



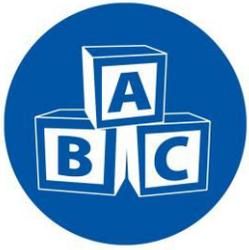
Top Projects

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.

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JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

National Night Out

The GFWC Evert Woman's Club (MI) organized a Night Out event with the help of their local police and fire departments with the idea that communities are safer with a bond between law enforcement and residents. The police and fire departments showcased their "toys" for residents to inspect up close. Partner organizations provided child ID kits, retinal defect testing for children, drug awareness information, and fun activities. To enter the raffle, participants were required to meet a law enforcement officer. Backpacks, bicycles, games, and stuffed animals were donated by community groups.

Emergency Room Clothing

The West Valley Federated Women's Club (CA) was informed that many women and small children go home from the emergency room wrapped in a towel or oversized hospital gown because their clothing is needed as evidence. The club gathered donations of new items and gave them to their local hospital, allowing many people to leave the hospital with dignity.

Slipper socks

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Pocomoke (MD) members purchased socks and painted the bottoms with puffy paint to make them non-skid. The club members donated a bag full of the non-skid slipper socks to the pediatric floor at their local hospital. Homemade tags with the club name, logo, and item size were attached to each pair of non-skid slipper socks.

Dancing with the Stars of Sumner County

GFWC Hendersonville Woman's Club (TN) members hosted a fundraising event inspired by a popular television show. Local celebrities learned how to dance and then performed in front of people in the community. Guests attending the star-studded event voted for their favorite couple through their donation and also bid on donated Silent Auction items. The almost \$21,900 raised was donated to a local school specifically designed for children with various disabilities.

Candy Treats

Members of the GFWC Tooele Civic League (UT) created a "candy and snack bar" at the Tooele Children's Justice Center. When children come in for interviews they are provided a treat so they will hopefully feel more at ease during a process that is typically difficult for them. Containers were decorated and candy was donated at monthly meetings. Individual bags were made for holidays.

Puppets

Members of the Twentieth Century Club of Eupora (MS) designed, cut, and sewed 775 puppets and stuffed animals. They donated them to the local hospital knowing an emergency room visit can be very frightening for children. When a child comes in the emergency room he or she is invited to select a puppet or stuffed animal. The club's goal was to decrease the children's anxiety and let them know they are cared about.

Birthday Bags

Chalets Club (CO) members purchased birthday gift bags, cake mixes, cupcake pans, frosting, birthday napkins, birthday banners, birthday gifts, and birthday candles. They put the items in the birthday bags and delivered them to the Covenant Cupboard, a local food bank. The birthday bags were given to families that could not afford a birthday celebration for their child.

Halloween Masks

The GFWC Adrian Woman's Club (MI) helped children at the Boys and Girls Club make Halloween masks just in time to Trick or Treat. The ladies provided example masks or the children could make their own design using the

supply of foundation half masks, colored paper, pipe cleaners, glue, sequins, glitter, felt, and other items. The children made masks for themselves and were also able to make one for a friend or family member.

Gems for Mom

The GFWC Antelope-North County Women's Club (CA) provided jewelry to homeless children so that they could have a gift for their mother on Mother's day. Club members looked through their jewelry boxes (and received donations from a sister GFWC club) for nice jewelry they did not wear any longer. They cleaned, matched, boxed, and giftwrapped the jewelry. They took the 125 gifts to two homeless shelters and left bows for the children to attach to the boxes so that they could decorate the gifts for their mothers.

Door Decoration

At a GFWC Florida state meeting, the Juniors held a district door decorating contest. All 14 districts decorated a hotel room door, bringing awareness to St. Jude and childhood cancer research. These "gold laden" doors honored children fighting the disease, offered ways to support efforts, and brought childhood cancer research into view as all hotel visitors could see the doors in the hallways. They also distributed 400 gold necklaces, awareness ribbons and stickers, and collected donations in a "pot of gold" bucket.

SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION



Teen Dating 101

The Woman's Club of Ocala (FL) and the Little Women of Ocala Juniors partnered with their school district, the local domestic violence center, the police department, and the County Victims Advocate to present their own Teen Dating 101 program at the local high school.

Comfort Packs for Sexual Assault Victims

After the Woman's Club of Perkasio (PA) heard specially trained forensic nurses explain the procedures followed after a violent sexual attack, the members created comfort packs for the sexual assault survivors containing sweatshirts, socks, wash cloths, shampoo, soap, and a caring note from the club.

One Billion Rising Dancing Event

The Ladies Community Club of Tooele (UT), organized in September 2015, participated with other domestic violence coalitions and sexual assault organizations to support a One Billion Rising dancing event at a local Veteran's Park. The club secured a large outdoor screen and monetary donations which were presented to the local police department advocate. The club also recruited 3 new members at the event.

Take Back the Night

The Opelousas Woman's Club (LA) participated in the community's "Take Back the Night" event which included a walk in support of women who have been victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. They also sponsored a proclamation signing to the local council with a presentation provided by a victim of sexual assault.

Clubhouse Support

After being contacted by the County Attorney General's office, the Florence Woman's Club (AZ) opened their clubhouse to support meetings for sexual assault victims which were facilitated by the Sexual Violence County Coordinator.

Free Will Garage Sale

The Genesco Woman's Club (IL) held their 7th Annual "free will" garage sale of items donated by community members which were then sold to the public. The \$1400 raised was given to a local shelter and unsold items were donated to resale shops that support the shelter.

5K Walk/Run

The Junior Woman's Club of Westminster (MD) raised funds for the Family and Children's Services Domestic Violence Safe House with a 5K Walk/Run. Partnering with a local running club, the club members drafted 60 business sponsors, prepared race packets, set up for the event, and circulated flyers throughout the community. The \$4,266 raised from the event was earmarked to help pay for repairs and provide direct services to the clients.

Birthday Party

The Anchorage Woman's Club (AK) combined Federation Day with a birthday party for the children at a local shelter. Members bought new puzzles, games, books, and decorations while providing all the necessary party refreshments and activities, including making their own pinwheels. Children were allowed to choose their own books and the leftovers were placed in the shelter's library.

October Purple Posy Project

The Montgomery Woman's Club (OH) participated in the October Domestic Violence Awareness Purple Posy Project initiated by the Signature Project State Chairman. Members decorated 30 purple mums with painted pots

and ribbons and accented them with handmade placards using the GFWC purple ribbon image and information about the Signature Project. The plants were delivered to city hall, boards of educations, libraries, hotels, laws firms, medical offices, and a hospital.

End Child Sexual Abuse

The Lilburn Woman's Club (GA) hosted Darkness to Light: Stewards to Children training for the prevention of child sexual assault. The club posted flyers and notified school counselors and churches about the free two hour training. They also secured a meeting place at City Hall, obtained a grant to purchase guide books, and hosted a breakfast for the participants.

ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



Snowman Contest

The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club (MA) held a community Snowman Contest. The club involved the entire community and the weather also cooperated with record snowfall. Club members organized the competition by setting up different categories: Largest Group Effort, Most Creative, Most Town Spirit, and Most Traditional. Selected judges included a selectman, the editor of the local newspaper, and a local store owner.

The participants received gift cards and photographs were placed in the local newspaper. This event was so successful that the club plans to do it again.

Edible Books Festival

The Woman's Club of Rutherford (NJ) collaborated with the Friends of the Library of Rutherford to organize an Edible Books Festival. Contestants created edible books depicting book titles using all edible ingredients and materials. Prizes were awarded in several categories: Best Book Depiction, Most Creative, Most Whimsical, and People's Choice. Winners received \$50 cash prizes donated by local banks and also colorful spatulas decorated with multicolored ribbons. Club members decorated the tables for the event and created 15 raffle baskets. All proceeds benefited the library.

