



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.



INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Flamingo Project for Operation Smile

The Women's Civic League of Cheyenne's Junioresettes (WY) sponsored a "Flamingo Project" for Operation Smile. First, the girls labeled the large, plastic pink flamingos with their contact information and Operation Smile information. Second, they decided which yards to "flock" the flamingos in. The girls were then in standby mode to respond to calls from the homeowners, who paid a fee (donation to Operation Smile) to have the flamingos moved. In total, the Junioresettes earned \$870 for Operation Smile.

Fab Fair for Shot@Life

GFWC Semper Fidelis Club (ME) supported Shot@Life by setting up a "Western style" booth at an annual Chamber of Commerce "Fab Fair" to promote and educate the public about Shot@Life. Fairgoers were invited to take a "shot" at stacked red cups using a homemade catapult and mini marshmallows. The booth drew in the children while club members provided education on this important program to families. Children were given "dirt pudding" in red shot cups for participating and donations were accepted. In addition, a western-themed raffle basket full of movies, old-fashioned candies, and more was added to the evening.

Spa Night for Shot@Life

GFWC Cranston Community Women's Club (RI) held a Spa Night to support Shot@Life. Club members sold advance tickets and hair stylists and nail techs donated their time to provide services to the attendees. Desserts and goodies were donated by the salon and members along with raffle items. A wine raffle was very popular. Attendees expressed eagerness for the club to do the event again. There was an amazing turnout to support this worthy cause and \$612 was donated.

Brazzeria Party for Free the Girls

GFWC Woman's Club of Bloomfield (NJ) hosted a Brazzeria Party at a member's home for Free the Girls, a nonprofit for survivors of sex trafficking in developing countries that gives the recovering women an opportunity to build their own businesses selling second-hand clothing. Pizza, beverages, and dessert made up the menu. Forty mostly-new bras were collected and a \$40 donation (\$1 per bra) was made to Free the Girls. It was a fun evening for members and a rewarding outcome for the project.

Medicine Bottles for the Malawi Project

Joliet Junior Woman's Club (IL) joined with the Malawi Project to collect used prescription medicine bottles. Malawi suffers from high infant mortality and a HIV/Aids problem. Citizens of Malawi wait in line for hours to see a doctor. If they are lucky enough to receive medicine, they must carry it away in napkins or dirty hands. The Malawi Project began collecting used prescriptions bottles to help alleviate the problem. The club collected, cleaned, and removed the labels of medicine bottle before shipping.

Holiday Dinner for Heifer International

The annual Christmas meeting of the Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club (WY) has always been a time of giving. This year it was decided to focus efforts on Heifer International. Rather than holding a banquet at a restaurant, members were asked to sign up for a potluck dinner and use their money to shop at the "Heifer gift table." Each of the 27 members brought a small dish to pass. Board members hosted a table and brought linens, plates, utensils, and cups, with small favors provided at each place setting. One board member (on her own) decided to make a donation to Heifer International for each person seated at her table. The dinner was really a fun way for members to "pay it forward" at Christmas.

Cocktail Party for Shot@Life

The GFWC Dedham Junior Woman's Club (MA) held a special cocktail party for club members and their spouses or partners. The specialty drink of the evening was the "inoculator." As part of the festivities, people were asked to "take a shot" at an international themed game. The participants each wore one sticker with the name of a country

on their back. Each could ask the others at the party three yes or no questions to try to guess the country. If they could not guess in three questions, they moved to someone else and could ask three different questions. A collection box for Shot@Life generated just over \$500.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

The GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club (CO) supported this worthwhile project by ordering a UNICEF Trick or Treat kit with collection boxes and promotional materials. The group took boxes to local businesses so patrons could participate. One club member used her creative and artistic talent to embellish the boxes and provide a sturdy platform for them. A letter was given to the participating businesses describing the project and providing information about GFWC and the club. Articles were submitted to the local newspaper which were printed a couple of times. Members who took boxes were responsible for checking them regularly. In addition, a young man read about the project in the local newspaper and contacted the club to donate funds he had collected on his own. This project brought awareness about the value of UNICEF and what this organization does for children.

Pillowcase Dresses for Girls

GFWC Sokico Woman's Club (WA) participated in a project to make pillowcase dresses for young girls in Africa. Members found gently used pillowcases and some new pillowcases to turn into dresses. On a summer day, all the women gathered at a member's home to cut, sew, trim, and iron the dresses. A potluck lunch turned it into a great summer gathering for the members. Everyone got artistic as they trimmed the new dresses. A total of 29 pillowcase dresses were completed and sent to a nonprofit, Dresses for Africa, for distribution to some lucky little girls.

Picnic for International Students

The GFWC Carrolton Civic Woman's Club (GA) sponsors an annual picnic for international students who have enrolled for their first semester. The guests were greeted by club president and by bilingual members in Spanish, French and Mandarin. Members spend many hours planning and preparing "southern specialties" for the picnic. In conjunction with the event, members offer a sharing/lending table, providing household items for student's dorms or apartments that they would be unable to bring from home. This alleviates a financial burden upon arrival at the university. Club members begin planning early in the year, collecting and sorting gently used and new items for the much-anticipated event.