scarf offers comfort, support and encouragement for a woman with heart disease and becomes part of her healing journey. Go to [www.womenheart.org](http://www.womenheart.org) and then click on Programs to find all the necessary information about the project. Knit, crochet, weave, or sew a red scarf about 3-4 inches wide by 50-60 inches long. The scarves are mailed to a distribution center in North Carolina.

## **SOUP-er Bowl Saturday**

GFWC South Brunswick Islands Club (NC): An Empty Bowl event to help feed the hungry. Area restaurants, caterers and club members made soup and bread. Attendees received a handcrafted soup bowl made by local potters as a memento. Partnered with local newspaper to promote and club members sold tickets (\$15) for the event, set up the hall at the church, worked the day of the event, and made desserts.

## **Sleeping Mats for the Homeless**

GFWC Intermediate League of Butler (PA): Members collected 11,000 recycled plastic garbage bags, cut them into strips, woven to form a ball of plastic yarn and then crocheted into six foot long sleeping mats. Each mat required 700 bags and 120 hours to complete. These mats helped improve the sleeping conditions of the homeless by keeping moisture away from the body, create heat, and were soft to sleep on.

## **Best Bra Contest**

GFWC Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club (WI): There is a \$10 entry fee for each decorated bra that is submitted for judging. In addition there is a \$5.00 charge to vote for the People's Choice Award and raffle ticket. The best bra was determined by breast cancer survivors who attended the event. There is an adult category and a kid's category.

## **Educational Book Marks**

GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne (WY): Book marks were created and printed with information on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. The information encouraged people to lock up their medications, find the location of a secure Drop Box for medication disposal, taught how to otherwise dispose of unneeded medications, and included information on the State Medication Donation program. Book marks were distributed to all local pharmacies and were enclosed in the bags with medications when pharmacists filled prescriptions.

## **Step Challenge Program**

GFWC Warren Junior Woman's League (OH): All club members were given a pedometer to keep track of their daily steps. Members then logged onto the American Heart Association website where they had an account set up. Along with their steps, they could also log on other activities such as yoga, Zumba, vacuuming, and doing laundry. The website converted those activities into steps. At the end of the contest everyone had the total "steps" that they had taken.

## **Rolling Library Program for Homebound Seniors**

Woman's Club of South County (RI): The seniors helped by this program were connected with the Meals on Wheels Program. Questionnaires were sent out to the Meals participants, asking if they would be interested in having books brought to their home and what books would they like to read. The librarian at the local library picked out books that she felt would be appropriate and members delivered the books on a designated day each month. In addition to delivering the books, the volunteers visited with the shut-ins.

**Easter Basket Project**

Darien Woman's Club (IL): Easter Baskets were made up for adults at a local assisted living home or nursing home with packages of tissues, pens, notepads, sugar free candy, and sample sizes of shampoo, conditioner, lotion body wash, etc., plus a note of wishes for a Happy Spring from the club.

**Got Sole Project**

Great Bridge Woman's Club (VA): The club collected gently used and new athletic shoes to distribute to those who have experienced a natural disaster in this country and abroad. Link is [www.projectssole.org](http://www.projectssole.org)

**Fire Buckets**

GFWC Delmar New Century Club (DE): As a service to local volunteer fire department, the club supplied fire buckets to families who experienced damage to their homes as a result of a fire. Each fire bucket contained cleaning supplies, tissues, toilet paper, plastic gloves, and many other items needed to begin cleanup after a fire.



## **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **“Wrap a Smile” Project for Operation Smile**

The Woman’s League of Mt. Airy (NC) met three times during the fall to make fabric ribbon bows. The Saturday before Christmas the members wrapped gifts for shoppers at the local Mall using the fabric ribbon bows. Donations for Operations Smile were requested. The club raised \$600 in donations for their “Wrap a Smile Project.” They used the event to distribute Smile materials as well as GFWC information. Project increased the club’s visibility in the community.

