



# GFWC Top Projects

## *From the 2019 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**

### **Fun Socks Brighten the Feet and Days of Pediatric Cancer Patients**

The North Arlington Woman's Club (NJ) saw that the rooms at a local pediatric cancer center were monotone and dull and that the hospital's slipper socks were not interesting to young patients. To lift spirits and keep feet cozy, the club collected and donated socks in crazy colors or with fun designs such as puppies, rainbows, and sports themes.

### **Mardi Gras for Autism**

The Woman's Club of Fullerton (CA) raised funds for special needs children with "Mardi Gras for Autism." Members constructed a vendor area and created a Kid Car Wash with PVC pipe and material strips in various textures, such as fabric, ribbon, beads, and yarn. Children ran through the car wash, relieving stress through therapeutic sensory play. Bouncy houses, rock-climbing walls, beanbag tosses, and food trucks added to the event.

### **Buddy Benches**

The Women's Club of Mount Airy (NC) purchased and donated pressure-treated lumber to the woodworking class at their local high school. The class constructed seven "Buddy Benches" and delivered them to two elementary schools. Clubwomen and students painted the benches with weatherproof paint and then decorated them with handprints. Strategically placed on playgrounds, the benches help lonely students make new friends.

### **National Child Identification Program**

The Woman's Club of Cotulla (TX) partnered with State Troopers and the local Sheriff's Department at two elementary schools to fingerprint kindergarten students as a part of the National Child Identification Program. A clear, inkless solution that leaves no mess on children or their clothes was utilized by club members to produce child identification cards for parents.

### **Support to Female Students**

GFWC Oregon City Woman's Club (OR) discovered that many high school girls attend school without much-needed feminine hygiene supplies, since they are not covered by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Partnering with a charter high school, the club raised and donated funds to provide the hygiene products for local students.

### **Bullying Awareness Campaign**

GFWC-MFWC Batesville Junior Woman's League (MS) implemented a campaign to make students aware of the dangers of bullying. In conjunction with the GFWC Advocates for Children Week, members created and shared information through social media sites and Kahoot, a popular student quiz site, highlighting facts on bullying that were then shared by other organizations via the internet. The Kahoot quiz is now available to online users across the country.

### **Kindergarten First-Day Pet Project**

The GFWC Vi-Sa-Wen Woman's Club (AZ) supports two elementary schools on the first day of school. To ease the transition of kindergarteners from home to school, members collect and donate small (beanie-baby sized) stuffed animals. Students choose a pet to keep at school until the end of the year. The pets soothe students who feel sad or anxious during the day and help keep them focused on learning.

**Ring the Bell for Holiday Hope**

GFWC Millington Junior Women's Club (MI) created donation buckets out of paint cans, paper, and laminated sheets decorated with the club's name. Members then rang bells outside local shopping centers during November to collect funds for their holiday service projects, which included boxes of food and toys for families identified as food insecure, and warm winter clothing for children in foster care.

**Gems for Mom**

The GFWC Greeneville Woman's Club (TN) collected and recycled slightly-used jewelry, packaging each piece for donation to local safe houses. The project, "Gems for Mom," provides relocated children with the opportunity to give a gift to their mom on her birthday, at Christmas, or on other special occasion.

**Christmas Magic**

The Women's Club of Madison (CT) maintains two mailboxes at local grocery stores to collect letters addressed to Santa Claus. Both mailboxes, which prominently display the club's name, are available beginning Thanksgiving weekend. Members reward those who believe in the magic of Christmas with a personalized message and a North Pole stamp. Funds for the stationary, other supplies, and the stamp are provided by the club.

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

### **Fill the Trolley**

GFWC Lawrenceville Woman's Club (GA) challenged their community to "Fill the Trolley for Domestic Violence," after April 28 was declared the Georgia Day of Service. Partnering with a local shelter, the club secured a list of needed items and spread the news with posters, fliers, signs, email blasts, social media posts, and a media blitz. Members then coordinated collection drives in their various neighborhoods, ensuring that the trolley was filled with items ready for delivery.

### **Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence**

GFWC Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club (IL) implemented its 7<sup>th</sup> annual "Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence" benefit day. Proceeds went to A New Direction, a local agency that assists victims. The club advertised with posters, flyers, and social media. Event activities were held at various partner locations, including fitness businesses, schools, and churches. A school club supported the project, while family-based activities were coordinated at churches. Participants and donors received "No Excuses for Abuse" purple awareness bracelets.

### **Girls on the Run Chapter**

GFWC Sorosis Club of Waurika (OK) learned about Girls on the Run (GOTR) when investigating community services that assist those who might become victims of Domestic Violence. Targeted for students in grades 3-8, Girls on the Run teaches critical skills and strategies to apply in all aspects of life by combining an international curriculum with physical activity. The club applied to create a GOTR chapter and provided the necessary funds.

### **Shelter Safe Room Refurbishment**

GFWC Outer Banks Woman's Club (NC) refurbished a safe room at a local shelter that was initially sponsored by the club in 1995. The shelter's director presented a program on Human Trafficking and requested help. To create a fully functional, protective cocoon, members repaired damage and repainted the ceiling and walls, replaced baseboards, flooring, and lights, and hung curtains and blinds. Beds, bedding, shelves, and a rocking chair were purchased. Members also learned how to recognize victims of human trafficking at a seminar.

### **Hope Bags for Human Trafficking Victims**

GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne (WY) partnered with a local Juniorette club and the Optimist Club to make "Hope Bag" backpacks for those rescued by the Cheyenne Police Department's Human Trafficking Division. Clubs solicited clothing and snacks, plus hygiene and personal care items. Members constructed and filled the backpacks, including several that contained items for young men. This was a very meaningful project for the club, as most of the rescued victims were from the Cheyenne area.

### **Walk/Run for Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy**

GFWC Oregon City Women's Club (OR) held a successful Walk/Run to benefit and increase community awareness of Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy with two other local organizations. Members served on the planning committee, arranged for donations,

promoted the event, helped with set-up, registered walkers, distributed shirts, and walked with the “sea of purple.” Participation was great with 278 people attending.

### **Crisis Intervention Center**

GFWC Fowler Progress Club (CO) supported their local resource center, a crisis intervention agency. The agency offers shelter, counseling, and support for domestic and violent crime victims in three counties. The agency initiated a Capital Campaign to remodel an existing garage and to build an addition for the creation of a shelter. The club increased awareness of agency services and raised funds for the Capital Campaign. Members also hosted a program, presented by the center’s director, and provided ongoing support.

### **Hug Project**

GFWC Library Club (MN) held their Hug Project by providing local shelters with clear plastic bags filled with items needed in emergency situations. The bags contained a washcloth, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, comb, brush, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, razor, and feminine products, and were labeled “Courtesy of the GFWC Library Club, Mahnomon, MN.” Members also donated two big boxes of items such as blankets, large-size shampoos, and soaps.

### **Shelter-Needs Calendar**

GFWC Brookings Club (SD) created a club calendar to highlight the needs of a local shelter, with members signing for the monthly project at each meeting. During the year, the members donated baby food, diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, cleaning products, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, deodorant, light bulbs, batteries, beanie babies, sheets, towels, cell phones, etc. With the help of this calendar, the shelter knew the club was on tap to help each month.