Stained Glass Transom

The GFWC Maine Newport Woman's Club (ME) developed the Stained Glass Transom project recognizing the club's role in establishing the first permanent library in Newport, as well as in the founding of the Newport Historical Society and the club's ongoing relationship with the Newport Cultural Center. Three stained glass windows were created by local artists with each depicting a special club history—one has a silhouette of three clubwomen from the past, another has the GFWC colors of the emblem, and the final window depicts the front of the first library. A plaque was also created with a timeline of the club's work for the community.

Very Special Arts Festival

The Aiken Woman's Club (SC) coordinated the 29th Annual Very Special Arts Festival which was held in conjunction with the Special Olympics of South Carolina on at Midland High School. Since all special needs students cannot be athletes, this arts festival provided an opportunity for 1,200 participants to do arts and crafts, so everyone could take part in the event. The 22 club members spent 110 hours, donated \$200 to the effort, and coordinated 34 organizations and business to ensure the event was successful. Members of the Sand River Woman's Club also acted as a sponsor, creating 360 hats which were decorated with flowers and feathers at the event.

Handcrafted Gowns

The Pea Ridge Woman's Club (WV) took on a very special art project by creating beautiful handcrafted burial gowns for infants and children using donated wedding gowns. The Cabell Huntington Hospital, St Mary's Medical Center, and Hospice of Huntington are the recipients of the project. There are nurse contacts at each facility. The club collects donated wedding gowns from the community which are then cut and sewn to create gowns and buntings for stillborn babies or those born too early. Once completed, the gowns are wrapped in tissue paper and boxed individually with an enclosed bible verse. The Pea Ridge Woman's Club donated fifty gowns during the 2015 club year.

Library Murals

The GFWC/CFWC Woman's Club of Redondo Beach (CA) created murals on the walls of two city children's library rooms. One member, an artist, took on responsibility as the leader of the project. The members readied the room and then the artist drew sketches of sky, trees, grass, and mountains, along with children's book characters. Once the sketches were complete, the clubwomen began painting the murals. Ideas began to flow as the paint was applied and a newborn baby's footprint was used to create butterfly wings. Club members also raised funds to purchase rugs, fabric to recover furniture, and computer software. The grand opening featured the Mayor, the

press, and hundreds of citizens.

Sketch My Profession

The GFWC Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club (FL) teamed up with local professionals from various backgrounds, education levels, and occupations within the community, as well as the Chester Pruitt School, a Head Start Child Development Program in Fort Walton Beach, to organize a unique project. The business professionals visited with 24 preschoolers at Chester Pruitt to describe their jobs and show the tools of their trade. After the visit, members of the club's art committee began a dialog with the children, helping them recall what they had heard and seen by sketching a picture on a dry erase board. The children were then given 12"x 14" paper and asked to create their own drawings. When complete, the members collected the artwork and it was made into a bound book.

BBQ Boogie and Blues Photo Booth

The GFWC Calhoun Woman's Club (GA) participated in the Downtown Calhoun and Gordon County Chamber of Commerce annual BBQ Boogie & Blues event by operating a "Fabulous Crazy Hair" photo booth. Large colorful signs directed the way to the booth where patrons found colored hairspray, hair bows and bands, wigs, boas, oversized glasses, and jewelry. The patrons not only left the booth with the most interesting hairdos ever seen, but photos too.

Anniversary Quilt

The Cedar Falls Woman's Club (IA) celebrated their 100th Anniversary in 2015 and created a quilt in honor of that achievement, choosing the theme "Treasuring the Strength of Women" and depicting the fashions of past decades from 1910-2010. Blocks with images of women in period clothing were purchased and then embellished with things relating to the corresponding timeframe, such as a two-piece bathing suit and a beach theme for the '60s block and a cell phone and holder for the 2000 block. The center block is decorated with the club name and years of Federation. The quilt is displayed in the new addition of their 1860s Victorian club house, which is used by other clubs and also serves as an events venue for showers, weddings, and birthdays.