### **“Pop a Shot” Fundraiser for Shot@Life**

GFWC White Lake Fortnightly (SD) hosted a “Pop a Shot” fundraiser at a local high school basketball game during halftime. They purchased liters of pop and PowerAde, charged \$1 per shot as participants tried to make baskets on the court. If they made a basket they won a liter of pop. An information board and members were in the lobby with Shot@Life information available to fans/attendees.

### **Collection of Corrective Glasses for Medical Mission Trips**

Walhalla Woman’s Club (SC) members assisted a community member with her medical mission trips to Eastern Europe, Africa, and Central America by collecting used reader and prescription glasses from their members, friends, and neighbors. The club recruited local churches and other local civic groups to participate in the project. As a result 976 pairs of glasses were donated, assisting people on three difference continents be able to see well enough to read.

### **Noodle Fundraiser for Operation Smile**

Lehigh Federated Club (IA) wanted to raise enough for an Operation Smile surgery. They came up with a creative way to raise funds using their own talent: cooking. The members put in hours making homemade noodles. They made the dough, used pasta machines to flatten the dough, cut the dough into strips, and hung them to dry. They then packaged the noodles in 8 oz. packages and sold them. It worked! One surgery was paid for through their efforts.

### **Traveling Tutu’s**

GFWC New Tampa Jr. Woman’s Club (FL) collects and distributes gently used dance attire to underprivileged children around the world. Club members cut tulle into strips and attached them to a piece of elastic in a variety of sizes and colors. The new tutus were delivered along with gently used dance wear and a cash donation to “Traveling Tutu’s.” It is said there are shortcuts to happiness and dancing is one of them. Little girls across the globe are enjoying their pretty tutus.

### **Bottle Auction**

The Junior Woman’s Club of Woodstown (NJ), with 21 members, held a bottle auction. Members donate a wrapped bottle, which can contain anything. The bottles are then auctioned off and the winner opens the bottle for all to see. There are always some crazy items such as dish soap or shampoo that provide plenty of laughs. An easy fundraiser providing fun for the members, the event brought in over a \$120 at one meeting.

### **Tasting Event for Shot@Life**

GFWC Northboro Jr. Woman's Club (MA) held an international beer, lemonade, and hard cider tasting event with proceeds going to Shot@Life. The beers were arranged by country and members and guests could mingle and sample the many beers available. The club had 12 beer selections representing eight countries. To accommodate all, nonalcoholic beverages were available as well. Everyone was invited to sample five varieties of French lemonades/ciders. Members provided ample appetizers to cleanse the palette and offered a light dinner.

### **Brown Bag Auction for Shot@Life**

GFWC Agawam Jr. Woman's Club (MA) held a "Brown Bag Auction," raising \$425 for Shot@Life. Members brought international themed items that were placed in brown bags which included clever clues describing the bag's contents along with its value. Members blindly bid on the bags. The highest bidder gets to take home a gift, while the proceeds, along with a matching gift, provided 42 children with life-saving immunizations.

### **Kiss the Pig for Heifer International**

A "Kiss the Pig" contest to raise money for Heifer was a success for Maysville Younger Woman's Club (KY). Six members volunteered to have their name placed on jars and people placed money in the jars to determine who would "kiss the pig." The member with the most money kissed a lively potbelly pig on the main stage of the local Pig-Out Festival. This project could work for any hometown celebration and you could use any animal. Fun!

### **Hospitality for International Students**

A project in their own backyard gave the Village Improvement Associates of Rehoboth Beach (DE) an opportunity to work with international students in their community. Memorial Day to Labor Day members work to create a safe and hospitable community for the students working at local business in the summer. Members offer meals, transportation, emergency assistance, and fellowship. Members volunteered one night a week from May to September to prepare and serve meals with other service groups to these students.

## **PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**



### **Police Trading Cards Sponsorship**

In a unique project to support its local police, Marlton Woman's Club (NJ) sponsored a policeman for the "Township Police Trading Cards." 1000 trading cards for each of the town's 80 policemen are printed with the name, police department, phone number and picture of each policeman. The cards are distributed in the local elementary school and at community events. The first child to collect all 80 cards wins a bike donated by the local bike shop.