### **Support the Girls**

GFWC Batesville Junior Woman’s League (MS) held a new project, “I Support the Girls,” after learning about GFWC Mississippi’s new partnership with Support the Girls, an organization that provides bras, underwear, pads, and tampons to women and girls in need. The club collected, washed, sorted, packed, and delivered products throughout the state. Drives were held on Facebook and college campuses, and at club meetings and community festivals. Members collected bras from stores, friends, family, community members, and their State President at their Summer Institute.

## **ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Opening Minds through Art (OMA)**

GFWC Southwest Ohio Valley Women's Club and GFWC Great Friends Working Cooperatively (OH) partnered and trained with the Loveland Health Care Center to facilitate an intergenerational art program for people living with neurocognitive disorders, including memory loss. Members met with residents for 20 weeks in one-hour sessions to create art projects. Two twenty-week sessions were organized in 2018.

### **Paint for Patriots: Art Classes For Veterans**

The Woman's Club of Saraland (AL) provided painting classes for veterans at two VA Centers. At one center, year-round sessions for small groups served 72 veterans, with two art teachers from the club providing the art materials. At the other center, month-long sessions of weekly classes were held in February and October. The club was asked to increase the number of classes to accommodate more students. Each class served 12-15 veterans.

### **Shoe Tie Block and Clock Making**

GFWC Sebastian Woman's Club (FL) discovered that most kids in the local kindergarten couldn't tie shoes or tell "circle" time. Members assisted by cutting wooden blocks into shoes and clocks. The shoes were mounted on a block and grommets were drilled into them. After painting, shoestrings were attached. Clock hands were attached with screws and a sleeve to allow the hands to move. Eight sets of shoes and ten clocks were made and delivered to the school.

### **Downtown Halloween Window Painting Contest**

The Woman's Club of Madisonville (KY) continues to improve this four-year old project. In 2018, members contracted businesses to acquire their windows, picked up supplies, numbered the windows, and created paint kits. Members helped judge the completed windows and donated cash prizes. There were 164 painters in K to 8th grades and 13 high school participants. A total of 113 windows were painted. The Downtown Turnaround Partnership treated all windows to a washing.

### **Door Wreaths for Mother's Day**

Members of the Wednesday Review Club of Killeen (TX) made Mother's Day door wreaths for assisted-living residents. Each wreath was personalized based on the resident's favorite activities, hobbies, pets, and colors. Members donated all the craft items and worked together to create and deliver the wreaths.

### **Alzheimer's Sensory Blankets**

Members of the Wake Forest Woman's Club (NC) created sensory therapy blankets by cutting and sewing backings for 32 lap-sized blankets and adding sensory items such as beads, cording, buttons, and small stuffed animals. The purpose of the sensory therapy blankets, which were donated to assisted-living residences and a dementia support group, is to help reduce anxiety, calm nerves, and provide comfort.

### **Crafting and Creating Together**

The Woman's Club of Springfield, Inc. (VA) utilized members' talents to hold a new crafting class each month. Members taught watercolor painting, chalk drawing, crocheting, sewing, and other crafts. As a result, 15 baby blankets and 24 chemo caps were donated to the

hospital. Members also sewed, stuffed, and donated 92 cough pillows for heart patients. Other craft items, such as stuffed pumpkins and seasonal fascinators, were used for fundraisers or event decorations.

### **Partnering with the Art's Council**

GFWC Tuscola Woman's Club (IL) became the official sponsor of the local Art's Council with nine members serving as Board Members. For their spring beautification project, the club obtained vintage bikes, painted them in bright colors, and then added handlebar baskets filled with flowers and placed them in the city's concrete planters in the business district. Similar beautification projects were also completed in fall and winter.

### **So this is Paris**

GFWC Pea Ridge Woman's Club (WV) joined forces with the local High School Show Choir. Club members helped organize the premier of the school's competition show by transforming the cafeteria into Paris. The evening's program, plus twelve Paris-themed pictures, a backdrop for photographs, floral arrangements, and hallways adorned with various decorations were all designed and created by members. Gift baskets and the framed pictures donated by club members were raffled off after the performance.

### **Assisted Living Art Classes**

GFWC Old Campbell County Woman's Club (GA) conducted nine monthly craft classes for assisted-living residents. Craft materials with a holiday or seasonal theme were assembled into kits. Twenty residents, assisted by club members or staff aides, enjoyed the two-hour sessions. The classes are both an artistic experience and a means for residents and members to interact. Crafts included cotton-ball snowmen, Valentines, shamrock wall hangings, straw-hat bunny faces, pinecone turkeys, and foam Christmas trees.

## **CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Science Curriculum**

The GFWC Philaco Woman's Club of Apalachicola, Inc. (FL) sponsored a program to bring a nature-oriented science curriculum to four first grade classes in their county school system. The Franklin County School Explorers program was developed with the School District Director of Special Programs and teachers. Classroom kits were created to study birds, insects, plants, and shells, and included lesson plans, books, and equipment for hands-on investigation. Discoveries and observations were recorded in science journals.

### **Recycling Craft for a Cause**

The Woman's Club of Lacey (NJ) Conservation Committee collaborated with their Arts and Domestic Violence Awareness Committees to collect empty paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, and empty coffee creamer bottles. Using felt and paint, four sets of ten snowmen bowling pins were made with an oversized toddler tennis ball as the bowling ball. The bowling pins were donated to Providence House, the club's Domestic Violence Awareness initiative, and used by children during group-play therapy.

### **Garden Walk**

The Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club (IL) Garden Walk offered a daylong adventure through properties of all kinds and sizes. The walk included a sunny prairie garden, a magical and inviting fairy garden, an expertly maintained and abundant vegetable garden, a colorful and creative rock garden, a cool and relaxing shade garden, and a pollinator garden full of nature's colors. The variety of gardens provided learning opportunities about the great outdoors and community gardeners.

### **Kids Fishing Day**

The F. J. Scott Study Club (TX) partnered with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and AgriLife Extension in an annual countywide Kids Fishing Day. Over 300 children and families enjoyed the great outdoors and participated in educational activities including water safety. Children were taught how to catch and release a fish. Prizes were awarded to those catching a tagged fish. GFWC volunteers in action served hot dogs to the hungry fishermen.

### **Duck-er-ate Recycling Project**

The GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club (MA) held a "duck-er-ate" event at the Auburn Public Library to recycle rubber ducks from their annual Duck Race. Children decorated the ducks with various items including paint, glitter, feathers, and pom-poms. The ducks were judged and first, second, and third place winning ducks were displayed at the library. Some of the recycled ducks were decorated by club members, made into Christmas ornaments, and sold at the Holiday Bazaar.

### **Earth Day Litter Pick Up**

The GFWC Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club (NC) began an annual tradition of celebrating Earth Day with local citizens. The club created an event called "Clean the Quay" and publicized it through their website, social media, and word of mouth. Wearing gloves, vests, and bright pink FVJWC shirts, club members walked over 2 miles of road frontage collecting trash and recycling items. Over 12 bags of waste were collected from their watershed and creek system.



