**History of North Mecklenburg Woman’s Club**

**1914 – 1920’s**

* Organized in 1914 as the Huntersville Woman’s Club
* Primary purpose was creating social opportunities and doing civic work in Huntersville, N. C.
* Average of 30 members
* Projects included beautification of lawns & gardens; created handicrafts; exchanged recipes; and encouraged music appreciation.

**1920’s**

* Partnered with local schools on grounds improvement, donating books and helping with fund raising.
* Sponsored our first Boy and Girl Scout troops.

**1930’s**

* Big emphasis was on helping the war effort: Red Cross work and selling war bonds.
* Helped fight growing health issues by assisting with fund raising for polio and heart programs, and providing supplies for cancer patients.

**1940’s**

* Helped establish the first branch library in the county: A small brick

building furnished with shelves, draperies, tables and chairs. Our members

helped to rebind and catalogue books and for a while helped to staff the branch.

**1950’s**

* We did clean up, fix up, paint drives, planted trees and shrubs, held garden tours

and sponsored health programs and fashion shows.

* Quilts were made for the patients at Huntersville Sanatorium.
* To raise money we held bazaars, bake sales, antique displays and a Christmas home decoration contest.
* In 1953, we joined the General Federation of Woman’s Clubs.& grown to

44 members—2 from the original 1914 membership. We established our

department structure: American Home, Education, Fine Arts and International

Relations.

* In 1956 we partnered with North Mecklenburg High School and the American

Field Service Exchange to bring in the first foreign exchange student. We were also the official hosts for the opening of a new branch library.

**1960’s**

* Helped to plant over 50 crabapple trees along Hwy 115 in downtown

Huntersville.

* We collected clothes for the schools clothes closet
* Provided financial aid for students to attend a summer recreation program.
* For Easter Seals, members addressed 5,000 envelops for donations.

**1970’s**

* Raised money for donations to create Holbrook Park and its tennis courts.
* Established a fund to build a Community Center for Huntersville
* Gave financial support to the Boys & Girls Home, Huntersville Hospital Operation―Home Bound, and to Western Carolina Center.
* Awarded the Community Improvement Program Award in 1973 for financial support of the North Mecklenburg Medical Development Association.
* In 1979, club member Sarah McAuley was elected at Huntersville’s first female mayor.

**1980’s**

* In 1980, members helped provide a bus for the Huntersville Hospital called

the ―Funshine Express.

* 1981
  + The North Mecklenburg Junior Woman’s Club was formed and sponsored by the Huntersville Woman’s Club, the Charter President was Dawn Bradford, who is still a member today. These ladies were between the ages of 18 – 35
  + Girls Haven received $2,200 from the club in support of their swimming pool and gym.
* 1982
  + Gave $4,700 and helped complete a two year community program to

restore the Hugh Torrance House and Store

* A Fit Trail received a financial boost of $1,000 from our group
* Members fought against the Reames Road Landfill.
* 1983 - We sponsored our first $1,000 scholarship to a student at North

Mecklenburg High School.

* 1986 - Members began meeting in Huntersville Presbyterian Fellowship Hall.

Dues were only $20.00 and lunches were prepared by some of the 66 members.

* 1988
  + Financial donations were made to Huntersville Oaks Nursing Home
  + The official seal was approved. It is a white dogwood bloom on a green

background with Huntersville Woman’s Club, organized in 1914.

**1990’s**

* 1991
  + The Lake Norman Juniorettes were formed by Denise Carter, a member
  + of the North Mecklenburg Junior Woman’s Club and a past president of NMWC and an active member today.
  + Erica Whelan was the Charter President.
* 1992
  + Member’s stood strong to keep the library in Huntersville while the library

at North Cross was being discussed.

* Bingo was held at Brookwood Retirement Home
* Stamps were collected for World Countries
* 1994 – A tree was planted at Cornelius Elementary.
* 1996
  + Brookwood Woman’s Club was formed. It was known as the “club within a club”. The Huntersville Woman’s Club paid the dues of these women, but held monthly meetings for them with guest speakers.
  + The dream of building the Huntersville Civic Association Building was dropped by the members.
* 1997 – The North Mecklenburg Junior Woman’s Club disbanded.
* 1998
  + Our general meetings were moved from Huntersville Presbyterian Church
  + to the Peninsula Country Club with members paying for their lunch instead of the hostess committee cooking it.
  + Bibs were made for Huntersville Oaks residents.
* 1999
  + With membership at only 38, Special Interest Groups were formed in the

hopes of encouraging new members. These groups included a book club, lunch bunch, and “make a project”.

* + The tradition of planting an historical tree at North

Mecklenburg High School for the Horticultural Department was begun.