### **"Are You OK?" Senior Reassurance Program**

In conjunction with the local fire department, the Ridgefield Woman's Club (CT) sponsored "Are You OK?" a senior reassurance program available to citizens over 60. Club members contact a list of 20-30 subscribers 365 days a year. If there is no response the volunteer contacts the subscriber's emergency contact and/or dispatches fire or police help.

### **Recognition of School Crossing Guards**

In appreciation of their concern for the safety of its local school children, the North Arlington Woman's Club (NJ) recognized 16 local volunteer School Crossing Guards for enduring extreme winter cold. Club members honored the volunteers at a monthly club meeting. They were given printed certificates of appreciation and Dunkin Doughnuts gift cards.

### **"Proudly Our Colors Fly" Project**

Pembroke Woman's Club (NH) arranges for 50 American flags to be flown on utility poles along the major road ways through town. The club sees to the maintenance and replacement of the flags and coordinates the "Proudly Our Colors Fly" project with the town administrator, utility company, fire department, and highway department.

### **Village Revitalization Initiative**

Members of the GFWC Mecosta Woman's Club (MI) worked with a class of students from the local State University to prepare a visionary document of opportunities to revitalize their village. Several buildings were painted. Park benches were placed on town streets.

### **"Drop Your Drawers" for Sew Much Comfort**

GFWC Semper Fidelis Club of Skowhegan (ME) sponsored a creative "Drop Your Drawers" fundraising display booth at the annual Chamber of Commerce event to raise money for Sew Much Comfort.

### **Appreciation of Honor Flight "Guardians"**

Members of the GFWC Woman's Club of Bowling Green (OH) wrote letters of appreciation to the Honor Flight "Guardians" who accompany veterans on Honor Flights.

### **Mats for Soldiers**

GFWC Woman's Club of Baden County (PA) collected plastic grocery bags and used them as yarn to make bedside and shower mats for deployed soldiers.

**First Aid Training**

GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL) conducted CPR and First Aid Training at 4 local high schools at no cost to 48 students. Club members certified in CPR and First Aid donated their time. Trained graduates received "Staff Credentials" to work in licensed child care centers. The club project saved the local school system \$1200.00.

**Judicial System Education**

Members of the Yorktown Woman's Club (VA) participate in a Court Docent Program designed to give high school seniors a personal, first-hand "look" into the judicial system. Students witness live court cases, verdict delivery, and visit the jail. The docent tour has become a part of the curriculum in high school government classes throughout the county.



## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Movie Theater Advertisement of Club**

GFWC High Springs New Century Woman's Club (FL) placed an on screen advertisement at the local movie theater during 2014. The ad is shown on the full movie screen before each show begins. The advertisement has photos of their historic clubhouse and their renovated rental hall. An inviting message tells people about the city of High Springs, including their clubhouse, with contact information for the rental of the building.

### **Yarn Bomb on GFWC Federation Day**

GFWC Hastings Woman's Club (MI) was featured on a local Fox TV station for their Yarn Bomb feature story in Kalamazoo. The Yarn Bomb, a deco explosion of lights and yarn on light posts and bike racks in front of the public library was organized in conjunction with GFWC Federation Day. Members wore GFWC shirts, held signs while being interviewed by reporters on their club history and membership. The segment was featured on the news at 6 and 11, and then linked to their web site for additional viewing.

### **Camp Sponsorship**

Lombard Junior Woman's Club (IL) sponsors a TLC Camp for children with cancer. This is the 32nd year of the camp, with 83 campers. It is staffed by club members, past campers, siblings, and other volunteers. Club letterhead is used on all solicitation requests. Brochures are mailed to local hospitals; camp applications to campers and staff are mailed and can be found on the TLC website. Photos and DVDs from camp are used for presentations to other organizations and when asking for donations.