### **Corn-Stalking the City**

The GFWC Lake City Women's Club (MI) decorated the city's lampposts in the fall. Over 1,000 dried cornstalks from a local farmer were displayed. A local disabled veteran removed the stalks at the end of the season to feed his goats and sheep. The project demonstrated use, reuse, beautification, and not leaving a footprint as corn stalks fed people corn in the summer, decorated Lake City in the fall, and fed the farmer's animals in the winter.

### **Community Garden**

The Quitman Woman's Club (MS) teamed up with the Quitman Lower Elementary School on its "Smarter Lunch Project" and worked with children to plant fall mustard, turnip, and collard greens, plus tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, blueberry bushes, and apple and peach trees in raised garden beds on campus. Club members donated trees and plants for the garden and helped setup the beds for planting. Students watered and cared for plants and harvested the vegetables.

### **Water Conservation with Kids**

The GFWC Round Table Club of Wyoming Camden (DE) held a water conservation program for children ages 2-5 at the county library. Children were asked, "Did you use any water today?" and "What did you use it for?" and learned about the word "conservation." A story illustrating the water cycle was read and songs were sung. An art project featured a water droplet surrounded by stickers showing different ways everyone can help in the conservation of water.

### **Fairy Houses**

The Panorama Study Club (AL) celebrated Earth Day by hosting a program at the Red Mountain Community School teaching fifth and sixth grade students to make Fairy Houses from natural materials. Club members provided boxes of dried and fresh flowers, lichens, natural branches, stones, fir, pine cones, etc. to use in the construction. Students worked together in groups in various locations around the school, unleashing their creativity and building unique Fairy Houses.

## **EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Summer Cooking and Sewing Classes**

GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (AZ) developed and offered cooking and sewing classes four days a week during the summer. There were 17 cooking students and 15 sewing students including boys and girls. Those in cooking learned about table manners, kitchen cleanliness, and nutrition, in addition to cooking, and received a children's cookbook. Students in sewing made a tote bag, personal pillowcase, and mug rug, and received an owl pincushion made by members and a tape measure.

### **Book Fairy Book Collection**

GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL) continued their Book Fairy project by collecting 1,300 books for distribution in association with the Florida Future Educators of America at the high school. New distribution points included the Florida Dream Center, FEAST food pantry, and an after-school tutoring program. Their partnership with Habitat for Humanity Pinellas continued and children's books were placed in new Habitat homes. A \$200 GFWC Literacy Grant was used to purchase books for Habitat families.

### **Library Established**

Woodbine Woman's Club (GA) worked with the city for three years to establish a library. Members obtained an old fire station and HVAC system. They worked on the building with Habitat for Humanity and the high school Skills USA team. The school district committed to \$10,000 a year for operating costs. Club members applied for grants to make the building ADA compatible and partnered with the library and Lions Club to raise \$7,000 for library renovations.

### **Run For the Roses**

GFWC Semper Fidelis Club (ME) held a "Run for the Roses" Kentucky Derby party that raised \$2,000 in proceeds to support an expansion of the town library. Much went into event planning, including printing and selling tickets, hanging posters, and preparing food with a Kentucky Derby theme. Members found old children's rocking chairs and decorated each to match a book that it was paired with for auction. Attendees dressed in true Kentucky Derby style.

### **Project Literacy for Little Ones**

GFWC Woman's Club of Laurel, Inc. (MD) established project "Literacy for Little Ones" to promote pre-literacy skills in the home and instill a love of books in young children. The club donated 18 sets of Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Who Do You See and found accompanying stuffed bears. These were given to children attending a parent-child enrichment group coordinated by the library's Infant and Toddler Program. Laminated cards provided parent tips for reading to children.

### **Early Literacy Emphasis**

As part of Smart Start's Park-Time Reading Campaign, GFWC South Brunswick Islands (NC) dedicated a Little Free Library at a beach park and maintained a steady book supply. To aid in maintenance, the club received a \$1,000 community grant from the electric membership corporation. They partnered with "Raising a Reader" and connected with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Ninety-six Dr. Seuss books, 57 toddler board books, and 32 Christmas books were purchased from Dollar General.

### **Read for the Record**

GFWC clubs including Arlington Woman's Club, Evening Membership Department of Arlington Woman's Club, Junior Woman's Club of Arlington, and GFWC Arlington Juniores (NJ) joined the nationwide program "Read for the Record." Fifty copies of Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed A Neighborhood were ordered with 40 in English and 10 in Spanish. Readers read to all district kindergarten classes and charter schools, reaching 550 students in 22 classes. Two books and follow-up activity books, one in English and one in Spanish, were given to each classroom.

### **Books and More for Children in Need**

New Century Club of West Chester (PA) gave toddlers their own book and something more to help them feel secure in uncertain situations. The club purchased age-appropriate books, soft-stuffed animals, colorful warm fleece, and small canvas bags. Members made "taggie blankets" and drew pictures on the bags. Working with a library's tween and teen program, bags were assembled and distributed to community organizations serving women and children who are homeless or have experienced domestic violence.

### **In Memory of Pearl S. Buck**

GFWC Woman's Club of Elkins (WV) keeps the memory of Pearl S. Buck alive through their Pearl S. Buck Book Club. Members meet six times a year to discuss books written by or about this author. Since the books are no longer in print, they were ordered online, allowing ample time for reading between meetings. After review, the books are donated to local libraries. Nine members traveled to visit the Pearl Buck International Foundation home headquarters.

### **Dr. Seuss Birthday Party**

GFWC Amery Woman's Club (WI) held a Dr. Seuss Birthday party. Seuss' book, THE SNEETCHES, about diversity and treating everyone the same, was used in second grade classes. Volunteers read the story, engaged children with moustaches and play money manipulatives, and helped students buy a star. Classrooms selected follow-up activities and teachers received the book and suggested support activities. Students were given a personal book, a plush star for use during reading, and a birthday bag of treats.

## **EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON– ESO**

### **Mobile Little Free Library**

GFWC Northeastern Connecticut Woman's Club (CT) members enjoy reading as a hobby. They chose to share the love of reading and the concept of Little Free Libraries by donating books and sponsoring the registration of a Mobile Little Free Library. The information on how to start a Little Free Library was presented at all Connecticut State meetings.

### **Promote Reading**

Five members of Indian Head Park Woman's Club (IL) belong to ESO and several others took the application to get started. To encourage reading, the club president gave bookmarks to everyone with their initial on it and a poem to all the ESO members at the beginning of the club year.

### **Online Book Discussion Group**

GFWC-MFWC Batesville Junior Women's League (MS) members participated in reading and online book discussions throughout the year with their ESO Reading Group. They promoted ESO reading by extending invitations through social media and engaging others to join the group. Clubwomen, including members from other clubs, participated. Members tracked their reading progress on GOODREADS by keeping a read list.