* We ended the decade with 40 members paying $25 for dues.

**2000’s The New Millennium**

* 2000 - We decided to focus scholarship money on women returning to school to

further their careers and the first award was made.

* 2001
  + Made a large donation to the NC Aquarium.
  + Double Harvest was brought to our attention through Vickie Van Wingerden (an active member today) and we began supporting it through International Affairs.
  + One hundred bibs were made for patients at Huntersville Oaks Nursing Home.
  + Members held a Bridge Benefit at the Huntersville Aquatic Center
  + First Red, White, & Green Auction was established as the December program.
  + The donations of $5,000 made to the Civic Center were returned to the HWC because it wasn’t going to be built and we donated it to the Huntersville Aquatic Center.
* 2002
  + We held our first plant sale.
  + A donation of $2,500 was made to a student at NMHS who broke his neck in a diving accident. The money went towards the purchase of a lift for the family van.
* 2004
  + Renamed our organization the North Mecklenburg Woman’s Club

(NMWC) to reflect the growing diversity of our membership

* We also changed our logo from the Dogwood flower to a branch – branching out to the community.
* Members were given tote bags with the new name and logo on it.
* Held the first fashion show as a fundraiser
* 2005
  + We withdrew from the General Federation of Woman’s Club so we could

ensure that more of our funds stayed in the local communities and give us more independence.

* Butter Braids were sold for the first time as a fundraiser.
* Supported the Opening of Hope House.
* 2007
* We helped open Lake Norman Free Clinic
* Decorated a bedroom at Hope House
* Donated $5,000 in scholarships.
  + - 2009
      * Membership reached an all time high of 135 members
      * Scholarships were given only to women going back to school, no high school students
      * We sponsored the Over the Tabletop gala fund raiser for the first time.

**2010’s**

* + - * 2010
        + We realigned our organization by adding a Communications Vice

President and having all committee chairs report to one of the now three Vice Presidents

* 2012 - 2013
  + Over The Tabletop raised $13,000 that went to ANSWER
  + Red, White, and Green raised $8,000 that went to Ada Jenkins Center
  + Fashion show raised $12,000
  + Total of $30,000 that helped Purple Heart Homes, Hope House, Caterpillar Ministries and many other charities in the area
  + 146 members participated in the Soup and Chowder event for Susan G. Koman, Education, International Affairs, and Community Affairs projects
  + Butter Braids were sold to give members a boost for the Blood Drive that was held at the fall meeting.
* 2013 - 2014
  + The beginning of our celebration of 100 years in the community
  + Each committee was asked to donate items by the 100’s: 100 blankets, 100 cupcakes, 100 notes of kindness, 100 items for the Animal Shelter, 100 toiletry items, 100 books for the library, 100 cans of food, etc
  + Butter Braids, Over the Table Top, and Casino Night raised money for the many charities we support
  + Dress for Success was also supported by our ladies as we held a members brunch and collected items that were needed for job interviews
  + Donated a full kitchen and laundry room to a local resident whose house burnt down, Build Betty A House
  + Supported the opening of Serenity House by furnishing and tidying up their front porch to welcome visitors.
* 2014 – 2015
  + 180 members strong contributed to Butter Braids, Over the Tabletop ($10,000)
  + Red, White, and Green ($14,344)
  + Casino Night “Saddles and Spurs” ($9,860)
  + International Affairs was dropped
  + Community for a Cause was added for crisis in the area that needed immediate help
  + Legendary Leading Ladies was added to membership recognizing members with 25 years of service to the club.
  + 2015 – 2016
    - Supported 5 main charities, ANSWER, Caterpillar Ministries, Hope House, Purple Heart Homes, and Serenity House which received up to 80% of our fundraising monies this year
    - Raised $66000 for our charities
    - 13 other charities were supported through hands on work and smaller sums of contributions
    - Established an Appropriations Committee when developed a Request for Funding process to help club learn about charities in the Lake Norman area as well as formalize the process of how our charities are chosen
    - 2016 – 2017
      * A first of 200 members
      * Red, White and Green, a favorite among our members raised $15,500
      * Casino Night “Denim and Diamonds” reaching an all time high of $40,000
      * A new fundraiser called Make It Growwas held throughout the year with members participating in any way they liked by having luncheons, parties, psychics, game nights, etc. raising $12,000
      * ANSWER, Hope House, and Caterpillar Ministries received up to 80% of our fundraising monies
      * 16 other charities were supported through hands and smaller sums of contributions
      * Raised $74,600 for our charities
      * New website was developed through GoDaddy
      * Boxtops were collected for Education that put 2 students in summer camp,
      * 300 pairs donated to Double Harvest
      * Thousands of cookies, donuts and cupcakes delivered to care givers and first responders