### **Multiple Advertising for Club and Fundraiser**

GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club (GA) has two websites and two Facebook pages, one each for the club, with the others dedicated to their major fundraiser, Lilburn Daze Arts and Crafts Festival. The club runs a separate publicity campaign for this event including press releases, electronic billboards, articles in the newspaper, as well as social media. Attendees receive a 4 page program which includes a message from the club president and the club's logo. Members wear club t-shirts during the event.

### **Personalized Club Aprons & Banner**

Members of the Woman's League of Mount Airy (NC) wear club aprons during all events including: Wrap a Smile - gift wrapping before Christmas, proceeds going to Operation Smile; Andy Opie Take Me Fishing – A day of free fishing partnering with the NC Wildlife Department, children to learn how to fish in a stocked pond. The club banner is displayed at all events. All activities are promoted on Facebook and with articles in the Mount Airy News.

### **Personalized Club Mini-Banners**

GFWC Century Club of Wilkins Township (PA) purchased 25 blue and gold 2'x4' banners at a cost of over \$3,000. The banners are attached to utility poles throughout the township promoting the club and identifying a person's location in Wilkins Township.

### **“College and Career” Night**

Nisqually Woman's Club (WA) attended “College and Career” night at a local high school. Parents were there with their children to avail themselves on information on colleges and job searches for the graduating students. Information was made available for the parents to get involved with the local GFWC Club. Students were also encouraged to participate in the State Arts competition in photography, writing, and other forms of art.

**Communication Tool to Facilitate Events**

Sandwich Woman's Club (MA) made an improved effort to automate their volunteer and event sign-ups using a web based system (Sagepoint). This tool allows the organizer to message the membership with volunteer opportunities, either for donations or work shifts. Reminder tools are also available to make sure that everyone who can volunteer does. They also use this tool to distribute invitations for social events.

**Project Website**

Julian Woman's Club (CA) maintains two websites, one for the club, and the other for the Quilt Trail Project. The site tells what the project is, the history of such trails, and about their trail in particular. Information is shared on the quilt squares as well as newspaper articles about the trails and other area events. This website helps improve the attendance at fundraisers, and community service events.

## **FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Tribute to Sir Elton John Concert**

The Woman's Club of Cayce (SC) sponsored the Rocketman—Tribute to Sir Elton John Concert. Besides the details needed to prepare for a successful event from gathering 35 sponsorships, heavy radio and TV publicity, ticket sales, and logistics, a reception was held after the concert to donate raised monies to the Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter – \$22,000 in monies raised and \$14,000 in kind donations.

### **Ms. Doon Contest**

The Doon General Federated Women's Club (IA) wanted to purchase an electric message board for their community. They decided to have a Ms. Doon Contest where twelve men agreed to dress as women depicting the 12 months of the year. Just like a Miss America pageant, evening gown, swimwear, and street clothes were featured, as well as talent and interview questions. For a town of 544, realizing a profit of \$1001 was commendable.

### **Howl at the Moon—Cuisine in the Corn for a Cause**

The Joliet Junior Woman's Club (IL) sought a causal affordable fundraiser so they planned a Howl at the Moon—Cuisine in the Corn for a Cause celebration at Siegel's Cottonwood Farm. So much fun, including: hors d'oeuvres, a traditional farm meal, a s'mores station, live entertainment, a hayrack ride, and a bonfire. Added profits came from selling donated logo cups and beer. Silent auction items and raffle packages helped the club raise \$10,662.

### **Veteran's Appreciation Picnic and Resource Fair**

The Citrus Heights Women's Club (CA) had concerns about the lack of services being offered for Veterans in their city. Working with other community civic organizations, including the Veteran's Administration, they promoted the Veteran's Appreciation Picnic and Resource Fair as a way to raise funds and provide resources. Personal invitations as well as traditional publicity convinced 600 attendees to attend this special day and a profit of close to \$10,000 was realized.

### **Women of Achievement**

The Peninsula Women's Club (NJ) held a Women of Achievement fundraiser that honored local women. Two women were honored in 2014: a hardworking, tireless facilitator for a local shelter and a high school student who was a role model for other teens. This banquet, put together by all 23 club members, was held as a tribute to the honorees and netted \$2,315.