Cruisin' Around Saugerties

The GFWC Woman's Club of Saugerties (NY) participated in the "Cruisin' Around Saugerties," a four-month community project held in the Village of Saugerties. The club sponsored a full-sized, fully functional, well-designed painted metal peddle car. An artist is picked by each sponsor to design and paint the "vehicle." The peddle cars are displayed from May until Labor Day and then auctioned off. This year there were 40 cars and each averaged \$300-\$400 at auction. The \$300 raised was donated to the Patriots Home for Veterans.

CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



You Plant, We Plant

GFWC Great Friends Working Cooperatively (OH) was interested in the plight of the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators, which is also a focus of the GFWC Partner, The Nature Generation. The club wanted to create a superhighway of milkweed plants for Monarchs. To do so, they worked with the Ohio Prairie Nursery and discovered the nursery would match the total weight of milkweed sold in 2015. So, not only would the members and their district plant seeds, but the nursery would plant them as well. This interesting program was instituted by just six members!

Cinderella Dreams

Midlothian Junior Woman's Club (VA) initiated a project to provide girls with prom dresses, jewelry, shoes, wraps, and handbags. This program enabled the girls to feel like Cinderella at their school proms and other social events. More than 1,700 dresses were collected and cleaned, and 450 girls attended. The club partnered with a university, a retail shop, a gift shop, and a realtor. The event was featured on three TV stations, providing great publicity for GFWC.

We Dig Trees

GFWC Twentieth Century Club of Ashland (AL) held a four week study on trees, recycling, and litter awareness at the Ashland Elementary School. The students had displays of "Good from Woods" where students researched products from trees. "Auntie Litter" made a presentation on recycling and litter. Smokey Bear also visited. Students and club members planted twelve trees and a butterfly garden.

Parker Animal Shelter Trailer

Parker Woman's Civic Club (AZ) donated a 30-foot trailer to the La Paz/Parker Animal Shelter. The members applied and were awarded an \$8,000 grant to help with the cost of remodeling a trailer into a surgical center for cats and dogs which included electrical and plumbing hookups.

Eco-Kids in Nature

The Woman's Club of Vista GFWC (CA) focused on getting children outdoors to learn about the environment. A monthly class offered at Alta Vista Botanical Gardens was organized and taught by a member. Other club members assisted. Lessons had the children digging in the dirt, as well as learning about saving water, nutritious veggies, outdoor treasures, and more. Eco-Kids drew 850 children outdoors in 2015 to learn about the environment, nature, and gardening.

Forever Young Fishing Derby

Abington Heights Civic League (PA) partnered with the Abington Area joint Recreation Board for their fishing derby. The young fishermen learned about fishing habits and how to care for the lake, plus its wildlife and plant life.

Food for the Body and Flowers for the Soul

GFWC Golden Study Club (MO) maintains two 30 by 60-foot community gardens in struggling neighborhoods. Club members till, plant, weed, and then harvest. The produce is given to those who live near the plot area, and is donated to the senior center and the nursing home. The club also has a 15 by 30-foot flower garden where flowers are picked and delivered to people throughout the community to brighten their day!

Grow Hope Initiative

GFWC Woman's Club of South County (RI) educated members about the importance of beautifying communities as well as preserving, maintaining, and restoring natural resources. The members raised funds through their annual Book and Author Luncheon, providing Grow Hope Grants which were used for an animal rescue league, a garden/environmental education program, a grist mill repair project, and in-kind items.

Recycling

GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club (MT) continued their involvement in a community-wide recycling effort. A monthly drop-off was manned and supported by 20 club members. The drop off is located on the property of an animal shelter which is supported by aluminum recycling. The club involved high school students in monthly collections and at clean-up days when dumpsters are cleaned and paper is baled.