### **Children's Book Nook**

GFWC Tuesday Club (MO) members assisted with the Book Nook at their local food pantry to encourage children to read while their parents were shopping. The nook was equipped with children's books, child-sized shelves, a small table and chairs, and some educational toys. Children were allowed to take one book with them per visit. Club members visited the Book Nook twice a week, adding books to shelves and cleaning and tidying the area.

### **Book Donations**

GFWC Roswell Woman's Club (NM) encouraged members to share their books and do brief summaries of their favorites. Books were donated to local charitable organizations. They also provided 25 Dr. Seuss books that their team delivered while attending their District Convention.

### **Little Library**

GFWC Ohio Eastlake Women's Club (OH) placed a Little Library on the grounds of a minor league baseball stadium. Construction was paid for with a grant of \$750.00 awarded by the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). Club members and the local library system provided books. Each book included a sticker with the club's name and NOPEC on it. A condition of the grant was that it must benefit the community as a whole.

### **Portfolio of ESO Documents**

GFWC Ladies Reading Circle (TN) conducted a book exchange at several meetings. A portfolio, including a supply of ESO forms and a list of requirements for each award, was distributed at the September meeting and made available at the book table each month. Members easily approached the book table and got into good conversation over book favorites.

### **Monthly Book Discussion and Exchange**

GFWC Parkersburg Woman's Club (WV) members met monthly from September through May at the local library to discuss and exchange books. Each month a different ESO category was the focus. Several members reached the Torch, Star, and Century levels. Books not exchanged among members were donated to the club's four Little Free Libraries.

## **HOME LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Farm to Table**

The GFWC Cartersville Woman's Club (GA) planted and tended a community garden. Proceeds from the garden supported projects throughout the year. Members participated in the garden project by purchasing plants and tilling, watering, and weeding the garden. Produce was donated to the local food pantry and homeless shelter to promote healthy lifestyles. Cooking demonstrations showed how to appropriately prepare the large variety of foods grown.

### **Vial of Life**

Vial of Life is a project designed to speak for you when you can't speak for yourself. The Vial, a plastic baggie, contains important information that can assist emergency personnel in administering proper medical treatment. The GFWC Julian Women's Club (CA) participated in the Vial of Life program and provided all members and guests with a form to complete, plus a baggie, two Vial of Life stickers, and a magnet.

### **Angel Program**

GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club (MT) members provided assistance to school children and needy families in their county. Members purchased clothing items, collected and distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets containing grocery certificates, assembled and placed Angel gift tags on Christmas trees at local businesses, and picked up and distributed the gifts with the Christmas baskets. They advertised in newspapers and on Facebook, and displayed posters throughout the county.

### **Kiss Cancer Goodbye**

GFWC Cosmopolitan Club of Petal (MS) supported the American Cancer Society through its Relay for Life community team. "Kiss Cancer Goodbye Bunko" and "Cup Cake Challenge" events raised funds for the team. Members provided silent auction items and centerpieces, and prepared 200 units of Chicken-on-a-Stick that members raffled and sold while wearing Wonder Woman tee shirts. The club won second place for cancer facts displayed at the tent site.

### **One Plus One Plus One Equals Three**

With fluctuating temperatures at the beginning of the school year, members of the GFWC DSFWC Village Improvement Association (DE), GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club, and GFWC Women's Club of Milton provided sweatshirts, hoodies, and tee shirts to displaced high school students. The VIA's contribution was 458 clothing pieces out of 1000, along with a check from an anonymous donor for \$5,000.

### **Rocks for Socks**

GFWC Houma Junior Women's Club (LA) members joined Estelle Elementary School to support the Estelle "Rocks for Socks Project," a sock drive for the needy. Numerous pairs of socks collected by the children were given to local agencies including juvenile homes, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and women's shelters. Second graders, assisting the club, won the school's Sock Hop and posted thank you videos on Facebook Messenger. The spirit of volunteering was shared with students and families.

### **Best Foot Forward**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Madisonville (KY) joined community partners to develop an informational brochure illustrating three walking tours of the downtown area. They met regularly with healthcare, education, public library, and historical representatives during the development. After a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, brochures were placed in the surrounding businesses so visitors and the community could use them, thus helping to promote a healthy lifestyle.

### **Comfort Pillows**

GFWC Salem Woman's Service Club (OR) purchased supplies and secured donations from the community to make small Comfort Pillows for cancer patients. Members meet four times during the year to sew 384 Comfort Pillows that were donated to the Salem Hospital. The pillows were distributed to patients undergoing surgeries usually related to breast cancer. A note of encouragement with the club's contact information was included with each pillow.

### **Project Smile**

GFWC Western Pocono Women's Club (PA) started Project Smile to provide for the immediate needs of children in families suffering from financial distress. The project had four goals: supplying dress-code compliant school clothes, shoes, and supplies; providing school snacks throughout the year; making birthday bags to provide a school treat to students on their special day; and sponsoring a family in need at Christmas.

### **Valentine's Day Dance for Handicapped Children**

The GFWC Women's Club of Safford (AZ) held a dance on Valentine's Day for 120 physically and mentally handicapped children along with 33 chaperones. The goal was to enable the children to experience a school dance first-hand. Keepsake photos were taken for the children to remember the night, and they were also given a party favor of an emoji pillow or stuffed animal. The dance was a huge hit!

## **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Sewing Kits for Haiti**

During a mission trip, a GFWC Altamaha Woman's Club (GA) member noticed a Haitian woman pulling thread out of her dress to mend a pair of pants. She recognized the need for a sewing kit. Her club adopted the idea. They created sewing kits by filling Parmesan cheese containers with pins, spools of thread, needles, scissors, buttons, a tape measure, a seam ripper, a thimble, and a pincushion. A total of 75 kits were made and donated.

### **Human Trafficking Awareness and Fundraiser**

The GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) partnered with their Rotary Club to educate the community about human trafficking. Using the UNICEF USA toolkit, they planned a Fair Trade luncheon and showed the film, *Not My Life*. Donations for UNICEF USA were accepted and \$533 was raised. Another organization, Her Future Coalition, provided jewelry made by survivors to sell at the event and proceeds were sent to the organization.

### **WaterStep**

Members of the GFWC Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach (DE) collected 2,629 shoes for WaterStep, which saves lives with safe water. A local thrift store provided shoes once a week. Members sorted, bagged, and delivered the shoes to a collections site. The shoes were sold to an exporter and the funds were used to help provide safe drinking water to those in need. An added benefit was shoes were kept out of our landfills.

### **Girls Fly – STEM Program for Africa**

Members from GFWC Woman's Civic League Cheyenne (WY) purchased UNICEF greeting cards to sell and raise funds for the Girls Fly Program in Africa, which provides information and skills development in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education program for school and post-school students with an interest in aviation and the aerospace industry. A donation was made.

### **Heifer International Milk for School Children**

To spark community awareness of the nutritional needs of children in developing countries, the GFWC Bruce Fine Arts Juniors (MS) decided to promote Heifer International's Tanzania School Milk Project. They asked a local company to donate milk, contacted a local grocer for permission to set up a booth outside, advertised, and made cookies. Handouts about Heifer were given to customers who made a donation for cookies and milk.