### **Breakfast with Santa**

The New Brighton Civic Woman's Club (NJ) took a tried and true fundraiser and refreshed it with a new look. Capitalizing on the popularity of the movie Frozen and the character Olaf, their Breakfast with Santa's entire theme focused on the movie and netted \$1,285. Children made Olaf ornaments and crafts, raffle items featured Frozen books and stuffed animals, and families enjoyed the Frozen atmosphere.

### **Margarita in Paradise**

The Hollywood Women's Club (FL) used a unique location for a Margarita in Paradise fundraiser. Overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway and Atlantic Ocean, guests were greeted at the door of a lovely four story private home with a margarita and cheese and shrimp/oyster bar. A steel drum band, silent auction, amazing food from five local restaurants, a chocolate display, and additional drinks on the roof top deck added to the successful event with \$32,000 raised.

### **The Valentine's Day Tea**

Taunton Junior Woman's Club (MA) wanted a fun and interesting way to conduct their annual club fundraiser but with a twist. The Valentine's Day Tea garnered a Gone with the Wind theme and a final profit of \$1234. From showing the classic movie, timely themed decorations, movie character impersonators, and trivia

questions from the movie, this successful fundraiser's 92 attendees enjoyed their finger foods, sandwiches, teas, and desserts.

### **Dogs vs. Cats**

The Woman's Club of Huntington Junior Department (WV) used people's preference for Dogs vs. Cats to raise \$315 for a local "no kill" animal shelter. Designated donations were asked to be for dogs or cats. With popular social media and YouTube videos of dogs and cats, this creative idea can be a barking/meowing success for other fundraising ideas.

### **Cornhole for a Cause**

The Monroe Junior Woman's Club (GA) tossed this idea out to their community and held a Cornhole for a Cause event at a local farm. Thirty two-person teams tossed beanbags into small holes on sets of wooden boards as tournament brackets narrowed down to the final winner. In kind donations, corporate sponsors, food, Blue Grass music, and a casual atmosphere where spectators and participants enjoyed the day, yielded \$3,000.

## **LEADERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **District LEADS**

The Jubilee Woman's Club (AL) developed and created one of the first GFWC District LEADS (Leadership, Education And Development Seminar). The program was designed specifically to help current leadership understand their job responsibilities and to plan for the administration. Sessions included developing and engaging strong chairmen, conducting meetings with a WOW factor, public speaking, communications importance and options, collectively developing a framework, and planning for the two (2) year administration.

### **Club Development**

The Lemont Junior Woman's Club (IL) created a team of members with both new and seasoned members. They leveraged the experience of the more mature members, researched club projects and programs, communicated openly and honestly, and took things one step at a time, tackling only those things they knew they could accomplish. They increased their membership from 21 to 51.

### **Strengthening the Link to GFWC**

The First Vice-President of Arizona Paradise Valley Woman's Club (AZ) presented a short "GFWC Moment" at each meeting which includes an item from GFWC History. The GFWC Moment not only includes an item from GFWC history, the item chosen is also to reinforce the inclusion of GFWC in the name of their club, as well as how their club fits into the GFWC structure.

### **Financial and Historical Records Management**

The University Park Woman's Club (MD) scanned and digitally stored fourteen (14) years of financial and key historical documents into Google Docs, organizing the information in e-folders. Best records management issues are regularly discussed now as the club moves forward.

### **New Member Project**

The Monroe Junior Woman's Club (GA) has new members gather with the President and Vice President for a question and answer time. At this meeting the members are tasked with designing, organizing, funding, and completing a new member project. It is designed to allow the new members to work as a group to bring the project full circle from creativity to completion while learning about the club.

### **Marketing By a Basket**

Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club (FL) donated a basket at a monthly meeting held by the Chamber of Commerce which introduced new businesses, new products, existing businesses, and services. The creativity of the club's baskets made them very popular with attendees. Their involvement with the Chamber brought attention to the club's civic responsibilities, charitable works, and their worth in the community.