Don't Throw it Away

GFWC Woman's Club of South Charleston (WV) used the motto "Don't Throw it Away" and meant it! They held a one-day collection of useable, partial cans of paint. These cans of paint were then donated to Habitat for Humanity Restore. They also collected a front door, five windows, dishes, glasses, silverware, and even a kitchen sink. These items help others maintain an affordable place to call home.



EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Street of Dreams

GFWC Woman's Club of San Diego's Evening Stars (CA) supported a project called "Street of Dreams," a program for teen mothers that provides college prep classes and promotes creativity through music and arts education.

A Wish Tree for Books

GFWC Woman's Club of Matawan (NJ) collected books for children during the holidays. They placed a wish tree in a local bank and the public library. Handmade ornaments were hung on the tree with a tag specifying a particular book to be purchased. Participants keep the ornament, but donate a book for homeless children.

Book Fairy Project

The GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL) collected gently used books through their Education Association and the local high school. Club members dress up as the book fairy (costumes, wigs, and all) and deliver books to local elementary schools.

Read It Again, Please

GFWC Fidelis Inter Se Club of Celina (TX) planned a celebration in conjunction with the local Cinco de Mayo Celebration to promote literacy. Children, teachers, and club members created bilingual books. They also had art students design the art work.

Tutors for Students

One member of the GFWC Braintree Woman's Club (MA) shared her experience with other members of her club and they formed a group of eight members who supported children in their local elementary schools. They created special lessons of historic interest, as well as the basics.

Back to School Wishes on Wheels

GFWC Escanaba Woman's Club (MI) collects and donates school supplies and backpacks for local children in a "Back to School, Wishes on Wheels" Program. Remarkably, the entire community is on board and gives the club amazing support.

Chick Chat

GFWC Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club (IL) initiated a program of club members working with young school girls dealing with social, emotional, and educational issues.

Little Free Library

GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club of Colorado adopted the free library plan—bring a book, take a book. This works well in communities that do not have a public library in their community.

Pioneer Schoolhouse Day

GFWC Anchorage Woman's Club (AK) gives children the opportunity to experience life in a 1915 classroom. Members dress in authentic attire to act as teachers, guides, and historians.

Beach Buddies Book Club

GFWC Woman's Club of Point Pleasant (NJ) provides books to children while on vacation at the Jersey shore in a project called "Beach Buddies Books." The books can be found at local establishments throughout the beach communities.

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.



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 Carrollton 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.

PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



Bridge Flag Project

Warren Junior Women's League (OH) promoted patriotism and honored the military through their "Bridge Flag Project." The club refitted 60 flags, each measuring 35 by 60 inches, with extra grommets to hang properly on the highway overpass bridge leading to Youngstown Air Station. Military and civilian personnel travel to and from the Air Station daily and/or depart for deployment. Thousands can see the flags from the nearby interstate.

Substance Abuse Awareness Events

The Woman's Civic League of Cheyenne (WY) sponsored two substance abuse awareness events featuring a well-known professional athlete who shared his history of prescription drug abuse and addiction. The club worked with local substance abuse awareness committees on planning, fundraising and promotion. A total of 625 school-aged children, college students, and adults attended the events.

Jefferson Teen Scene

The Junior Woman's Club of Jefferson Township (NJ) partnered with their community Rotary Club to open "Jefferson Teen Scene," a recreation center where themed events are held for teenagers. Monthly events sponsored by the club attracted 60 to 200 students in sixth to ninth grade. The project took 10 years to complete.

Easter Bunnies for Veterans

Members of the Suburban Woman's Club (KY) bought Easter bunnies and then dressed them in dresses, hats, and other Easter "finery." Club members dressed in their own Easter "finery" to deliver the bunnies to women veterans at Thomas-Hood Veterans Center. The event, scheduled at an unlikely time of remembrance, was especially appreciated.

Formal Wear for Marines

Members of the Bonsall Woman's Club (CA) collected donations of formal wear and dressy clothes for use by lower-ranking Marines at Camp Pendleton who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend base functions such as the annual Marine Corps Ball.