### **Operation Smile Vendor Splendor**

GFWC Lake Placid Junior Woman's Club (FL) held Vendor Splendor to raise funds for Operation Smile. They had 24 vendors that each donated a raffle basket and three food trucks that donated 20% of their sales. To attract customers and create a festive atmosphere, clowns from a local clown school painted faces and made animal balloons. Books were given away to children. The Juniors sold homemade cookies to add to the proceeds.

### **International Potluck Luncheon**

Members of the GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress (CA) held an international potluck luncheon. Members prepared food from their birth country. Using two world maps on the wall, red pins showed fourteen places of birth. Blue pins were used to show countries



members had visited. A geography and travel-trivia contest was played during dessert. Together members learned more about each other and the world.

**Give a Shot – Get a Shot**

The GFWC Morgan County Woman’s Club (KY), led by their two Shot@Life Champions, hosted a fundraiser at the GFWC Southeastern Region Convention. They provided a wide variety of green candy, as bright green is the identifying color for Shot@Life. Attendees could “give a shot” by donating for global vaccines to “get a shot” (a scoop) of delicious green candy.

**Free the Girls – A Business Model**

The GFWC Franklin Woman’s Club (NJ) had a program on Free the Girls, a non-profit that helps human trafficking survivors in other countries start a business selling bras, a highly sought item, in local markets. They held a drive for new and gently used bras and partnered with two local lingerie shops that donated bras. A total of 732 bras were collected for an in-kind value of over \$8,000.

**Welcoming Refugees**

Members of the GFWC Hudson Community Club (NH) provided assistance to UN refugee families. They donated items for two new babies, plus toys and numerous household items. Members also provided transportation to doctor appointments and helped with employment and housing applications. The club worked with the Alvirne High School Model UN to hold a food drive for eighteen families newly arrived from Africa.

## **PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

### **Ladies Start Your Engines!**

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Barnesville (OH) sponsored an automotive repair class for members. The goal was to empower participants by giving them confidence to perform their own light car maintenance, plus the language needed to communicate and understand technical jargon. The workshop taught them how to check fluids, oil levels, change the time, and gain a basic understanding of how an engine works. Each participant received a certificate for completing the class.

### **Veteran's Poppy Program**

The GFWC Williamstown Woman's Club (WV), working with the American Legion Auxiliary, chose to participate in the Veteran's Poppy program by sponsoring a poster contest in the local elementary school. Fifty-eight students submitted artwork that included poppies on the poster. First, second, and third place winners were announced and invited to ride in the annual Memorial Day Parade displaying their winning posters.

### **Flags for Fort Smelling**

In May, GFWC Bloomington Federated Woman's Club (MN) members joined 5,000 volunteers at the Mall of America for "Flags for Fort Smelling." Each member was given 25 flags and shown the correct way to place a flag. Shuttles then took volunteers to the cemetery. The club spent 48 hours on this project including placing flags at graves. For the first time in 35 years, all graves at Fort Smelling were marked with a flag.

### **Sound the Alarm to Save a Life**

A representative of the American Red Cross spoke to the GFWC Greensboro Woman's Club (NC) on educating the public about home fire safety. On Save a Life Day, club members went door-to-door in two at-risk neighborhoods with two fire fighters. The firemen installed free smoke alarms, checked existing alarms, and clubwomen educated the homeowners on general fire safety, including alarm battery replacement and creating a fire escape plan.

### **Missing Man Table**

During November, the GFWC Village Improvement Association (DE) honored those who had served in the military. A "Missing Man Table" was displayed in the public library to honor missing veterans. The significance of the round table with a white tablecloth, a single rose, a yellow ribbon, slice of lemon, pinch of salt, lighted candle, inverted glass, Bible, and empty chair, prompted a moment of silence for those who stopped at the display.

### **Support to Deployed Troops**

The Exeter Area GFWC Club (NH) knitted and donated 290 hats, 20 scarves, and 20 fleece scarves through the Pease Greeters, a program for volunteers who provide support to troops being deployed through the Pease International Trade Port in Portsmouth, NH. Members also gathered and decorated 90 Christmas stockings, filled them with personal care items and goodies, and handed them out to returning servicemen and women in November and December.

### **Makeup and Makeup Bags**

GFWC Las Noches Woman's Club (AZ) received donated makeup from St. Vincent DePaul for distribution as desired. The club contacted Arizona military bases and discovered the

women did not have money for cosmetics. Members processed and donated over 9,000 items of make-up between the 5 bases and sewed makeup bags for 400 women. They also had enough to provide for the military servicemen's spouses. The bases were especially appreciative of the items that were for women of color.

### **I Feel Like a Woman**

The Tennessee Public Issues Chairman, being a veteran herself, wanted to create "I Feel Like a Woman" backpacks for female veterans. She had 100 black and hot pink drawstring backpacks. Clubwomen collected patterned female socks, perfumed-scented body wash, colorful shower sponges, chocolates, lip balm, and brushes. Bags were assembled at the Tennessee state fall conference and taken to the state VA Hospital for female veterans, and sent to female veterans' clinics throughout the state.

### **Cinderella's Closet**

Cinderella's Closet is a store operated by the GFWC Warren Spouse's Club (WY) on the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, in Cheyenne, WY. This boutique provides formal and semi-formal clothing and accessories, free of charge, to both male and female spouses of our active military personnel for formal dress occasions.

### **New Mother Program**

GFWC Cape Henry Woman's Club (VA) chose to support the New Mother Program of the Navy Marine Corps Society. This program teaches new moms-to-be about nutrition, budgeting, and childcare. At the end of the program, the club presents a gift basket of baby items to each participant. Baskets also include a handmade baby blanket made by one of the members.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Advertising Sandwich Board**

GFWC Buckeye Woman's Club (AZ) used moving sidewalk signs to attract attention. A member constructed an advertising sandwich board for a person to wear walking around at events. Both pieces of the board had a different poster on each side with information promoting their club's programs and projects, other club information, and the GFWC Logo. The member wearing the board collected names and contact information from interested parties at the events.

### **Google Phone Number**

GFWC Morris Woman's Club (IL) set up a Google phone number to enable the club to arrange for incoming calls to go to their membership chairmen, project chairmen, or to whoever calls should be directed. With a Google phone number, the administrator can publish the number as the club's phone number. To ensure continuity for club telephone contact, the club's social media administrator plans to share the sign-in information with her successors.

### **Pet Show**

GFWC Reed City (MI) members sponsored the first ever pet show to encourage family involvement and the enjoyment of pets that were entered into best of show, tricks, or costume. Members collected donated items for the shelter and the \$5.00 admission fee. To increase club recognition, a GFWC Reed City sign was placed at the front gate. Members distributed GFWC bandanas, the winning ribbons included the GFWC logo, and each judge received a GFWC mug.

### **Project Presented At Chamber Community Expo**

City Council members discussed installing a Splash Pad water park, but nothing happened until GFWC Delano (MN) donated \$5,000. To provide access for everyone, the club donated funds for an aquatic wheelchair designed to hold anyone from toddler to adult. The chair has a headrest and chest belt to support those without core muscle support. The project was presented at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Community Expo. Community members provided ideas for future projects.