### **Club Leadership Initiative**

The Chalets Woman's Club (CO) created a successful new team concept to overcome challenges with getting officers. They divided the club into four teams. Each team is responsible for running (4) four meetings including the agenda and pre-meeting program. Each team will also put on one social event, one fundraiser, and will complete one community service project. Each team assigned a leader and a communicator.

### **Solution to Childcare**

Farmville Junior Woman's Club (VA) addressed the problem many members had with child care by contacting the faculty advisor of a service fraternity at a nearby college to see if they would be interested in providing childcare services at their meetings. When the response was positive, they arranged to hold meetings in a local church where they were given access to the church nursery.

### **Boosting Leadership**

The Massachusetts Sandwich Woman's Club (MA) paired each member to an activity that would well suit their skills, interests, and experience. By doing this and keeping members engaged throughout the year, it was an easy task for the Nominating committee to fill the slate of officers for the following year. They found that the members who were more involved carefully considered and volunteered for leadership positions.

### **Leadership Workshop**

The Great Friends Working Cooperatively Club (OH), a newly-formed club, had a Leadership workshop on "Using Personality Styles to Nurture the Leader in You." This workshop was a great way for each member to discover not only their strengths, where they would excel, but also their weaknesses, where they might struggle, of both themselves and other members.

## **LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Domestic Violence Action Coalition**

For the past 7 years, a (CA) club's Domestic Violence Action Coalition (DVAC) has been the "watchdog" for their community, state, nation and internationally in terms of violence against women, children and men. The DVAC addressed the issue of Sexual Assault in the Military and began an organized effort to pass the Military Justice Improvement Act. They followed the bills and worked with additional agencies on legislation. They researched, emailed, made phone calls, discussed the issue at meetings, gave presentations, wrote newsletter articles, and finally the bill was passed in their state.

### **Student's Annual Sophomore Pilgrimage**

Twenty (NE) clubs sponsored 49 students at their state federation's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Sophomore Pilgrimage. The event was held at the state capitol; students met elected officials, observed the Unicameral Legislative session, learned about the State Supreme Court, and had lunch at the Governor's Mansion with their State Senator.

### **Honor and Remember Flag**

One (TX) club met with legislators for two years to promote the adoption of a new flag – the Honor and Remember Flag. This flag is a tangible national symbol of gratitude of the sacrifice of "Fallen Heroes." The bill was adopted in their state. The club created a petition and sent it to the U.S. Senate requesting an establishment of a National Remembrance Flag. A total of 1.6 million signatures are needed to achieve the hope that the Department of Defense will support and Congress will enact a law officially recognizing the Honor and Remember Flag.

### **Support for Distracted Driving Bill**

Members of one (NH) club attended a presentation by one of their state senators serving on the state House Transportation Committee about the campaign against distracted drivers. The club members were encouraged to contact their state legislators encouraging them to support the passing of the Distracted Driving Bill.

### **Student's Mock Legislature**

One member served on a (SD) statewide committee to organize a mock legislature for high school students called YELL (Young Elected Legislative Leaders). The event took place at the state Capitol with 50 students from 19 high schools participating. State legislators spoke and students attended a class on parliamentary procedure. As a result, 17 of the students became YELL fellows and were given jobs working on legislative campaigns for the November general election.

### **Support and Mentoring for Women in Politics**

With the support of her (MS) woman's club, one member organized the first support group in the state for women in politics – The Elected Ladies. The initial target was women newly elected to serve on their local school boards. The Elected Ladies is a mentoring program and has now expanded to working with interested elected female political leaders. The group has grown from 18 members to 385. The members gather for conferences pertaining to education, children, advocacy actions, and necessary legislative changes throughout the state.

### **Promotion of Bill to Limit Intrusive Telemarketing**

A (NJ) club of 82 members continue to address the problem of unwanted and intrusive telemarketing phone calls. They have urged their state legislature to enact a bill that would prohibit the manipulation of certain telephone caller identification information. The bill would amend the current law which requires callers to identify themselves within 30 seconds and prohibits calls between certain hours, caller ID blocking, and calls to cell phones. The bill would prevent any caller ID service to transmit misleading or inaccurate caller ID information with the intention to defraud, cause harm or wrongfully obtain anything of value, unless

authorized by law enforcement. The bill was passed the Assembly, received in the Senate, and sent to committee. The club will continue its fight on this issue.