Self Defense Workshops for Students

GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) sponsored self-defense workshops for middle and high school students and young adults. A local Karate Dojo developed and ran the two free workshops. Attendees contributed nonperishable foods to be donated to the local food pantry. Middle school workshops included information on stranger danger and bullying. High school/young adult workshops included information on rape prevention and how to increase personal safety.

Fire Prevention Program for Schools

GFWC Safford Woman's Club (AZ) sponsored a Fire Prevention Program attended by more than 370 students at six local schools. Participating firefighters wore full "turn out" uniforms to show how they would look in a fire emergency. Included in the program was a fire evacuation plan for the students to take home and discuss with their parents. Awards were given for a coloring contest.

Disaster Preparedness and Toolkit

The Woman's Club of Rock Hill (SC) sponsored a program on Disaster Preparedness and developed "A Toolkit to Use During a Natural Disaster." The guide included information on recovery plans and communications. In addition to the guide, the club also built a disaster preparedness kit which was raffled off at a club meeting.

Tornado Response

The GFWC Millington Junior Woman's Club (MI) responded to a tornado disaster in their community. This club

of only six members provided food, supplies, water, and ice to victims and workers. Members also participated on recovery committees to oversee fundraising and set up a local food pantry.

Veteran's Park

The Papillion Junior Woman's Club (NE) helped with the creation of a Veteran's Park which was dedicated on Veterans Day. The club worked with the local Community Foundation and VFW Post. Members donated a park bench.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANCEMENT AREA

Communications & Public Relations Plan

The GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club (GA) has a very extensive Communications and PR plan. In addition to using a website, they also use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, a Wikipedia Page, and a Vimeo site. All of the social media sites link to their website. The club produces a video each year of their activities and some of the charities they support. To celebrate their 120th Anniversary, the club of 109 members produced an additional video this year. GFWC Georgia is redistricting next year, so the club also produced a video featuring the clubs that will make up their new district. The videos are posted on their Vimeo site.

Fundraising Promotion

GFWC Holden Beach Woman's Club (NC) used Communications and Public Relations to promote their 2015 Annual Charity Gala Luncheon, Silent Auction, and Fashion Show, which also included a 50/50 Raffle and Stock Your Wine Cellar Auction. Prior to the Gala information was distributed to local print media and radio, and by printed invitations and Facebook posts. Hope Harbor Home, which services Domestic Violence victims and survivors, received \$10,500, and Providence Home, the Emergency Shelter for youth in Brunswick County, received \$10,000.

Geocache Location at Clubhouse

The Riverside Woman's Club (CA) decided to have a geocache location at their historic club house. Celebrating their 120th year, they offered the Sarah Maloy Geocache named after their club's first president. The club also maintains an outdoor library on the site. The online description of the geocache noted, "Take a book, leave a book, and check for a geocache while you're here! The Riverside Woman's Club has been around since 1896—120 years ago!—founded at a meeting at Dr. Sarah Maloy's medical office. RWC is supported by hundreds of women who care, and who love to read. This cache is easy to get to, easy parking, lots of muggles. Take a moment to appreciate how difficult it was to be a female physician in the late 1800s, and take a book too!"

Clubhouse in the News

The 37 members of Lake Butler Woman's Club (FL) put their heads together to come up with a creative way to get their name out into the community and raise funds with a 5k run when their 100-year-old clubhouse needed repairs. Articles about the history of the clubhouse appeared in newspapers. Signs and flyers were plastered everywhere and a message recorded by two members was aired on the radio. For the 5k run, the Health Department provided water, bananas, and granola bars. Tents were set up in the park for face painting and art for children, and for vendors selling crafts. Meals of Boston butt and chicken were sold for lunch. The run started at 7:30 on a chilly November morning and raised \$12,000 for the clubhouse!