### **Club Mascot**

GFWC Civic Woman's Club of Picayune (MS) adopted a mascot to promote the club in a unique way. Named for Pearl River County, Pearl Swineheart is the name of a beautiful stuffed swine. Pearl always wears her Civic Woman's Club shirt or carries her Civic Woman's Club purse. Maintaining her own Facebook page, friends can view posts of her and other CWC members volunteering. Pearl attended thirty-one club functions and had her photo taken with over sixty non-members.

### **Montana Women's Expo**

GFWC Billings Junior Woman's Club (MT) participated in the Montana Women's Expo. They registered and paid the booth fee, and members signed up to set up, work the booth, and clean up. The booth was designed using club posters, each showing a different club committee and their projects. A banner including the club name and feather flag with the

GFWC logo was displayed. A large bear wearing a pillowcase dress shared information about their “Pillow Case Dress Project.”

### **ZOOM Teleconference**

GFWC Exeter Area Club (NH) showed their CPR Committee how to conduct a live teleconference via a laptop with a program called ZOOM. The committee had an October meeting and two members could not attend, so they attended via ZOOM. The two participated in Q&A and give valuable feedback at the meeting. The member also demonstrated how GFWC NH Board members could use this site for those not attending the meetings.

### **Multiple Communications and Media Sources**

GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Woman’s Club (PA) utilized multiple communications and media outlets to promote their 16<sup>th</sup> annual food drive at Walmart and Sam’s Club. Communications included face-to-face meetings with store managers, television and radio interviews, four social media outlets, live Facebook broadcasts, banners, and flyers. Elementary through college-aged students helped clubwomen collect food while earning community service points. Efforts, combined with generous donations, enabled support to more than ten Blair County food banks and organizations.

### **Mailchimp**

GFWC Greater Keller Women’s Club (TX) enhanced communications using Mailchimp, an information dispersal system that keeps its 200 members informed and up-to-date while increasing community awareness. The club uses Mailchimp to create and distribute mass emails to member inboxes and social feeds almost daily. It was also utilized to develop rack cards that were then placed at area businesses along with member push cards for easy use with potential recruits.

### **STEM Conference Promoted via Various Technologies**

GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club (MA) used various technologies to promote and provide 2018 STEM conference registration information, including electronic school mail, Google Forms, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. The school’s electronic backpacks for students and parents were embraced. This was publicized on the club Facebook and web pages. A new electronic link to the event’s registration page was included. A picture frame labeled #NHWCstem was created. Students shared photos and experiences on social media using the hashtag #njwcstem2018.

## **FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Chair-ity Auction**

The GFWC Clayton Century Club (DE) donated and refurbished furniture for auction. Members and local businesses donated chairs and other furniture. Many in the community helped sand and paint the furniture, including members, their families, a local art teacher, and Very Special Arts students. Tickets were sold for the event, which was held in November to attract holiday shoppers. Members sold refreshments, raffled items at the auction, and provided door prizes.

### **Rollin' Rock Raffle**

The GFWC History Club of Whitesboro (TX) raffled a dump truck load of limestone gravel that was donated to them by a local business. In a two-month period, the community received 2-3 feet of rain. In an agrarian community, gravel was in high demand. The club benefitted from the foot traffic at a local festival, where they sold raffle tickets from a booth cleverly decorated with hand-painted dump trucks signs.

### **Grease Sing-A-Long**

The GFWC Hemet Women's Club (CA) tried a new fundraiser when they rented a local movie theatre and purchased the license to show the movie *Grease*. They sold tickets to the event and arranged to have clothing and craft vendors in the lobby. Each vendor also donated a basket to be raffled. The festivities included a costume contest, singing contest, and a raffle drawing for the donated gift baskets.

### **Annual Glitzy Kitchen Tour**

Members of the GFWC Naples Woman's Club (FL) organized a tour to showcase their kitchens with the assistance of four host chefs from popular local restaurants. Each home also featured entertainment by local musicians, beautiful flower arrangements, and a luxury car parked in the driveway. Sponsors were obtained, tickets were sold for both the tour and a preview party, and raffle tickets were sold on baskets at each home on the tour.

### **Show Me Lexington Community Welcome Kits**

The GFWC Women's Club of Lexington (MO) partnered with the city and Chamber of Commerce to welcome new residents and business owners to the community with gift bags. The bags contained small gifts from merchants and professionals, plus lists of local places of worship, clubs, doctors, and dentists. The club members sold ads to be included in these gift bags, including many that contained merchant discounts. Newcomers to the community were contacted and given a welcome bag.

### **Appalachian Noel Holiday Expo**

The GFWC Greeneville Woman's Club (TN) hosted its 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Expo with over 100 vendor booths of holiday and gift items. They partnered with the local Senior Center to create and sell commemorative personalized ornaments. The club operated a full kitchen to sell food to shoppers and sold space to food truck vendors. They raised funds from entrance fees, vendor booth fees, food sales, and ornament sales.

### **Re-gift Auction of Mystery Items**

The GFWC Papillion Junior Woman's Club (NE) held a "Re-Gift Auction" in January to find a new home for unwanted Christmas gifts. Members wrapped the donated items and wrote

clues on a tag about what was in the package. Bids were made based only on the written clues. Some bidders received really nice gifts, but everyone who won an item received a surprise.

### **Roaring 20's Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre**

The GFWC Mesquite Club of Las Vegas (NV) transformed its clubhouse into a speakeasy that was so authentic that it even required a password for entry. Tickets were sold for the dinner theatre and a silent auction was also part of the event. Guests were entertained by the murder mystery that was presented. Everyone was encouraged to wear fashions from the Roaring 20's and participate in solving the mystery.

### **PEPPER CANNING PROJECT**

The GFWC Bridgeport Junior Woman's Club (WV) and their community looked forward to their annual Pepper Canning Project. Members enjoyed each other's company while they canned bushels of Italian peppers. They worked hard to prepare the jars, cut and prepare the peppers, and cook and can the pint jars of peppers. They sold 712 pints of sweet, medium, and hot peppers throughout the local area, with many purchased by repeat customers.

### **Annual Mr. Concord Pageant**

The GFWC Concord Contemporary Club (NH) held its Third Annual Mr. Concord Pageant, an event where eight men competed in interviews and talent for the coveted crown. The Pageant also included entertainment from a Master of Ceremonies and a DJ. Sponsorships and tickets were sold. Pageant attendees had the opportunity to participate in a wine pull and silent auction. In addition, tickets were sold to vote on the favorite talent of the evening.

## **LEADERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Encourage LEADS Participation**

GFWC Houma Junior Woman's Club (LA) held informational meetings and mentoring to encourage members to apply as a candidate for the GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS). Club leaders knew the importance of helping younger women secure the knowledge offered at the seminar. Previous LEADS graduates helped facilitate and guide members through the process.

### **Leaders Working Together**

Three GFWC Delaware clubs, the GFWC Zwaanendael Women's Club, GFWC Women's Club of Milton, and GFWC Village Improvement Association teamed together to have a clothing drive for local students in the high school where forty percent of the students are below poverty level. Through this collaborative effort, students were treated to a shopping trip and purchased various clothing items.