### **Advocating for Change of Archaic Law**

An (IL) club member's daughter and unborn granddaughter were violently murdered in a domestic violence dispute in a neighboring state. The male suspect claimed in court it was because he was drunk he was innocent. This state had an archaic law "voluntary intoxication," which led to a hung jury. This member was ultimately successful in changing the law through tireless efforts and letter writing support of her club.

### **Assessment of New and Pending Legislation**

One (MD) club reports to members on a month-to-month basis regarding new and pending legislation. In one piece of legislation, hidden deep within the budget was an amendment which allowed the government to decrease federal and federally backed pensions in order to balance the budget. The club contacted members of their state legislature concerning this issue.

### **Promotion of GFWC Legislation Alerts**

One (FL) club reunited the club presidents from the past two fiscal years to talk about the legislative page on the GFWC website and showed members how to sign up for legislation alerts. They also gave them the link to sign up for their state House of Representatives Legislative Tracking system. Members now receive legislative alerts and updates for federal and state issues.



## **MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Innovative “Once Upon a Time” Event and Membership Recruitment**

GFWC Grundy Woman’s Club (VA): Once Upon a Time, a princess extravaganza, was created by the club. This extravaganza provided an opportunity for young ladies in the community to see and visit with princesses like the ones at Disney World/Land. Sixteen young high school ladies in their community dressed as Disney Princesses and made over a 100 young girls very happy. Membership applications were handed out to the adult attendees and 7 new members were recruited.

### **First Friday Membership Initiative**

Junior Woman’s Club of Williamsburg (VA): The club instituted a new member initiative called First Friday. The Dean of Members in conjunction with the social committee chooses a location for the first Friday in the months of September, October, and November. At a happy hour the prospective members, new members, and long term members get to know the club and each other. They ask questions about the club and enjoy meeting in a stress free environment.

### **“Morning Moms” Initiative**

GFWC Statesville Woman’s Club (NC): The club created a group called “Morning Moms.” This group meets after their children are dropped off at school in the mornings. Nine new members joined because of this group.

### **Casino Trip Nets New Members**

GFWC Taunton Junior Woman’s Club (NC): There is nothing like a captive audience when pitching something. A bus ride on a casino fundraising trip was used to inform the participants about this club. Membership applications were distributed to those interested and 7 new members were recruited.

### **Flip-Flop Ice Breaker**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club of Stephenville (TX): As an icebreaker, a member was given the right flip-flop and a guest was given the left flip-flop. After the two flip-flops were matched up the two people had to learn something about each other to share with the group. Everyone had a great time getting to know each other in such a fun way. The flip-flops were donated to the local Rainbow Room and new members were accepted.

### **Auction’s Winning Bid is New Members**

GFWC Monday Club (MO): The club held a huge auction that not only sold items, but also added new members. Each member was asked to bring two guests to the event that were then offered a chance to join.

### **Celebrating the Arts and Cultivating Members**

GFWC Book Lovers Study Club (AL): To celebrate the arts, bring in new members, and enjoy the members they already had, the club organized a painting party. It was so much fun for everyone that 4 new members joined.

### **Building Club Bonds for Retention**

Warrenton Woman’s Club (NC): To help current members feel accepted and valuable the club decided to invite everyone to arrive thirty minutes early to meetings so they could have time to just socialize and enjoy each other’s company. This time also allows new members to get to know everyone better.

**Baby “Look at You Now” Social**

Woman’s Club of Essex County (VA): During a meeting members were asked to bring a baby picture with no name attached. Members and guests tried to match them up. Prizes were given and those attending enjoyed childhood snacks, such as goldfish, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and rice krispie treats.