Multimedia Blitz for Membership

The membership committee of Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club (WI) initiated a membership campaign with a meet and greet at a local wine shop. With a limited budget of \$250, they decided to use a multimedia approach. Postcards were designed and printed and also uploaded to Facebook. They paid \$25 to have the event promoted on Facebook and reached over 1,586 people with the first post. A total of 196 people were added to the invite list and the post was shared for two weeks leading up to the event. The club also used its Twitter page to share information and joined the local chamber of commerce, utilizing their email blasts to invite potential new members as well. Over 20 potential members showed up to meet current members and learn about the club, and event photos were posted to the Facebook page.

Pass the Water Promotion

The Austintown Junior Women's League (OH), with 29 members, helped their community and spread the word about their great club at free concerts, held at a local park in summer when the weather is warm and humid. Securing a donation of cases of bottled water, they labeled the bottles with their club information and distributed them at each Tuesday concert, free of charge, helping concert attendees stay hydrated and sharing club info. This program cost pennies but the benefit to community and club was priceless.

Federation Day Event Promotion

The GFWC-South Brunswick Islands (NC) hosted a “Night of Benevolence: Caring for our Community” as part of their April Federation Day celebration. Professional, customized invitations with the GFWC logo and club name were sent to local media, charitable organizations, local representatives, and Federation leaders, with a special message enclosed inside for each recipient. An informational pamphlet about the club and GFWC, with the tagline, “If it needs doing, we’re doing it!,” provided awareness about service to the community. The event recognized the club and 25 other organizations for their big hearts and work in the community, promoting both the Federation and community at one event. An article and photos appeared in the local newspaper.

Social Media Fundraiser Promotion

The GFWC Stone Mountain Woman’s Club (GA) partnered with the GFWC Lilburn Woman’s Club to hold the Jawbones (lawyers) vs. Sawbones (doctors) basketball game fundraiser for the Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse. The event was promoted on the clubs’ websites and Facebook pages. In return, the clubs’ sponsorships are promoted on the Clubhouse’s website, as well as their Facebook page and in the Side by Side Newsletter. A third club, GFWC Dunwoody Woman’s Club, was also a sponsor of the event. All sponsors are listed in the event brochure and on the Side by Side website.

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT ADVANCEMENT AREA

Simply Southern: Tables with Just the Right Touch

The GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club (AL) sponsored a Tablescapes (distinctively decorated tables) event featuring a plated lunch, silent auction, fashion show program, and door prizes. All 15 club members participated in this unique event which featured extensive planning, attention to detail, social media marketing, youth volunteers, a home-cooked meal, and a script that included highlighting GFWC and the club's key projects. In all, \$3,471 was raised and \$639 was contributed as in-kind donations.

Cause for Celebration—Witches Ball

The Joliet Junior Woman's Club (IL) held an inaugural event capitalizing on a local woman's charity group called Events for a Cause which hosted a Witches Night Out. This group was interested in expanding the event and reached out to the Junior Club to assist. Advertising was split and the two events were held a day apart at the same location. In total, 37 members participated, 250 tickets were sold, and \$11,889 was raised.

Haute To Trot

The Rochester Junior Woman's Club (MI) organized an elegant and fun Kentucky Derby fundraiser. Guests were encouraged to dress-up with hats for the ladies and bow ties for gents, and best-dressed prizes were awarded. Photos, silent auction items, "betting", viewing the race, food stations, dessert bar, specialty drinks such as Mint Juleps, and a live band entertained the 220 guests. The 99 member club plans to repeat this successful event, which raised \$16,000, again next year.

"Christmas Under the Oaks" Arts and Crafts Show

GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL) held a large-scale event with committees undertaking all logistical aspects to promote the city's 100th anniversary celebration. A total of 120 crafters/artisans and six food vendors, plus an electronic billboard, heavy advertising, and a 39-year event history drew community members to the day-long Arts and Crafts Show. Over 4,000 people visited the club informational tent and learned about GFWC. When proceeds were tallied, a profit of \$23,823 was realized.