### **Women Who Make a Difference**

Winthrop GFWC (MN) used a creative approach to maximizing leadership skills by allowing members to reach beyond their expectations and think outside the box for an event. To demonstrate their appreciation for women in the community, a "Women Who Make a Difference" dinner was held to honor various women. The goal was to recognize three community leaders that lead by example.

### **New Member Feedback**

Exeter Area GFWC (NH) held an informal new-member feedback session at a local restaurant to discuss their experiences and brainstorm ideas. Club leaders felt the event was a valuable investment, as it began to build relationships quickly while also demonstrating that members are important and valued.

### **Developing Leadership Skills**

GFWC White Mountain Woman's Club (AZ) encouraged members to participate in events as event chairman, co-chairman, or committee chairman. Previous event leaders supported members' commitment to accept such roles. Sign-in sheets and events and meetings schedules were created. Training focused on how to use the microphone, speak in front of members, and accomplish a successful project.

### **Leadership Assistance Program**

Based on long-range planning, GFWC Montgomery Woman's Club, Inc. (OH) realized accepting a leadership role could be daunting. The word "chairman" implied it's all yours, good luck. The development of a "Leadership Assistant Program" allowed members to assist current officers and chairmen for a year, building their confidence to accept future leadership roles. Current leaders met with assistants, provided specific training and feedback, and invited them to meetings. Because of this program, two members accepted upcoming chairmanships.

### **Sharing Talent and Knowledge**

GFWC Progress Study Club (SD) shared their talents and knowledge on leadership during their local club meetings. Every member was assigned a leadership role at each meeting, whether it was to provide a meditation, share a lesson, participate in roll call topics, or



provide an educational program or handout. This focus proved effective at enhancing the skills and confidence of their members, thus making the club stronger.

### **Mini-Parliamentary Workshops**

GFWC Town and Country Woman's Club (PA) conducted a series of mini-parliamentary workshops during each meeting. Topics included how to write an agenda, commonly-used motions, electronic meetings, quorums, and commonly-posed questions. Club members received a handout on the topic covered. Through these brief workshops, members grew in their understanding of the proper procedures to run an effective meeting.

### **Mentors to Junior Members**

GFWC Woman's Club of Huntington (WV) members served as mentors to members of the Junior Woman's Club. Additionally, they supported and encouraged the Junior members who showed potential leadership skills and interest that could possibly lead to woman's clubs in the future.

### **Leadership Academy**

GFWC Woman's Club of Vista (CA) attended a city-sponsored Leadership Academy. This included a Finance and Budget overview meeting. They also visited various town offices. The program allowed the community to gain a better understanding of GFWC and the club's purpose.

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

### **Mock Legislative Summit**

The GFWC Juniorette Diamonds of Picayune (MS) conducted a daylong “Mock Legislative Summit.” Participants included members and students who engaged in club HOBY workshops. The keynote speaker and facilitator was a State Senator. Using GFWC Resolutions Committee materials, students learned how to write resolutions and how a bill travels from proposal to passage. Students broke into groups and drafted two potential bills for the legislature: one providing harsher penalties for those convicted of animal abuse and another providing education funding directly to classroom teachers.

### **Lobby for Transitional Housing**

The GFWC IFC Progress Club (IN) successfully lobbied the legislature to assist with funding for Dismas House of Indiana, a non-profit that provides transitional housing and other support services to recently released inmates. Those who completed the program have a recidivism rate of only 15%.

### **Sixth Grade Students Lobby the Legislators**

The GFWC Civic Woman’s Club of Picayune (MS) sponsored a sixth grade class trip to Jackson, MS, where the students met with legislators and lobbied for education funding. The students were also able to tour the State Capitol and watch the legislature in session.

### **Club Legislation and Public Policy Committee**

The GFWC Woman’s Club of Cypress (CA) formed its own Legislation and Public Policy Committee. The committee met regularly to discuss both pending state legislation and local legislative issues, and it made recommendations on whether the club should support, oppose, or remain neutral on specific legislative initiatives. This information was shared at club meetings and in the club newsletter, so club members could write their legislators to support or oppose certain pieces of legislation.

### **Road to Change Rally**

The GFWC Gainesville Woman’s Club (FL), collaborating with a local “Get Out the Vote” movement, helped sponsor a “Road to Change Rally” that focused on the need for gun safety legislation. This was a student-focused rally, and featured survivors of the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, local high school students, and students from the University of Florida. Following the rally, members helped with registering new voters.

### **Legislative Call to Action**

The GFWC Suburban Woman’s Club of Pompton Plains (NJ) had a “Legislative Call to Action,” advocating for a ban on single-use plastics (e.g., plastic grocery bags and plastic straws). The club lobbied the state legislature to either ban or tax such items. The club lobbied local restaurants and national chain fast-food restaurants to eliminate straws or switch to paper straws. They also lobbied grocery stores seeking to reward shoppers for bringing their reusable grocery bags and/or to charge for plastic bags. Well-researched statistics were used.

### **Equal Means Equal**

Both the GFWC Ojai Valley Woman’s Club (CA) and GFWC Olympia Woman’s Club (WA) hosted a screening of the film “Equal Means Equal,” a documentary demonstrating the need

for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The movie showed that, despite some court victories, women still do not have equal protection under the law. Following the film, each club hosted a discussion about the ERA.

### **Memorial Reception**

The GFWC Ossoli Circle (TN), in preparation for the centennial celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, participated in honoring Harry Burn, the Tennessee legislator who provided the single vote necessary for the adoption of the amendment. The club worked with the Suffrage Coalition to host a memorial reception for Harry Burn at the East Tennessee Historical Society.

### **Historic Home Saved**

The GFWC Boise Columbian Woman's Club (ID) worked with the Boise City Council to save a Boise historic home that was the home of the club's founding president (1892-1894). The club learned that if a historic district was designated in the area of Boise where the home was located, the home would be safe from demolition. The club attended the Planning and Zoning Meeting and several city council meetings, and successfully lobbied for the creation of the Warm Springs Historic District.

### **Letter Templates**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Matawan (NJ) created templates for members to use when writing their legislators, either individually or on behalf of their club. These templates, together with contact information for the legislators representing the two districts where the club is located, were included in the club's yearbook.

## **MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA**

### **Members and Mentors**

GFWC Jacksonville Beaches Woman's Club (FL) "Members and Mentors" program paired each new member with a club mentor. The mentor was responsible for assisting the new member in her first year in every way needed, from answering questions about the club and club activities to helping her determine which committees to serve, introducing her to current club members, and providing a ride to meetings if needed.

### **Who Wants to be a Millionaire?**

GFWC Morrow Civic Woman's Club (GA) invited potential members to enjoy a salad supper. After the meal, participants played a game based on the TV show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" The questions were based on trivia facts about GFWC and the local club. The game was very engaging and provided the visitors with an overview of the club, its Community Service Programs, projects, and history. Door prizes were drawn for all guests.

