



# **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.

## HOME LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



### **Toasty Toes**

The 19 clubs of San Bernardino District (CA) joined together and participated in each of their communities by collecting new socks for the homeless from club members and the community at large. Each club set up their own collection point or method for receiving the socks and choose a community homeless organization for their donation. Over 4,000 pairs of socks were collected in the District with an in-kind value of over \$8,000.

### **Luggage Drive for Foster Children**

Beverly Hills Junior Woman's Club (IL) became proactive after reading a report that children in the Illinois foster care system were carrying their belongings to their next home in trash bags. The members held a luggage drive by placing ads in local papers and asking local businesses for donations of new or gently used backpacks, suitcases, and duffle bags. Results of the six-week project yielded 700 pieces of luggage and 100 backpacks.

### **Homemade Laundry Detergent for Food Bank**

Statesville Woman's Club (NC), working in conjunction with a local food bank, realized that many residents could not easily afford to purchase laundry detergent, so the club began making both liquid and powdered detergent. Combining a few inexpensive and readily available ingredients (washing soda, fabric softener crystals, powdered OxiClean and grated Fels-Naptha soap) yielded economical and effective detergents. Recycled water bottles were used to hold the liquid detergent.

### **White Bags of Courage**

Chapin Woman's Club (SC) distributed white handled bags with their new club seal for members to fill for women undergoing chemotherapy for any type of cancer. The bags were packed with lap blankets, bottled water, sugar free candies, energy bars, note cards, crossword books, lip balm, hand lotion, and other goodies. A page of quotes about courage from people of all walks of life, rolled and tied with ribbon, was also included.

### **Princess Program**

Quapaw Women's Club (AR) partnered with a local church to start an after school program for sixth to eighth grade girls. The program was held for two hours, twice a week for six weeks in fall and spring. It provided the girls with a nutritious snack, a faith lesson, instruction in various life skills such as hygiene and puberty issues, manners and respect, social media safety, sewing, etiquette, dress and modesty, cooking, and much more.

### **Lifebooks for Foster Children**

Tempe Junior Woman's Club (AZ) partnered with AZ Children's Association to prepare Lifebooks for foster children so they have a visual reminder of their positive memories and experiences, as well as a life story they can share with others. A 30-page template is reproduced on colorful paper with members decorating each page. Example of one page: "Welcome, as you arrive in this home, I would like to say \_\_\_\_\_."

### **Bookcases 'n Books**

Education and Home Life Chairmen of the GFWC Gun Lake Area Club (MI) partnered with the local Habitat for Humanity Project to provide bookcases and age appropriate books for children and parents moving into two newly built homes. Asked to bring age-appropriate books to fill the cases, members donated 220 books. Several members attended the dedication for the houses and saw how touched the new home owners and their children were to find these gifts.

### **Brown Bag Project**

Parkersburg Woman's Club (WV) supplied 187 students who might otherwise have little to eat over the weekend with "snack bags." Principals and counselors recommended children for the program. Bags of nonperishable items were delivered on the third and fourth Friday of each month. Members shop, meet at the club house to sort and bag the items, and then deliver them to individual schools for distribution.

**Go Red for Women “Heart Day”**

The Iowa Tuesday Club (IA) promoted heart health in their community. Members donated baskets and a variety of packaged almonds. A local grocery chain donated red apples and the area hospital added heart healthy literature and materials. Members assembled the materials in baskets and distributed them to local businesses. Citizens were then able to enjoy free healthy snacks and learn the risks and warning signs of heart disease and strokes.

**Holiday Happy Hour Gift Raising Event**

The Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach (DE) held a free Holiday Happy Hour at their clubhouse. Members and guests were asked to bring a \$10 to \$20 gift for a child between the ages of 5 and 17. Hors d’oeuvres, wine, and punch were provided by the club and a local restaurant which also collected gifts. The 573 gifts were wrapped, sorted, bagged, and divided equally among several nonprofit organizations.