



# Top Projects

*From the 2017 Award Entries*

These programs and projects were selected as the Top Projects by the GFWC Special Program, 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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## **JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

### **Honoring Children for March of Dimes**

GFWC du Midi Woman's Club (AL) invited members to bring \$1 to a club meeting to honor each of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Brown paper bags were placed on tables and passed around for donations. Money collected was donated to March of Dimes.

### **GFWC AZ Cares 4 Kids**

GFWC Arizona (AZ) developed a Cares 4 Kids program, presenting each club with a starter kit (24 large plastic bags, program inserts that could be personalized with the club name, and over 80 children's items, such as coloring books, bubbles, and toys). Clubs were encouraged to be creative filling their bags (toiletries, art, emergency supplies, etc.) and choosing where to distribute bags. Over 700 bags have been delivered to domestic violence shelters, emergency centers, etc.

### **St. Jude Wish List**

GFWC Illinois Metamora-Germantown Hills Junior Woman's Club (IL) supported Advocates for Children Week by purchasing/donating items for St. Jude's Wish List. Items ranged from coloring books and crayons, Play-Doh, art kits and supplies, to gift cards, tablecloths, and personal items. Members delivered items to St. Jude and were given a tour of the St. Jude clinic.

### **Aid to Missouri Girls Town**

GFWC Sorosis Club Springfield (MO) paid the annual dues for the Juniette club at Missouri Girls Town, a home for troubled or abused girls. GFWC Beverly Shelton Girls Town Club (MO) held their first Cornhole Tournament to raise additional funds for Missouri Girls Town.

### **Tu-Tu Wonderful Party**

GFWC Statesville Woman's Club (NC) supported Girls on the Run, an organization that inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using fun, experience-based curriculum that integrates running. Clubwomen hosted a "Tu-Tu Wonderful Party" to fashion tulle tutus to donate for young girls to wear in their 5K race.

### **Taking Care of Those Who Care for Children**

GFWC Dover Area Woman's Club (NH) prepared, served, and cleaned up Thanksgiving dinner for Dover Children's Home, a residential treatment facility that works to enrich the lives of adolescents. Clubwomen served not only residents and their families, but also included staff, board members, and volunteers.

### **Saidie's Cupboard**

GFWC Salem Woman's Service Club (OR) developed Saidie's Cupboard to honor Past GFWC International President, Saidie Orr Dunbar, who was a dedicated leader in the early work of Public Health Nurses. Clubwomen donate "Family Bags" (basic household items) and "Infant Bags" (books, rattles, etc.) to be distributed by Public Health Nurses. Funding for this program includes direct mailings to medical professionals, past club members, other clubs in Oregon, and supportive community members.

### **Halloween Costumes Closet**

GFWC Plymouth (PA) offered new and used Halloween costumes to children for a town parade. At the end of September, flyers were distributed announcing the event and requesting donations of costumes. Members had purchased costumes at bargain prices after the previous Halloween. Two distribution days allowed children to try on and select the perfect costume. Parents were encouraged to return the costumes so they could be repaired and cleaned to be ready for the next year.

**Dimes for Driscoll Children's Hospital**

GFWC Woman's Monday Club (TX) supported Driscoll Children's Hospital, a free-standing children's hospital in South Texas, whose founder, Clara Driscoll, was also a founding member of GFWC Woman's Monday Club. Clubwomen held a "Dimes for Driscoll" fundraising project. Members collected dimes in 20 oz. plastic soft drink bottles and donated the money to Driscoll. Each bottle held over \$100.00 in dimes.

**Luggage for Foster Care**

GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg (VA) continued a highly-regarded project within the club and among the community that provided luggage with a personal monogram for each child in the James City County Foster Care Program. Since children in foster care are extremely transient, club members wanted to give them a sense of security and a place for all of their belongings.

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



### **Cooper's House**

Statistically, 48 percent of domestic violence victims refuse to leave a dangerous situation for fear of their pet's safety. The Solon Women's Club (IA) used their club holiday party, which serves as a fundraising event, to donate to "Cooper's House," a unique safe pet program associated with their local domestic violence shelter. This program provides kennel services for the pets of women leaving an abusive relationship until ALL family members can find a new home.

### **Princess Breakfast**

The Book and Needle Club (NJ) held a Princess Breakfast that raised \$1,000 for a local non-profit organization helping women and children who are experiencing abuse. Held at a local middle school cafeteria, the event was attended by pre- and elementary school students, many wearing Disney Princess costumes. Volunteers dressed as Disney princesses and took pictures with the attendees. Activities included fingernail painting, washable tattoos, as well as games.

### **Sheets for Survivors**

GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (MA) organized a fundraiser to support several community programs serving domestic violence victims and families. Members promoted bed sheet sales to friends, family, and online through social media. The premise was that everyone deserved a safe place to sleep and, by supporting the fundraiser, contributors were also helping to provide security to those who needed it the most. The fundraiser raised \$2,287.

### **Escalation**

To raise awareness of the problem of relationship violence, the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster (MD) collaborated with the One Love Foundation and the local State Attorney's office to host a showing of the film "Escalation" to educate viewers on the warning signs of a dangerous relationship. A representative from the One Love Foundation facilitated an open discussion following the film. Attendees included high school students, their parents, local officials, and other community members.

### **Wrapped in Love**

GFWC Three Rivers Woman's Club (MI) began making blankets and afghans for their area shelter in 2002. What began as a project to make coverings for the shelter's 13 beds and 3 cribs, became an on-going project when the members discovered that the residents became attached to their "lovey" and wanted to take it with them when leaving the shelter. To date, the club members have made 769 afghans and blankets for the shelter, including 50 in 2016.

### **Bath Buddy Flower Pots**

GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Women's Club (PA) made Bath Buddy Flower Pots to support children who were having a difficult time adjusting during their stay at a domestic violence shelter. Each Bath Buddy Flower Pot featured a bucket filled with bath products and toys with colorful "flowers" crafted from washcloths. Prior to delivering them to their local shelter, the pots were used as table centerpieces at the GFWC Pennsylvania Convention and the club's annual banquet.

### **Chalk It Up**

GFWC/IFC Progress Club of South Bend (IN) collaborated with the YWCA for South Bend's 1<sup>st</sup> Chalk It Up. The streets of Downtown South Bend were chalked with statistics and messages to educate the community on the needs of the YWCA, which is St Joseph County's domestic violence abuse shelter.

### **Derby on the Duck**

GFWC Dickson County Woman's Club (TN) sponsored and participated in Derby on the Duck, a fundraiser for a domestic violence program that provides temporary shelter, court advocacy, and transportation, as well as education and support groups for four counties. The club sold yellow ducks that were individually numbered. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, all of the ducks were dumped into the Duck River with prizes valued at over \$2,500 awarded to the first ducks that crossed the finish line.

### **Tie a Purple Ribbon**

In October, members of the GFWC Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club (FL) tied deep purple ribbons with a large bow around 42 crepe myrtle trees in the median in a highly visible, heavily trafficked road. In order to make the passersby aware of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, the club designed and purchased signs captioned "*Recognize, Report, Stop Domestic Violence*" and listed the club, along with their logo, as sponsors.