### **Sorority Rush**

GFWC Rochester Juniors (MI) mirrored the sorority rush idea for their membership drive. New members were recruited by the local paper, club website, and Facebook page, as well as through word of mouth. At the open-house style gathering, each guest was greeted by a clubwoman who showed her the Past President memory books, explained the club's goals, and answered questions. The atmosphere was upbeat and informal and resulted in gaining 14 new members.

### **New Evening Group**

GFWC Woman's Club of Newport News (VA) established the Evening Group of the Woman's Club of Newport News to enable women who work during the day an opportunity to be a part of the club. The Club President and other members who attend the day meetings were welcomed to attend the evening meetings. Evening meetings included fellowship time, a program, and a business meeting. This one change resulted in an increase in club membership.

### **New-Member Ambassador**

GFWC Greater Keller Women's Club (TX) created a "New-Member Ambassador" board position to ensure new members were integrated into the club. The Ambassador connected with new members for six months by hosting small social gatherings, and through emails, phone calls, and texts. She answered questions and helped new members understand the club and its activities. A new-member "Meet the Board and Hospitality Committee" party was also held so new members would understand club operations and meet key members.

### **Bunco Bash**

GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club (MA) kicked off the year with a "Bunco Bash." Members planned the event, shopped for raffle prizes, spread the word on social media, and organized supplies and game instructions. The Bash was a successful membership event, as well as a fun social! Although it was not designed as a fundraiser, the event garnered the club a small net profit.

### **University Outreach**

GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh (NC) is located in a city with 10 colleges and

universities. Before their September meeting, two members participated in a Career and Community Involvement event at William Peace University. Students and faculty met with clubwomen and learned more about the club's involvement in the community. Given the vast age range for membership in the club, targeting recruitment at a university with a concentrated student population and faculty seemed ideal.

### **Dinner and Games Night**

GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill (SC) Past Presidents honored their current club members by hosting a "Dinner and Games Night." Members were treated to an evening with wine, appetizers, a variety of salads, and dessert. Dinner was followed by games, including Mexican Train, Uno, Rummy, and Canasta, plus plenty of door prizes. The Past Presidents used this event to honor the club members and show they are appreciated.

### **Private Luncheons**

GFWC Mesquite Club of Las Vegas (NV) recruited and retained members with a fundraiser that secured club operating expenses by hosting a \$50 luncheon in members' private homes. Everyone became better acquainted and because new guests were hosted in a home surrounded by warm, friendly women, club members knew their guests would feel more comfortable. Showcasing their homes and displaying their cooking and hospitality skills, proved to be a great strategy for retaining members and attracting new ones.

### **Martini Night**

Exeter Area GFWC (NH) hosted a "Martini Night" social that combined information about GFWC with the opportunity to learn more about each other. Divided into three groups, the participants spent 20 minutes on each on: "Two Truths and A Lie," including experiences before and after club membership; "What's on Your Plate?" sharing responsibilities and expectations; and a map with "How did you find us?" and "Where would you like our club to go?"

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

### **The Civil War and Women**

The GFWC Glendale Woman’s Club (AZ) experienced the role of women in the Civil War through a presentation by a member who is also part of a Civil War reenactment group. The member dressed in period clothes and described various that jobs ladies did with the “menfolk” fighting in the war. She displayed reproductions of ladies period clothing, including undergarments and outer garments. Members tasted samples of “hardtack” (a biscuit) and brown bread.

### **Community Birdhouse Project**

The GFWC Reynolds Woman’s Club (GA) implemented a community birdhouse project by placing a birdhouse in their home garden and hanging a clubhouse replica at their clubhouse. The replica was a masterpiece and members voted to keep it inside on display and get another for outside. This replica is now used for display at community functions, along with the club banner, to raise funds to maintain the clubhouse.

### **Quarters for Headquarters**

The GFWC Mississippi WHRC Assistant Chairman made a presentation at Summer Board to promote a fundraiser “Quarters for Headquarters,” with clubs collecting quarters to go toward the upkeep of the MFWC Headquarters in Jackson. The project would conclude at the state convention in April. The history of the Headquarters was featured in the *Dixie Dining III Cookbook* with tidbits throughout the book outlining historical accomplishments of both the GFWC and MFWC.

### **19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Party**

The GFWC Town and Country Club (PA) hosted a 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Party on the Saturday preceding the date of the 19th Amendment’s passage. Invitations were sent to state officers and chairmen residing nearby. Attendees dressed as suffragettes or wore hats and gloves. Parts of “Not of Ourselves Alone,” a History Channel production on Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, were shown. A discussion on the women’s suffrage movement followed the video.

### **Do the Stroll, Historically!**

The GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club (VA) held a kick-off luncheon in August. The club historian presented a “Stroll through Lexington Woman’s Club History,” a scripted style-show depicting the dress and accomplishments of the club since it was formed in 1911. Seven members participated as models using costumes from the various decades and historical props. It was hoped the event would familiarize members, both current and new, with the history and traditions of their club.

### **Notable Women in Society, the Arts, and the Sciences**

GFWC Franklin Woman’s Club (NJ) presented a panoramic display at the library that was viewed by 22,000 visitors. Educational posters highlighted women who made notable contributions in various walks of life. Supplemented by photographs and information from *Time Magazine*, the display included four women “firsts” in their field: Madeline Albright, the first woman Secretary of State; Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a Space

Shuttle; Kathryn Smith, the first full-time NFL coach; and Ann Dunwoody, the first woman to rise to the rank of four-star General in the US Army.

### **Land of Lincoln**

GFWC Vandalia Woman's Club (IL) held a month-long celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Illinois. Themed "Land of Lincoln," the club re-enacted the Tenth General Assembly of the State in the oldest remaining Capital Building, which is located in Vandalia. Men that served were researched and called "The Friends of Abe Lincoln." A script was written and men found for the presentation. Members served as docents at the various historical sites.

### **Centennial Celebration**

The GFWC Woman's Club of Clayton (NC) received a City Proclamation recognizing 100 years of community service. On October 18, the date of the club's formation, a reception for members and community guests was held at the clubhouse. The club's Secretary/Scrapbook Chairman designed a multi-paneled photo display of the club's accomplishments through the years. Members used club memorabilia for decorations and modeled a collection of vintage clothing representing each decade.

### **Suffragist Club Meeting**

GFWC Taunton and Raynham Junior Woman's Club (MA) hosted a visitor from the past at their meeting! The club's WHRC Chairman donned period clothing with hat, gloves, and a banner proclaiming "VOTES FOR WOMEN!" She carried a replica of the famous sign that asked "Mr. President, HOW LONG MUST WOMEN WAIT FOR LIBERTY?" She spoke about the women's suffragist movement, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial project, and the importance of honoring women who fought for the right to vote.

### **A Meeting of the GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club 1900**

GFWC Rhinelander Club (WI) shared interesting club facts to add to the positive attitude they create in the community. They prepared and rehearsed a skit, "A Meeting of the GFWC Rhinelander Women's Club 1900," which aired on the local radio station in February. Live presentations, complete with costumes and props, were performed at their club meeting and a GFWC WI workshop. The club also shared the script with another Wisconsin club that will perform the skit during their anniversary celebration next year.