**Business Cards for Recruitment**

Joliet Junior Woman’s Club (IL): This club uses membership business cards that are designed with contact information, the club’s logo, and the club’s mission statement. It also includes the Facebook and website addresses. Each member was given a stack to give to potential new members. This led to the instillation of 5 new members.

## **WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Historical Cookbook Fundraiser**

While researching the club history, the Joliet Junior Women's Club (IL) historian found a JJWC cookbook online. It was the first fundraiser the club held in 1958. She went through the list of businesses that sponsored the book and contacted those still in business. The book was re-created and sold as a new fundraiser. An original copy of the cookbook and the profit realized from the sale of the books will be donated to WHRC.

### **Online Family Tree**

To keep better historical records and track their 100 year history, the Village Improvement Association (DE) developed an online Family Tree. The club with 202 members has added the names of the new members, their sponsors, initiation dates, and personal information to their 1909-present membership roster. Members entered their information, which could include relationships to town families and current/past government officials, which will give a more complete picture of the club and its history.

### **Historical Records Shared and Scanned for Club's Anniversary**

The Woodbridge Woman's Club (VA) celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The members voted to preserve the club history by scanning their records. One member was storing 12 file boxes of records, photographs mementos, etc. They methodically identified and documented which records should be retained. In total 4,869 pages and 427 photos were scanned including all official minutes beginning with their first meeting in 1965. All information was shared throughout the year through their club newsletter.

### **"Our Door is Always Open" Historical Education Project**

Elsinore Woman's Club (CA), in an effort to educate the public of their almost 100-year history, invites history teachers and students in the town to visit the club. They share scrapbooks from the 1930s to today and encourage their visitors to volunteer at different events to become more intimately involved with their club history. The project is called "Our Door Is Always Open."

### **House Tour Showcases Federation History**

Atlanta Woman's Club (GA) had their clubhouse featured on the Atlanta Preservation Center house tour. This is a tour of living landmarks through the city during the month of March. Each room of their house was decorated for a different decade where the history of GFWC, GFWC GA, and GFWC Atlanta WC was shared with the many people who came through the tour. This project gave the club the opportunity to educate, celebrate, and strengthen the assets that make them a strong and viable presence in their community.

### **Anniversary Celebration Highlights Club History**

GFWC Heartland Woman's Club (GA) honored the Covington Woman's Club, which is the oldest club in the state (115 years). Members researched and collected information and invited the community and other area clubs to the celebration. An anniversary scrapbook was created and a video recorded to document the history of the club.

### **Praiseworthy Club Member Recognized at Women's History Month Event**

Double Springs Study Club (AL) observes Women's History Month by presenting the annual "Woman of Distinction Award" to a member of their club or community who exhibits outstanding service to their community and exemplifies all the qualities set forth in the "Collect."

### **Education Forum Shines Light on WHRC and 1734 Society Memberships**

GFWC Concord Contemporary Club (NH) held a GFWC WHRC and 1734 Society Membership Education Forum. One member obtained materials from WHRC HQ and distributed them at the club's Membership Night and at their New Member Orientation. The WHRC Timeline and brochure and the 1734 Society tri-fold and brochure were distributed. In light of the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WHRC and 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of GFWC, members were encouraged to join the 1734 Society and the Friends of WHRC.

### **Club Collaborates with Art Students on New Brochure**

GFWC Hot Springs Woman's Club (NM) wanted their community to be more aware of their contributions to the city. They attended and participated in many community events including the March Art Hop Hot Spring's High School Student Art Show. They collaborated with students to update their brochure. Twelve versions of the proposed brochure were submitted and two were meshed together to create their new club brochure. The newly created club brochure is now widely distributed at community events.

### **Member Recognition Presentations Compiled into Club History**

Members Woman's Club of Arlington (NJ) has incorporated a personal clubwoman history presentation into each meeting. Each month one member is chosen from those who will be celebrating their birthday that month. The member is sent a questionnaire and a 10-minute presentation is prepared and presented by the club historian. A birthday cake is made and the members sing Happy Birthday to the honoree. The questionnaires are being compiled in the club history scrapbook along with a photo of each honoree.