### **Holiday Scavenger Hunt**

GFWC Cosmopolitan Woman's Club (MN) holds a scavenger hunt for items needed by their local shelter and Christmas gifts for the shelter's residents at their local mall in November. Each team is given \$200.00 and a list of items needed. Teams have an hour to purchase the items within budget. Purchases are judged and prizes are given to the team that spends the least amount of money, but is able to fulfill their list.



## **ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Very Special Arts Festival**

The GFWC Brandon Service league (FL) sponsors an arts festival for kindergarten-aged, developmentally disabled, public school students in their area. Members host 100-200 children, teachers, and chaperones for a fun filled 3-4 hour adventure. With the help of local high school students, the kindergartners make arts and crafts at different stations. Outside there are sites for puppet or magic shows, kid-sized musical instruments, and storytelling. Members work with local restaurants such as McDonalds and Chick-Fil-A to provide lunch. This is often the only field trip for these students.

### **“My Dedham” Smartphone Photography Contest**

The GFWC Dedham Junior Women’s Club (MA) asked local 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to send in their unique views of Dedham using digital photography (smartphone camera). The club collaborated with local schools to advertise the event and the local artist guild was asked to judge. Recognition of the top entries followed with the winning selections being featured in the local paper. At an awards ceremony, the grand prize winner received a digital camera as their door prize. The top three finalists received a copy of their image on canvas.

### **Halloween Window Painting**

The Woman’s Club of Madisonville (KY) decided to bring back the traditional Halloween Window Painting contest to the community in October by sponsoring the event. Members created paint kits that were used by each of the contestants. Contestants submitted their designs and upon approval were given a paint kit and assigned a window along the town square. There were 193 students in k-8<sup>th</sup> grades registered for the event and 106 windows were painted. The Halloween decorated windows were available for viewing during the last two weeks in October. Merchants were then treated to a window washing to remove all of the paint.

### **Sketching With the Sheriff**

The Woman’s Club of Claymont (DE) saw how arts may be used in the pursuit of criminals when they asked the local sheriff to present a program titled “Sketching With the Sheriff.” He showed how composite sketches are made from statements taken from interviews with witnesses, often leading to the apprehension of the perpetrators. The club made a donation to the New Castle Police towards the purchase of a canine vest to thank the sheriff for the program.

### **See You at the Movies**

The Castine Woman’s Club (ME) ushered in spring with the sponsorship of a good “chick flick” at the local Alamo Theater. The Alamo is a 140-seat movie and performing arts theater in Bucksport, Maine, which was built in 1916 and is now run by Northeast Historic Film. The club sponsored film, “Hello My Name is Doris,” starring Sally Field, was shown over the weekend of April 28-May 1, 2016. Sponsoring the film provided the club with wonderful public exposure, having their club name up on lights for the week on the theater marquee. The club also received exposure on the theater’s website and received a credit and promotion on the big screen before each showing of the film.

### **Greenland Bandstand Program**

GFWC Greenland Woman’s Club (NH) coordinates the Greenland summer bandstand entertainment. Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, five free band concerts are held on the town green for the public during the summer months. Club members volunteer at each of the concerts. One serves as MC, while others collect voluntary donations from attendees for the perpetuation of the concert series. Each donor receives a button signifying they are a sponsor. The club prepares a concert program with donation envelope, listing the dates and bands, which is then distributed through the newspaper. Members also drive senior citizens to the event.

### **Art & Wine Stroll**

The Northwood Literary Club (ND) hosted an Art & Wine Stroll. The purpose of this project was to showcase local artist of multiple genre and to host an evening of fun and entertainment for the community. Fourteen artists including painters, photographers, metal sculptors, wood carvers, jewelry makers, and musicians were hosted at six local businesses. Each venue was unique and a variety of snacks and wine were served. Two hundred tickets were presold, making this a limited ticket, special event.

### **Volunteer Arts Teachers**

GFWC Fairview Heights Woman's Club (IL) identified the need for art teachers in local schools. With Illinois in a serious budget crisis, the Fairview Heights school district eliminated art programs. The arts chairman for the club volunteered to conduct art classes free of charge as a volunteer at Illini Elementary School. She took on the task of teaching art to approximately 340 students Pre-K through fourth grade. The clubwomen were given a storage room at the school that they turned into an art room. Each class project takes about six or seven days to teach due to time constraints. Some teachers also requested holiday projects for their students. Twelve members have given over 180 hours of service to this ongoing project.

### **Poetry Lover's Program**

GFWC Covina Woman's Club (CA) has a beautiful clubhouse with a great room that seats 500, with a good sound system and stage /screen capabilities. They decided to revive a project from the early days of their club – a poetry lover's reading program. Prior to the event, club members were asked to either write a poem or bring their favorite poem to share. Poetry books that members could browse and check out were displayed. The chairman served as MC, keeping a dialogue going as members were introduced to tell a short history about their poem and the impetus behind writing it if it was an original.

### **Kid's Brush**

GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club (WI) held a Plein Air Arts program for elementary students in conjunction with Oconomowoc Festival Week. Twenty-eight students are given a swag bag of supplies to use to create a work of art outdoors. This year members used an inspiring new location in the backyard of a local church on Fowler Lake. Secured at a lower rental cost, the move allowed more money to be spent on art supplies. Club members also jumped in to help process the screen printing of the Kids' Brush t-shirts to reduce their cost. Club members scoured the internet and shopped on discount day to get the best prices for art supplies to fill the swag bags full of everything the young artists needed to make their masterpieces. Finished pieces of art were displayed at the library and patrons were able to leave positive notes of encouragement for each artist.



# CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

## **Kids & Kows & More**

The Florence J. Scott Study Club (TX) helped bring a love of nature and its workings to every fourth grader in Starr County through their work with the Kids & Kows & More program. Over a thousand fourth graders spent two days enjoying exciting interactive sessions on water conservation, wildlife conservation, horticulture, electrical safety, beef cattle production, and the use of drones in farming, gaining knowledge and an appreciation of conservation.



## **Posters and Robots Recycling Contest**

GFWC Pocono Mountain Woman's Club (PA) sponsored a recycling contest for students from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. Kindergarten through Third Grade students made posters depicting recyclable materials in their homes and how they were to be recycled. Fourth Grade through Sixth Grade students made robots out of recycled materials found in their homes. Prizes for First, Second, and Third Place were awarded at a school assembly.

## **School Gardening**

The Woman's Club of Rock Hill and GFWC-York County Woman's Club (SC) participated in a project to introduce first graders at seven different elementary schools to recycling, earthworm casting, seed sprouting, and vegetable gardening. Club members attended learning workshops, presented classroom lessons, and then helped the students plant lettuce, carrots, and radishes in March. Gardens were checked and weeded until May and then harvested to make salads for a tasting party.

