



# **Top Projects**

## *From the 2016 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.

## ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



### **Snowman Contest**

The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club (MA) held a community Snowman Contest. The club involved the entire community and the weather also cooperated with record snowfall. Club members organized the competition by setting up different categories: Largest Group Effort, Most Creative, Most Town Spirit, and Most Traditional. Selected judges included a selectman, the editor of the local newspaper, and a local store owner.

The participants received gift cards and photographs were placed in the local newspaper. This event was so successful that the club plans to do it again.

### **Edible Books Festival**

The Woman's Club of Rutherford (NJ) collaborated with the Friends of the Library of Rutherford to organize an Edible Books Festival. Contestants created edible books depicting book titles using all edible ingredients and materials. Prizes were awarded in several categories: Best Book Depiction, Most Creative, Most Whimsical, and People's Choice. Winners received \$50 cash prizes donated by local banks and also colorful spatulas decorated with multicolored ribbons. Club members decorated the tables for the event and created 15 raffle baskets. All proceeds benefited the library.

### **Stained Glass Transom**

The GFWC Maine Newport Woman's Club (ME) developed the Stained Glass Transom project recognizing the club's role in establishing the first permanent library in Newport, as well as in the founding of the Newport Historical Society and the club's ongoing relationship with the Newport Cultural Center. Three stained glass windows were created by local artists with each depicting a special club history—one has a silhouette of three clubwomen from the past, another has the GFWC colors of the emblem, and the final window depicts the front of the first library. A plaque was also created with a timeline of the club's work for the community.

### **Very Special Arts Festival**

The Aiken Woman's Club (SC) coordinated the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Very Special Arts Festival which was held in conjunction with the Special Olympics of South Carolina on at Midland High School. Since all special needs students cannot be athletes, this arts festival provided an opportunity for 1,200 participants to do arts and crafts, so everyone could take part in the event. The 22 club members spent 110 hours, donated \$200 to the effort, and coordinated 34 organizations and business to ensure the event was successful. Members of the Sand River Woman's Club also acted as a sponsor, creating 360 hats which were decorated with flowers and feathers at the event.

### **Handcrafted Gowns**

The Pea Ridge Woman's Club (WV) took on a very special art project by creating beautiful handcrafted burial gowns for infants and children using donated wedding gowns. The Cabell Huntington Hospital, St Mary's Medical Center, and Hospice of Huntington are the recipients of the project. There are nurse contacts at each facility. The club collects donated wedding gowns from the community which are then cut and sewn to create gowns and buntings for stillborn babies or those born too early. Once completed, the gowns are wrapped in tissue paper and boxed individually with an enclosed bible verse. The Pea Ridge Woman's Club donated fifty gowns during the 2015 club year.

### **Library Murals**

The GFWC/CFWC Woman's Club of Redondo Beach (CA) created murals on the walls of two city children's library rooms. One member, an artist, took on responsibility as the leader of the project. The members readied the room and then the artist drew sketches of sky, trees, grass, and mountains, along with children's book characters. Once the sketches were complete, the clubwomen began painting the murals. Ideas began to flow as the paint was applied and a newborn baby's footprint was used to create butterfly wings. Club members also raised funds to purchase rugs, fabric to recover furniture, and computer software. The grand opening featured the Mayor, the

press, and hundreds of citizens.

### **Sketch My Profession**

The GFWC Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club (FL) teamed up with local professionals from various backgrounds, education levels, and occupations within the community, as well as the Chester Pruitt School, a Head Start Child Development Program in Fort Walton Beach, to organize a unique project. The business professionals visited with 24 preschoolers at Chester Pruitt to describe their jobs and show the tools of their trade. After the visit, members of the club's art committee began a dialog with the children, helping them recall what they had heard and seen by sketching a picture on a dry erase board. The children were then given 12"x 14" paper and asked to create their own drawings. When complete, the members collected the artwork and it was made into a bound book.

### **BBQ Boogie and Blues Photo Booth**

The GFWC Calhoun Woman's Club (GA) participated in the Downtown Calhoun and Gordon County Chamber of Commerce annual BBQ Boogie & Blues event by operating a "Fabulous Crazy Hair" photo booth. Large colorful signs directed the way to the booth where patrons found colored hairspray, hair bows and bands, wigs, boas, oversized glasses, and jewelry. The patrons not only left the booth with the most interesting hairdos ever seen, but photos too.

### **Anniversary Quilt**

The Cedar Falls Woman's Club (IA) celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015 and created a quilt in honor of that achievement, choosing the theme "Treasuring the Strength of Women" and depicting the fashions of past decades from 1910-2010. Blocks with images of women in period clothing were purchased and then embellished with things relating to the corresponding timeframe, such as a two-piece bathing suit and a beach theme for the '60s block and a cell phone and holder for the 2000 block. The center block is decorated with the club name and years of Federation. The quilt is displayed in the new addition of their 1860s Victorian club house, which is used by other clubs and also serves as an events venue for showers, weddings, and birthdays.

### **Cruisin' Around Saugerties**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Saugerties (NY) participated in the "Cruisin' Around Saugerties," a four-month community project held in the Village of Saugerties. The club sponsored a full-sized, fully functional, well-designed painted metal peddle car. An artist is picked by each sponsor to design and paint the "vehicle." The peddle cars are displayed from May until Labor Day and then auctioned off. This year there were 40 cars and each averaged \$300-\$400 at auction. The \$300 raised was donated to the Patriots Home for Veterans.