



# **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.

## **FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Simply Southern: Tables with Just the Right Touch**

The GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club (AL) sponsored a Tablescape (distinctively decorated tables) event featuring a plated lunch, silent auction, fashion show program, and door prizes. All 15 club members participated in this unique event which featured extensive planning, attention to detail, social media marketing, youth volunteers, a home-cooked meal, and a script that included highlighting GFWC and the club's key projects. In all, \$3,471 was raised and \$639 was contributed as in-kind donations.

### **Cause for Celebration—Witches Ball**

The Joliet Junior Woman's Club (IL) held an inaugural event capitalizing on a local woman's charity group called Events for a Cause which hosted a Witches Night Out. This group was interested in expanding the event and reached out to the Junior Club to assist. Advertising was split and the two events were held a day apart at the same location. In total, 37 members participated, 250 tickets were sold, and \$11,889 was raised.

### **Haute To Trot**

The Rochester Junior Woman's Club (MI) organized an elegant and fun Kentucky Derby fundraiser. Guests were encouraged to dress-up with hats for the ladies and bow ties for gents, and best-dressed prizes were awarded. Photos, silent auction items, "betting", viewing the race, food stations, dessert bar, specialty drinks such as Mint Juleps, and a live band entertained the 220 guests. The 99 member club plans to repeat this successful event, which raised \$16,000, again next year.

### **"Christmas Under the Oaks" Arts and Crafts Show**

GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL) held a large-scale event with committees undertaking all logistical aspects to promote the city's 100th anniversary celebration. A total of 120 crafters/artisans and six food vendors, plus an electronic billboard, heavy advertising, and a 39-year event history drew community members to the day-long Arts and Crafts Show. Over 4,000 people visited the club informational tent and learned about GFWC. When proceeds were tallied, a profit of \$23,823 was realized.

### **21st Holiday Woodbury House Tour**

The Woman's Club of Woodbury (CT) traditional home tour continued to be a successful event because of the pre-planning and commitment of club members. Five homes and the historic King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 were included in the tour. Posters, fliers, and 1,000 place mats used in local restaurants advertised the event, in addition to media resources and four A-frame road signs strategically placed two weeks prior to the home tour. The club dedicated 2,537 volunteer hours to the effort, raising \$10,490.

### **2nd Annual Denim and Pearl Oyster Roast**

Chapin Junior Woman's Club (SC) held a perfect nighttime fundraiser for their 160 guests with rustic decorations, roasted oysters and chicken bog, DJ dance tunes, sponsor donations, door prizes, and a pearl bracelet giveaway for the ladies and a golf ball drop for the men. Proceeds of \$7,074 went to HUB, an African-American community center that provides assistance to elementary through secondary aged youth.

### **1st Annual Huntington Christmas Express**

The Woman's Club of Huntington (WV) collaborated with the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society and the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District to treat guests to an old-fashioned *Polar Express* event. The 367 guests arrived in pajamas to enjoy an evening of story-time, hot chocolate and cookies served by elves, plus a magical visit by Santa to see if the children "believed." The sold-out event raised \$2,646.

### **The Sorghum Festival—Ham N' Biscuit Booth**

Morgan County Woman's Club (KY) participated in the Sorghum Festival which combined music, food, and Appalachian crafts over a three day weekend. The club's ham n' biscuit booth proved successful with members cooking 45 whole country hams (each took 10-12 hours to bake), 2,700 angel biscuits, 750 dried apple pies, and a new item—350 sorghum cookies. Although the weather did not cooperate, a profit of \$6,000 was realized.

**Good Neighbor Day**

The Farmville Junior Woman's Club (VA) used a “feel good” event to promote goodwill and spread community awareness. Two florists nominated organizations/charities to receive donations, and then plans were made for individuals to receive a free dozen roses with the promise they would keep one rose and give the others away. In total, 14,000 roses were purchased and distributed throughout the community. With liberal publicity and a proclamation from the Mayor, the club garnered \$3,000 for their Christmas cause.

**Paint a Pallet**

GFWC Kearney Woman's Club (NB) used recycled pallets to paint, sell, and secure club funds. By painting patriotic flags as the first design, then pumpkins, snowman, and even the Sandhill crane, club members showed their creativity with this fun activity which turned out to be a good club money-maker, with a profit of \$450 from painting 18 pallets.