## **Wildlife Protection**

GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club (CO) led an activity at the Kids Crane Festival to teach children the importance of how a mother rabbit knows which little rabbits are hers. Children pretended to be mother rabbits and went about holding and sniffing little stuffed rabbits to determine which babies belonged to them. The stuffed baby rabbits had been "perfumed" with essences such as oil of clove and citrus.

## **Solar Oven**

The Round Table Club of Wyoming-Camden (DE) constructed a Solar Oven to learn about solar design. A pizza box was lined with black construction paper and aluminum foil. Chocolate, graham cracker, and marshmallow S'mores were placed in the Solar Oven that was then placed in the sun. Members learned that a lot of energy is needed to produce enough heat for cooking and that the use of solar energy can conserve energy resources.

## **Town Beautification**

The Metuchen-Edison Woman's Club (NJ) built flower boxes with the help of a local Boy Scout troop for the Metuchen Train Station. The boxes were maintained with flowers and plants for each season, helping to beautify a public area of town. Members provided pinwheels for the garden boxes and encouraged commuters with children to take one to spread the word about child abuse awareness and prevention.

## **Art with Bottle Caps**

GFWC Nisqually Women's Club (WA) collected bottle caps from soda, water, and medicine bottles, and juice and milk containers for a school art mural program in Lake Tahoe, CA. The bottle caps were washed and sent to the school where the children will create a mural of the school's mascot, a bear. This innovative project allows children to express their artistic creativity in using the repurposed bottle caps while keeping recyclables out of the landfill.



### **Arbor Day Celebration**

The Prestonsburg Woman's Club (KY) assisted the city of Prestonsburg in applying for Tree City status and arranging an Arbor Day Celebration. The club assisted with writing the application and club members served on the Tree Board to create the Arbor Day Celebration that included the Mayor, a Kentucky State Forester, and a botany professor as speakers. Tree seedlings were given out, the Tree City flag was raised, and a tree was planted in the downtown park.

### **Adopt-A-Highway**

GFWC Stella Woman's Club (NE) participated in an Adopt-A-Highway project, picking up trash along three miles of highway on both sides of town. Members put on their gloves and grabbed trash bags to keep their six-mile stretch of highway clean. A sign on both ends of town stating the three miles of the highway, which is kept clean by their club, provides publicity.

### **Yard of the Month**

GFWC Woman's Club of Shelbyville (MO) sponsored the Flower of the Month and Yard of the Month awards for Shelbyville. Residents of an assisted living facility were selected each month to ride in a van around the city and select the winners. The residents enjoyed the outing and being judges. The club donated \$50 to the assisted living facility in appreciation. Photos of the winners appear in the newspaper and the project has improved the appearance of yards throughout the city.



## EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### **Computer Club**

One computer savvy member of the Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield (CT) provides customized one hour computer lessons for members who, in turn, pay \$10 to the club for the service. The money then is donated to two libraries.

### **Book Fairy Project**

Members of the North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL) collect and distribute gently used children's books from The Florida Future Educators Association (FFEA) at the local high school. Members met at the high school, sorting the books into bins by grade/age level. Books were stored for distribution during the year and donated to teachers for classroom use and for students to take home, as well as to camps, family centers, after school programs, and the foster care system, through partnerships with other community organizations.

### **Reading Reduces Recidivism Program (3 R's)**

The Mount Prospect Woman's Club (IL) began soliciting their community for book donations for the 3R's program of the Illinois prison system. The club was able to deliver 1,235 books to 5 prisons libraries through contacts made at libraries.

### **Tools for School**

The Dennis Yarmouth Woman's Club (MA) provided 37 baskets of classroom supplies to help local school teachers offset some out-of-pocket expenses. Supplies included paper towels, tissues, crayons, markers, stickers, glue sticks, tape, hand sanitizers, and a bouquet of flower pens for the teacher's desk. A different school is chosen each year.

### **Book Swap**

To celebrate National Reading Month, the Millington Junior Women's Club (MI) sponsored a Book Swap for the students at a local elementary school. Students could bring up to three books from home to swap for the same number of books brought by other students.

### **Books Alive**

Collaborating with local businesses, the Bremen Junior Woman's Club (GA) sponsored a Books Alive program for their community. Each Thursday, during the month of June, a reading program was given to children that featured activities for all types of learners. Themes included: "Character Night" where teachers dressed as their favorite character from a book that they read to the children, "Science Night" that featured a partnership with Georgia Youth Science Technology Center and a simulator, "Cat in the Hat Night" that included rhyming and figurative language, and "Veggie Tales Night" that taught children how to eat healthy.

### **Dictionary Project**

One of the annual projects of the Menominee Woman's Club (MI) is giving dictionaries to all third grade students in their county. A team of members goes to each classroom to distribute the dictionaries and then explains GFWC and their projects to the children, as well as giving an explanation of how to use the dictionary.

### **The Grind, the Campground, and the Little Free Library**

When looking for a site for their Little Free Library, the Manistique Woman's Club (MI) partnered with students from their local high school who were opening a coffeehouse called "The Grind." While the students worked with a local credit union to remodel and operate the coffeehouse, the Woman's Club applied for and received a GFWC Literacy Grant to build a Little Free Library inside the coffee house. The Woman's Club also worked with the city to build another Little Free Library at a new campground in the area.

**Lifelong Learning for Seniors**

The Beresford Progress Club (SD) presented an educational program to residents of a local nursing home about state funding of education. After the presentation, the members served lunch to the residents and gave the home a donation towards their activity fund.

**Education Community Service Table**

The Mesquite club of Las Vegas (NV) created a table at their club meetings and events for members to donate school supplies for a local school.

# HOME LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



## WINGS

Exeter Area GFWC Club (NH) participated in WINGS. The club adopted five families for one year. The ladies used monies raised from their Yuletide Fair and Sub Lunch Fundraiser to provide not only necessities, but items for special occasions. Back to school supplies, clothes, shoes, lunch bags, Halloween costumes, Thanksgiving dinner items, and Christmas presents were provided. Other special occasions were recognized with riding helmets, Easter baskets, gas cards, and gift certificates.

## The Tiny Angel Gown Project

GFWC Mountain Top Club (PA) established “The Tiny Angel Gown” project. Members worked with their local hospital to provide gowns for stillborn children. The clubwomen collected fabric using wedding dresses, tuxedo shirts, and vests. The ladies cut the fabric, sewed, and decorated each tiny work of art. They also made decorated hats and diapers. The 36,000 sets of gowns, hats, and diapers were provided to grieving parents in over 100 hospitals all over the country.

## Brown Bag Mission

GFWC Parkersburg Woman’s Club (WV) supplied weekend meals for 350 elementary children with the Brown Bag Mission. Support was provided by various fund-raising projects throughout the year along with private donations. Clubwomen purchased, sorted, packed, and then delivered the bags filled with nonperishable foods each Friday. Extra food was given for holidays and long vacation periods. The club also assisted middle and high schools with setting up a food pantry for students needing help.

## Party and Prom Project

GFWC Wasco Woman’s Club in Central California (CA) partnered with Wasco High School to support their Signature Project with events for special needs students. The club sponsored a Christmas Party with all of the trimmings in the fall. Then they sponsored a Prom during the spring. Thirty-seven students, along with their parents, attended the events. Attendees were treated to entertainment, dancing, food, and media coverage on a national television network.

## Compassion Bags for Cancer

GFWC-MFWC Cosmopolitan Club of Petal (MS) collected items for “Compassion Bags for Cancer” and “Blessing Bags.” Pink bags were filled with snacks, gum, Chap Stick, pens, puzzle books, notebooks, magazines, hand sanitizer, lotion, water, and blankets. The bags were delivered to the local Cancer Treatment Center for distribution. The blessing bags were Ziploc bags filled with similar items plus personal hygiene products, socks, and five dollars. They were given to homeless residents.

## Melanoma Program

GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club (MA) embraced a town-wide Melanoma Program. The club educated the community on the risk of melanoma. They worked with the Melanoma Society to provide sunscreen stations free of charge. They selected a local park and began the project with a dispenser and 2,800 pumps of sunscreen. The club’s goal is to provide at least one dispenser at each of the local parts and the school athletic fields.

## Care Bags for Foster Services

GFWC Sand River Woman’s Club (SC) provided care bags for children in foster services. After consulting with Department of Social Services case managers, the colorful, handled tote bags were filled with wipes, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, and a change of undergarments. Other items included were a drink and a snack along with items to occupy the children such as a match box car or small journal. The bags were delivered to the DSS for distribution.

### **Christmas Boxes**

GFWC Rutledge Woman's Club (TN) provided Christmas boxes for local students. The club worked with the high school guidance counselors and discovered a larger need than they anticipated. To fund the project, the club worked with five local banks to obtain collaborative sponsorships. Over 1,500 items were purchased and collected. The club held a packing party and then presented 100 boxes filled with hygiene items and food to the guidance counselors for distribution.

### **Prescriptions for Pathways out of Poverty**

GFWC-AZ Southern District Chili Peppers (AZ) collected 5,000 prescription bottles, removed the labels, and donated them to the Primavera Foundation. The bottles are used to fill medications for those clients who receive services through the foundation. The Primavera Foundation works to provide pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development and neighborhood revitalization. The foundation serves more than 5,000 families and partnership sponsorships similar to this are vital to their success.

### **Belly Bags**

GFWC Marlton Woman's Club (NJ) joined Cherokee High School students and volunteered to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for "Belly Bags." The bags are used to feed needy local children. The club also worked with a kindergarten and first grade class to make post-it notes with pictures and warm greetings to include in each bag. The club initially made 320 bags, but, with local sponsors, an additional 320 bags were made and distributed.



## **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Sole Hope Uganda**

The Central Valley Contemporary Club (NJ) supports Sole Hope to bring handmade shoes to the children of Uganda. Due to sand fleas burrowing into the soles of feet, children have severely damaged feet and contract illnesses. Closed toed shoes made of denim, thin plastic and recycled tires can help prevent this. Sole Hope sends a pattern to the club which they cut out of donated old jeans and plastic milk jugs and return for assembly.

### **Holiday Dinner for Heifer International**

The GFWC Intermediate League of Butler (PA) organized a holiday dinner for Heifer International. The room was decorated with animal cut outs (cows, pigs, and sheep) along with a giving tree with animal ornaments. Club members and guests were directed to the tree to purchase an animal which raised \$495. Donated wrapped gifts were used for a live auction which raised another \$505. The event raised a total of \$1,000 to be sent to Heifer.

### **WaterStep**

The GFWC Okolona Woman's Club (KY) collects shoes for the WaterStep shoe program. The WaterStep program provides people in the developing world with tools and training to implement sustainable, clean, safe water solutions. The program not only generates funding for the organization but also keeps tons of waste out of landfills by repurposing the shoes. To this end, club members collected 430 pairs of shoes with an estimated in-kind value of \$2,580.

### **Matthew 25: Ministries**

The GFWC Great Friends Working Cooperatively Club (OH) knows that plastic bags can be used for more than just garbage. They cut bags into strips for the making of "plarn" for waterproof sleeping mats. It takes 500 bags to make a six foot by three foot mat. They worked hard collecting and donating a total of 6,117 bags to *Matthew 25: Ministries*, so that their international neighbors will sleep drier on their mats made with love.

### **Little Dresses for Africa**

The GFWC Joyce Wargo Reading Club (IN) makes dresses and sanitary napkins for girls in Africa. Research has shown that the main reason girls quit school is the lack of sanitary products. The sanitary napkins and liners are absorbent, easy to wash, and look like normal laundry when hung outside to dry. The club has completed 14 dresses, 16 skirts, and 21 sanitary napkins and liners at their meeting workshops.

### **"Wine Pull" for Shot@Life**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress (CA) holds various fundraisers throughout the year for Shot@Life but their favorite fundraiser is the "Wine Pull." Club members donate the wine and each bottle is decorated in Shot@Life green. Wine pull tickets are sold for \$20 entitling the buyer to a mystery bottle of wine and raffle tickets for gift baskets. Along with the other fundraising projects, this club raised \$1,166 and \$270 in-kind donations for Shot@Life.

### **Operation Smile**

The GFWC Manistique Woman's Club (MI) has a committee that makes and sells jewelry to finance Operation Smile surgeries. Members repair and repurpose broken jewelry items or just clean and resell jewelry donated by its members. The committee works on this project all year long, devoting 100 volunteer hours to this project. They hold two sales at club meetings and one at the Manistique's Annual Folk Fest. They raised \$762.60, enough for three Operation Smile surgeries.

### **Plan International USA**

The GFWC Sokiko Woman's Club (WA) sponsors a young girl named Mariel from the Dominican Republic through Plan International USA. Plan is an international non-profit that strives to improve the lives of children and their families in the developing world. Members take turns writing to Mariel and her family, also sending pictures of club members, their pets, and their projects. This club has been sponsoring Mariel for nine years – she is now sixteen years old.

### **UNICEF**

The GFWC Statesville Woman's Club (NC) was inspired by UNICEF's End Trafficking Campaign. The club set out to understand this horrific reality by working with someone who had first-hand experience in human trafficking – Bo Quickel, the vigilante trucker. Bo gave an informational and inspiring presentation to the club. The club then hosted a forum on Human Sex Trafficking which was open to the public to raise awareness and dollars (\$400) for this campaign.

### **Free the Girls**

The GFWC Peninsula Hills Women's Club (CA) collected 150 new/gently used bras for Free the Girls, a non-profit organization devoted to taking sex trafficking survivors on a path to freedom. The bras are highly sought-after items in boutiques set up to help these girls and women receive employment and training. The club packed 40 bras and sent them to Free the Girls – remaining bras will be sent to local domestic violence centers or added to future shipments.



## **PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**



### **Don't Drink and Drive**

Albany Woman's Club (GA) distributed posters and 700 stickers to local florists to be affixed to corsage boxes for March 2016 proms. The stickers stated, "Think of your future. Think of your date. Now think before making a fatal mistake. Don't drink and drive." The florists like the project and asked for additional stickers for April proms.

### **First Time Bus Rider Program**

GFWC Agawam Jr. Woman's Club (MA) organized a "First Time Bus Rider's Program" for children entering kindergarten who are riding a school bus for the first time. The program features safety tips for the children and with the help of the "Safety Bug," a costumed volunteer, the safety procedures are reinforced and the kids enjoy the program. At the end of the safety presentation, the children are escorted outside and get to ride on an actual school bus. Parents can accompany children who aren't quite ready to go it alone.

### **Honor Women Veterans**

Wilmington Woman's Club (NC) held a tea to honor women veterans from their community and surrounding area. This was the first ever event in Wilmington to recognize solely women veterans as a group. The keynote speaker was a female West Point graduate and member of the NC House of Representatives. The 39 attendees commented that they had never felt so important and appreciated as veterans. The club has been asked to make this an annual event.

### **Retired Flags**

The Woman's Club of Brielle GFWC (NJ) cut out stars from "retired flags" and sent them to the Jersey Shore Marines Detachment of the Air National Guard. The stars went to 150 troops in Afghanistan with a note stating, "I am a part of our American flag that has flown over the USA. I can no longer fly. The sun and wind caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that You are Not Forgotten."

### **The Yellow Dot**

GFWC Lamoille Woman's Club (NV) participated in "The Yellow Dot" program, which they helped organize some years back. The Yellow Dot Program is a safety program where an individual places a yellow dot on the rear window of their vehicle. If the vehicle is ever in an accident, the yellow dot lets first responders and rescue personnel know there is a yellow packet in the glove compartment that contains medical and emergency information regarding the driver and or passengers in the vehicle.

### **Fisher Houses**

GFWC Nisqually (WA) supported both Fisher Houses located at Joint Base Lewis-McCord by providing an Easter dinner of ham, potato salad, baked beans, rolls, chips and dip, fruit salad, cakes, and water. They partnered with the neighboring GFWC Capital Club to provide a Super Bowl Sunday dinner and celebration.

### **Air National Guard Family Readiness Packets**

Members of the St. Andrews Woman's Club (SC) assisted SC Air National Guard Family Readiness by collecting and assembling packets of useful items for deploying service members. They assembled 300 deployment bags full of needed items. Since the deployed military personnel may not have access to their own bags for up to 72 hours, they must carry everything they need in a small back pack. The kits included tooth brush, tooth paste, razors, hard candies, wipes, lip balm, and Tylenol, just to mention a few of the items.

### **Right to Vote**

The GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (AZ) created a mock voting scenario for fourth graders at their local elementary school to point out a significant right in this country is the "right to vote." They recreated the entire voting process from registering as a voter to actually casting a vote. Members prepared lessons, including "What is a Leader," "Agree to Disagree," and "Why is Voting Important." The goal was to have all students go away with a sense of "the right to vote should be important to every American citizen."

**Alert Child ID Program**

The Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield (CT) collaborated with the Danbury Rotary Club to assist with their Amber Alert Child ID Program. Club members enter information about participating children, take their photos, and measure height and weight. Completed identification cards are given to their parents. The club's 13 sessions enrolled 1,200 children.

**Hug & Hold**

"Hug & Hold" for a VA Hospital was a project of GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League (OH). They collected 25 large Teddy Bears and delivered them to the local VA Hospital for veterans to "hug and hold" after heart surgeries. Coughing, sneezing, and moving after surgery is very difficult and painful. Having a large bear to hold onto is very helpful and comforting for the veterans.

# COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANCEMENT AREA

## **Club Banner**

GFWC London Bridge Woman's Club (AZ) purchased and hangs a 26-foot banner to advertise their club meetings. It hangs two weeks at a time each month at the city's Wagon Wheel Park. The banner depicts the GFWC emblem and full name along with club name, year established, and meeting times and popular events.

## **Wikipedia Profile**

Atlanta Woman's Club (GA) realized people were unaware of its 120-year history and created a Wikipedia page and now consistently provides updates. The page tells the history of not only the club, but also of GFWC Georgia and, to some extent, of GFWC. It explains the club's notable projects and the impact of the club on the City of Atlanta. It also notes that the club continues to operate and accepts new members.

## **Women's Suffrage Presentation**

Covina Women's Club (CA) researched Women's Suffrage in California and utilized the history of GFWC and their state history to make a PowerPoint presentation. Handouts were made with the federation's history to give out along with the women's suffrage presentation.

## **Charity Golf Outing**

GFWC Lake City (MI) coordinated a golf outing, "G.A.L.L.A.H. Girls and Love Lending a Hand," that supports a multitude of charities. Members wore GFWC shirts to the event. Banners with GFWC logos were erected to advertise and fliers were posted throughout the town. In addition, Facebook and Chamber Websites were utilized for publicity. The event was covered by the local newspaper and Chamber News. The Club gained new members from event. After the golf event, photos were posted on Facebook.

## **TNT Nite**

GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club (MA) had a TNT Nite (Thursday Night Therapy Nite). They submitted an advertising flyer to TV outlets and local businesses. A Press release was sent to print media and online media outlets. Info was blasted through a Facebook page and PTO newsletters, and tickets could be purchased with PayPal. Fun photos of the event were posted on Facebook.

## **Senior Fair Booth**

The Woman's Century Club of Nampa (ID) purchased a booth at the city's Senior Fair. Members worked two-hour shifts. Club information with GFWC history was given to all attendees, as well as information on club services and how to join the club. An eye-catching booth decorated with a Hawaiian theme and costumed members drew visitors throughout the day. The club even won best-decorated booth and best costumes.

## **Food Drive**

GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club (DE) promoted their Food Drive by inviting the local television station to the collection site to interview three clubwomen about the project and their GFWC club. The interview was broadcasted that night and posted on social media. The event was also featured in the local newspaper and in the March/April issue of the GFWC Clubwoman Magazine.

## **Women's Night Out**

GFWC Iowa State Dyersville Federated Women's Club (IA), as a member of the local Chamber of Commerce, attended the Women's Night Out with 400 attendees, where they judged the Women of the Year nominees. The winner won a free membership to their club. Club scrapbooks, project information, and brochures were displayed. Members wore their club aprons. Door prizes were three bags of pecans (club fundraiser).

## **Door Hangers**

GFWC Crestview Woman's Club (FL) designed door hangers that advertised the upcoming Membership Tea and the Christmas Tea. The door hangers included the GFWC logo in the design. Members walked the neighborhoods close to the clubhouse and hung the door hangers on house doors, which proved to be successful.

**Member Recognition of Service**

GFWC Junior Club of Cheyenne (WY) recognized its 60-year member with a luncheon and invited the local media. The local newspaper covered the 98-year old member's achievement with a full-page story, featuring all her club accomplishments while a member.

## **FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Thursday Night Therapy**

GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club (MA) "Thursday Night Therapy" offered a ladies night with fashions, wine tasting, psychic, massages, manicures, vendors for shopping, tasty treats, and more.

### **Terror on Main Street**

GFWC Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club (FL) created "Terror on Main Street." This was not your average Haunted House, but one with three clubs working together to create an amazing spectacle, which had to pull back three days because of an impending hurricane!

### **Polar Plunge**

GFWC Seneca Junior Women's Club (SC) "Polar Plunge" was an event where freezing for a reason comes into play, as club members and community leaders jump from a dock into a mountain lake to raise money through pledges.

### **Stock your Cellar**

GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh (NC) held a "Stock your Cellar" wine raffle, with bottles of wine of \$20 value raffled off in lots of three.

### **Project Playhouse 2016**

GFWC Glen Ellyn Junior Woman's Club (IL) "Project Playhouse 2016" was created with the help and donations of two builders, so two children's playhouses were raffled off and displayed in local parks.

### **Jawbones vs Sawbones**

GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club, Lillburn Woman's Club, and the Dunwoody Woman's Club (GA) held a basketball game called "Jawbones vs Sawbones," which challenged lawyers vs doctors...very clever and so successful!

### **Festival of Trees**

GFWC Orinda Woman's Club (CA) offered a "Festival of Trees." This was the thirtieth year for the event and pearls were included in the decorations. More than \$42,000 was raised with sales, luncheon, boutique, and etc.

### **Wake Up and Smell the Coffee**

GFWC Oak View Woman's Club (CA) raised funds with "Wake Up and Smell the Coffee," with club members serving breakfast on Memorial Day.

### **Blooming for a Cause**

GFWC Woman's Club of Holden Beach (NC) held their annual charity gala, "Blooming for a Cause." This event included a fashion show, luncheon, boutique, raffles, and more, earning \$89,000 profit.

### **Eat, Drink, and Be Scary**

GFWC Downer Grove Junior Woman's Club (IL) held "Eat, Drink, and Be Scary." With only 20 members, they managed to create an event including a Halloween theme with costumes, dancing, raffles, and great food, netting \$17,000 to donate to the Helping Girls Navigate Adolescence.

## **LEADERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Rookie of the Year**

The GFWC Crestview Woman's Club (FL) has a Rookie of the Year. The Rookie received a plaque and a sash. She lays a wreath on Memorial Day. This honor provides hands on training. All Rookie graduates go on to serve as chairs and officers. The criteria for Rookie of the Year includes membership of 2 years, consistent meeting attendance, accomplishments throughout the year, assists in all phases of club work including fundraising, mingles with club members, is familiar with Federation publications, reflects high standards, and dues paid.

### **Committee Mentors**

GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Woman's Club (PA) created "committee mentors." They are a source of information, experience, and support. These are long-time members that are taking on a new challenge and a different leadership role.

### **Young Club**

Collinsville Study Club (AL) is a fairly "young" club in members and experience. They were not interested in a formal leadership workshop therefore leadership development was discreetly inserted in every meeting. Time is spent encouraging members to express ideas and suggestions are welcomed.

### **Leadership Tool Kit Program**

Benson Junior Woman's Club (AZ) shared a "Leadership Tool Kit Program." This activity was presented during a club meeting. The kit included a tack, clothespin, paperclip, toothpick, safety pin, nail file, rubber band, tissue, candy kiss, eraser, penny, straight pin, flower, and M&M's.

### **Project Book**

GFWC Chambers Bay (WA) created a project book on a thumb drive that can be added to in the future. The project book included ideas for each Community Service Project and Advancement Area and GFWC Special Programs. The ideas were loaded on a thumb drive.

### **Paper Bag Fashion Show**

GFWC Maine Semper Fidelis Club (ME) created the "Paper Bag Fashion Show." Each table of eight were given a grocery paper bag containing construction paper, buttons, a foam crown, artificial leaves, feathers, duct tape, a newspaper, pipe cleaners, pom-poms, scotch tape, scissors, and a stapler. Instruction – create an article of clothing in 15 minutes. Each table chose a model and a scribe. It was fun to see immediately who the leaders and the planners were. Following the "Show," there was a talk about leadership styles and skills.

### **Wonder Woman and Bat Girl**

GFWC/IFC Lincoln Club (IN) created costumes and characters of two Superheroes, Wonder Woman and Bat Girl. They did lessons on how to be a superhero – live with intention, be the change you wish to see, take time to truly listen, encourage others, and observe without judging.

### **Leadership Team**

Woman's Club of Colorado Springs (CO) created a leadership team made up of past club presidents to respond to a leadership crisis. They formalized mentoring by dividing up different tasks to the leadership team. This created a very kind training ground for anyone to step into.

**Juniorette Retreat**

GFWC-MFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive Club (MS) hosted the annual Juniorette Retreat. This weekend retreat was filled with fun and information. The Juniors received t-shirts, snacks, and meals. Each Juniorette brought a swimsuit, beach towel, and sleeping bag, plus McDonald's and Subway gift certificates to be donated to the hospital. A program was presented on membership. Girls were encouraged to take the information back to their clubs.

**The More Things Change, the More They Remain the Same**

Woman's Club of Concord (NH) ran a program entitled "The More Things Change, the More They Remain the Same," with a panel of 5 people. It was a discussion on women in the work place. In addition, this club assisted with the "NH Women Together Economic Roundtable". In attendance were the House Speaker, House Representatives, and the first woman football coach.



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

### **Domestic Violence Action Coalition**

The GFWC Covina Woman's Club (CA) worked hard to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive justice for the crimes they have suffered despite the pressure to lessen the prison population. One of the active programs they maintain is a court watch to remind judges, prosecutors, and jury members that the victims of domestic violence are human beings with rights that the court is charged to protect, rather than solely looking to the rights of the perpetrator. The club has formed a coalition of partners in their community consisting of elected officials, other Federation members, community members, family, and friends who help them in their efforts to protect the rights of victims of domestic violence. Coalition members attend all court proceedings to remind the court that victims of crime need justice.

### **Citizen's Guide to Government**

In an effort to form a partnership with an outside organization, the West Essex Woman's Club (NJ) contacted the Felician College, Director of the School of Nursing. The focus area was Legislation/Resolutions. The areas of interest included the NJSFWC's involvement with the United Nations Program on HIV/Aids, Public Schools to Instruct on Safe Haven, and the Motherhood Violence Act. The club asked the Director for support with NJSFWC's advocacy on these issues. The effort was supported by the Administration, Faculty, and students. The club supplied the college with copies of the "New Jersey Citizen's Guide to Government," so they could contact their Legislators on the state and federal levels. The school sent 301 letters, 50 emails and made 15 phone calls in support of these issues.

### **Preventing Fracking, Preserving Quality Living**

The GFWC Blountstown Woman's Club (FL) is located in a small rural area of north Florida with 22 members. They took up "Preventing Fracking, Preserving Quality Living" as their battle cry with a huge project. They co-founded the Calhoun County Citizens Against Fracking. Members coordinated three "free" movie screenings to increase public awareness, held a River Rally to educate citizens that enjoy fishing and hunting in their pristine areas, addressed a town council and two commissions, and attended meetings with legislators. They also participated in email, phone call, and letter writing campaigns. They were successful in their efforts.

### **Voter Registration**

The GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (MA) set up a voter registration at Marlborough High School. Working with Kayla Ucciferri, a Marlborough High School Junior interested in the civic duty of high school seniors of age to vote, and the guidance department at the high school, the club set up a voter registration event during the school's lunch period in January. Tables were set up with computers donated by the school for easy online registration, and club members also had forms for student to take and fill out and mail. Signs were placed in the hallway leading to the cafeteria, and members were stationed outside the entrance.

### **Students Forward**

The GFWC-MFWC Star Woman's Club (MS) is located in an unincorporated community which has a U.S. Post Office with a zip code; however, there are no elected officials. The club became leaders of the "Students Forward" project to benefit schools in their area. The project focused on passing a bond issue to benefit eight school systems. The name of the project was a deliberate choice to focus the voters' attention on the fact that the bond issue was for the advancement and elevation of the educational opportunities for the students. In the planning of the project, the club recruited the involvement of residents in the targeted area, local and state elected officials, and educators and

students. This included one-on-one discussions, group sessions, and public community meetings to encourage and strengthen a favorable attitude toward the passage of the bond issue.

### **Legislation Day**

GFWC Michigan members throughout the state attended a Legislation Day which focused on Human Trafficking. Information on how to get involved was distributed and members were educated on how to identify possible indicators of trafficking and how to promote community projects and education to prevent it.

### **Sophomore Pilgrimage**

Several clubs of GFWC Nebraska sponsored sophomores to attend Sophomore Pilgrimage. The students are chosen by their school counselors and need to have an interest in state government. This event brings together students to create interest and educate the students about the three branches of the National Government, and provides an opportunity for the students to meet and learn from elected officials. The students had lunch with the Governor and their State Representatives. Following lunch, they visited the only Unicameral in the United States.

### **Public Forum**

The GFWC Colorado Woman's Citizenship Club (CO) hosted a public forum on the proposed Amendment 69 – Colorado Care Initiative that would be on the ballot November 2016. The forum provided information about the amendment from a State Senator and a Legislation and Public Strategist from the Colorado Hospital Association. The speakers presented the pros and cons of the amendment and answered questions for the public. The club provided refreshments and over 100 citizens attended the event and became informed about the health care, tax costs, and coverage on the proposal.

### **Proposal to Decrease the Millage**

The GFWC Pocahontas Woman's Club (AR) opposed a proposal to decrease the millage of the Randolph County Library when it was placed on the ballot. The club requested a visit from the Librarian and President of the Library Board to explain how the change would affect the library. They explained that current programs, personnel, and hours would be cut and that the use of computers and the summer reading program would be affected. The club placed posters in cars and yards, articles in the local newspaper, and talked with citizens to educate them and encourage them to vote against the proposal.

### **Legislative Day**

Club members across the state attended the GFWC Missouri Legislative Day and the Sophomore Pilgrimage. Members were updated on the current legislation by state representatives, and they visited all of the female legislators and sat in on both House and Senate sessions. During lunch, members and sophomores heard from six governmental officials. They also visited the Missouri Supreme Court and Governor's Mansion.

## **MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Book and Author Lunch**

GFWC Women's Club of South County, Inc. (RI) recruited new members at their annual July fundraiser, the Book and Author Lunch. Members with brochures manned an information table at the well-attended event that draws women from across the state. Contact information cards, made available at each lunch table, were collected and used to invite prospective members to a Meet and Greet, resulting in 8 new members. Additional follow ups and events brought in 8 additional members, for a total of 16 new recruits.

### **Welcome Back Potluck**

GFWC Evening Chapter of the Mesquite Club of Las Vegas (NV) kicks off their year with a Welcome Back Potluck, which includes current members and guests invited via emails, social media, and a local message board. "A Pat on the Back" activity encouraged mingling, as members and guests wrote greetings and encouraging messages on a placard featuring the outline of their hand, which was worn hanging on their back. Expo tables, spotlighting upcoming projects and events, enticed current members to sign up and prospective members to get involved. Three new members joined at this event.

### **Meet & Greet**

The GFWC Radcliff Woman's Club (KY) discovered free food + door prizes + planning + participation + execution = success. The club's executive board considered the benefits of an event and then brainstormed ideas for a Meet & Greet, which was ultimately enjoyed by 77 women. Ads were placed in local newspapers, social media was utilized, and fliers placed in area businesses. Members decorated tables for the event, offered finger foods and desserts, and manned tables filled with club info, press books, story boards highlighting club projects, and an array of arts and crafts made by members and students. To be door prize eligible, visitors were encouraged to provide contact info in the guest book. Three women joined at the event and four joined later.

### **Monthly Tea**

GFWC Rutherford Woman's Club (NJ) uses a local bank, Kearney Federal, as a location for a monthly tea to promote membership. With club members dispersing information to perspective members, their goal is to talk with every woman that comes into the bank to increase the size of their membership.

### **Java with Juniors**

After GFWC Illinois Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club hosted an outstanding "Java with Juniors" Recruitment event in September at the Homer Glen Starbucks, and successfully recruited 8 new members, it was time to get started with new member installation and orientation into the club! As soon as information on the rewards and responsibilities of membership in this GFWC Club was shared, the membership got busy planning "socials" to build comradery and genuine friendships. Did I mention "social" is the theme here?!

### **Big Sister Program**

GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club (SC) had the following objectives for membership: get to know one another better, develop a member directory, create a new-member handout, start a big-sister program, encourage more participation in service projects, and grow the club while retaining current members. To accomplish these objectives, more social time is provided at meetings and social events in the community are held. Each meeting is ended on a positive note with members sharing good news with each other.

### **It's The Real Deal**

GFWC Woman's Club of Omar (WV) kicked off their "It's The Real Deal" membership recruitment campaign with the new club year, fishing for new members and holding on to current members. Phase one of the recruitment campaign began in August with "Go Fish for Members." One new member was caught with very little bait and hook and immediately had her fins flapping for volunteer work. Another club member baited her membership hook and caught her baby guppy (daughter) by showing her the ways to volunteer in GFWC. Phase two of this membership recruitment campaign was "Bridge the Gap" in membership. With the focus on a membership orientation event, the theme was playing cards. Members and guests were dealt cards and asked to show their hand and put it towards helping to "Bridge the Gap." One guest was dealt the right hand as she became a GFWC member that night. The "Bridge the Gap" phase continued at the next meeting, with the club feeling they have been dealt a hand of Kings, Queens, and some Jokers, but the club needed more leaders. So, a hand was dealt to several ladies in the community and with the right playing cards GFWC Woman's Club of Omar received two of a kind, with two new members gained. An additional two new members were won in November. Embracing this fun and exciting GFWC membership theme, these card sharks with a club membership of 20 gained five new members!

### **President's Membership Recruitment Challenge**

GFWC Menomonie Woman's Club (WI) holds an annual spring banquet. Imagine the look of surprise when the president issued a "President's Membership Recruitment Challenge." She challenged each member (14 at the time) to make a list of at least ten women that they knew who might be interested in joining the club. Members were reminded that most women outside of GFWC clubs don't know what they are missing and to be sure to include even some friends or acquaintances who didn't even know they might be interested in joining. Then each month, each member was to consult her list, choose at least one name on the list and invite them to the meeting. At the very first meeting in the fall, this club hosted 5 guests, resulting in 2 new members.

### **New Membership Meeting**

GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club (DE) held an informational New Membership Meeting in September. Four articles were publicized in several local publications. Members also went into their local community and spoke at various homeowner association meetings promoting their club. The New Membership Meeting proved to be a very successful event and 15 women were recruited.

### **Ice Cream Social**

GFWC Dunn Junior Woman's Club (NC) took the initiative with a series of activities to boost membership after dropping to a low of three members. They held an ice cream social, distributed a brochure, and used social media to reach out to new members. By sharing the best of themselves, they now have an average of 10-13 members who regularly attend meetings.

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

### **Federation Fridays**

The GFWC WHRC Illinois Chairman reviewed the state history books each week and discovered some nuggets of interest to share with the clubwomen of Illinois. Articles and photos were sent out via e-blast from the webmaster and members were encouraged to share the information. The Chairman feels the members may be out-of-touch with the GFWC and GFWC Illinois history, but with the knowledge of where they have come from, they would have a keener interest in where they are going.

### **Museums by Candlelight**

The GFWC Frederick Woman's Civic Club (MD) maintains the only historic clubhouse in the Maryland's Western District, The Steiner House. The club opened the clubhouse for tours three times in 2016. One tour, Museums by Candlelight, saw the house decorated for the holiday season and was particularly well received by the public. The tour provided publicity for the club and its activities, as well as an opportunity to recruit new members. Members serve as tour guides, with some in period clothing. This is a great way to show the historic past, current endeavors, and create a future for the club and GFWC.

### **A Blast from the Past**

The GFWC Big Timber Club (MT) had a scavenger hunt as a means of helping members explore their past. Members were divided into groups of three and were given a list of 40 things to find. Some were items that could be found in club yearbooks or scrapbooks, while others relied on the "older" members to answer. After 20 minutes, time was called and the answers were given to the group using pictures and information in the scrapbooks to tell about the founding of the club in 1894 and past projects. Long-time members added interesting facts, while newer members seemed impressed with their new found knowledge and the obvious pride that was displayed in club accomplishments. Small prizes were given to the group with the most correct answers. Everyone had fun and became better acquainted with others in their group.

### **Libraries That Were Never Built**

The GFWC Norcross Woman's Club (GA) worked to repair, restore, and make the Old Library Clubhouse safe the after the building suffered severe storm damage. Working with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the members were successful in having the building declared "A 2016 Georgia Place in Peril." Club members searched to locate the source of the plans for the building, in an effort to establish if they came from Andrew Carnegie. Club members obtained info from a local historian on the work of Abigail Van Slyck, a researcher who catalogues Carnegie Libraries. They discovered that her book actually lists the Norcross Woman's Club in a chapter titled, "Libraries That Were Never Built." Proof will provide an enhanced opportunity for grant funding. Members researched their club minutes from 1905 forward and learned that the plans were picked up from a "Miss Templeton" in Atlanta in 1920. The building was completed in 1921. The Old Library is a symbol of the GFWC Norcross Woman's Club's dedication to fostering reading and literacy as part of community service.

### **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

On the occasion of their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the GFWC Woman's Club of Aurora (IL) kicked off a year of monthly activities involving the history of the club. This club is serious about their history, having commissioned an extensive video of projects that was generated by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. In February, members performed a play, "The Sitting," based on the 1927 painting by David Robinson for McCall's magazine to illustrate the article, "3,000,000 Women," written by Dorothy Canfield. The painting is entitled "The Women's Club" and prints are on display at GFWC and GFWC Illinois Headquarters. A booklet recounting the club's history was written, trifold exhibits were set up, pictures of the clubs past activities were put on display, and a speaker from the Aurora Historical Society shared information about the early history of the club.

### **Rededication of Royal Palm Park in Everglades National Park**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Coconut Grove (FL) partnered with 10 clubs in their District and joined together with the National Park Service and the South Florida National Parks for a rededication service commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Royal Palm Park in the Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida. Members set up club information booths for area clubs to promote their activities and upcoming events. Clubs helped receive guests and provided name tags and information on the day's events. Green ribbons, like those provided in 1916, were given to guests to wear. The clubs also hosted a luncheon based on the one at the original dedication ceremony — BBQ chicken with trimmings and donuts for dessert. "Saving Paradise" display panels were erected and told how the clubwomen of Florida saved Royal Palm Hammock as a State Park in 1915 when May Mann Jennings convinced the Florida Legislature to deed 960 acres to the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, and then maintained it 32 years until 1947 when GFWC Florida deeded it to the Everglades National Park.

### **Past and Present with Mr. Dickens**

The GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club, Inc. (MA) attended Gerald Charles Dickens' one-man performance of "A Christmas Carol." First, however, members enjoyed a pre-show dinner where the history of GFWC and author Charles Dickens was discussed. After the show, members had the opportunity to present Mr. Dickens with a letter explaining that Jane Cunningham Croly, a journalist in New York, tried to attend an all-male New York Press Club event in 1868 where his great-great grandfather was speaking, but was turned away, leading to the formation of a women's organization which eventually became the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1889. The letter also contained information about all GFWC has accomplished through the years. Mr. Dickens signed the letter and took a copy back to England with him and also signed an old copy of the novel "A Christmas Carol," which was donated by a club member along with a program from the show. The club donated the signed letter, the book, and the program to GFWC Headquarters where they will be on display at the Women's History and Resource Center.

### **Rediscovering Club History**

Members of the GFWC Riverside Woman's Club (CA) began an effort to discover their history by searching the archives at the Riverside Public Library where they found an invitation sent to more than 50 local women in 1896. With photos and notes in hand, the members created and performed a re-enactment in period clothing of the first meeting held on January 7, 1896. To gain access to local newspaper archives, the club joined [genealogybank.com](http://genealogybank.com), and were then able to research early members and create a "her story" of their lives. Documents have been digitally preserved as members continue their research to add to their history.

### **WHRC Club History Tree**

The GFWC WHRC State Chairman (AZ) prepared a Club Tree (a family tree) for each club in the state to record each member, events, or other club milestones. The Club Tree was depicted on a poster as a leafless tree. Clubs put leaves on their tree to signify whatever they wished to record about their clubs. The Club Trees will be kept by each club as part of their history.

### **Your Place in Club History/Women's History Month**

GFWC Morehead Woman's Club (KY) led a presentation at their March General Meeting. The theme was "Your Place in Club History," noting how important it is to leave a mark in your club history. Clubs across the country presented programs during Women's History Month. Members interviewed long-time members, recognized members celebrating anniversaries by presenting them with GFWC Anniversary pins, presented the GFWC timeline, and offered programs about interesting club and state facts.