21st Holiday Woodbury House Tour

The Woman's Club of Woodbury (CT) traditional home tour continued to be a successful event because of the pre-planning and commitment of club members. Five homes and the historic King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 were included in the tour. Posters, fliers, and 1,000 place mats used in local restaurants advertised the event, in addition to media resources and four A-frame road signs strategically placed two weeks prior to the home tour. The club dedicated 2,537 volunteer hours to the effort, raising \$10,490.

2nd Annual Denim and Pearl Oyster Roast

Chapin Junior Woman's Club (SC) held a perfect nighttime fundraiser for their 160 guests with rustic decorations, roasted oysters and chicken bog, DJ dance tunes, sponsor donations, door prizes, and a pearl bracelet giveaway for the ladies and a golf ball drop for the men. Proceeds of \$7,074 went to HUB, an African-American community center that provides assistance to elementary through secondary aged youth.

1st Annual Huntington Christmas Express

The Woman's Club of Huntington (WV) collaborated with the Collis P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society and the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District to treat guests to an old-fashioned *Polar Express* event. The 367 guests arrived in pajamas to enjoy an evening of story-time, hot chocolate and cookies served by elves, plus a magical visit by Santa to see if the children "believed." The sold-out event raised \$2,646.

The Sorghum Festival—Ham N' Biscuit Booth

Morgan County Woman's Club (KY) participated in the Sorghum Festival which combined music, food, and Appalachian crafts over a three day weekend. The club's ham n' biscuit booth proved successful with members cooking 45 whole country hams (each took 10-12 hours to bake), 2,700 angel biscuits, 750 dried apple pies, and a new item—350 sorghum cookies. Although the weather did not cooperate, a profit of \$6,000 was realized.

Good Neighbor Day

The Farmville Junior Woman's Club (VA) used a “feel good” event to promote goodwill and spread community awareness. Two florists nominated organizations/charities to receive donations, and then plans were made for individuals to receive a free dozen roses with the promise they would keep one rose and give the others away. In total, 14,000 roses were purchased and distributed throughout the community. With liberal publicity and a proclamation from the Mayor, the club garnered \$3,000 for their Christmas cause.

Paint a Pallet

GFWC Kearney Woman's Club (NB) used recycled pallets to paint, sell, and secure club funds. By painting patriotic flags as the first design, then pumpkins, snowman, and even the Sandhill crane, club members showed their creativity with this fun activity which turned out to be a good club money-maker, with a profit of \$450 from painting 18 pallets.

LEADERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA

New Reporting System

The GFWC New Hampshire Federation created an electronic system for clubs. A team met to discuss the needs, the guidelines put forth by GFWC, and the structure utilized to report. Once this information was determined, a Gmail email and Google Drive were generated for each club. An electronic report form was also created, with data captured in the club's Google Drive. The form provides a consistent way for clubs to submit information and eliminates the need for manually calculated volunteer hours and other totals. To instruct clubs on how to utilize Gmail, Google Drive, and the new NH Report Form, user guides were also produced.

Pay Pal

The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club (MA) set up a PayPal account so a link could be added to their website to enable the purchase of tickets at an upcoming fundraiser. An electronic "swiper" was ordered and set up for the event. Once working, members realized how helpful the device could be. Leaders suggested members could pay dues by swiping their credit cards at a meeting, eliminating the problem of chasing down checks.

Leadership Workshop

The GFWC Alabama Federation collaborated with their Alabama House 96 Representative and chose the statehouse as their conference site. The committee's goal was to provide a comprehensive leadership development program highlighting various subjects with a mix of fun and collaboration, but different from the first workshop. A unique program was planned to make the most of the setting and thus included a robust emphasis on resolutions; connecting with local, state, and national political leaders; and GFWC Community Service Programs and Advancement areas.

Formation of Budget and Finance Committee

The North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club (SC) formed a Budget and Finance Committee to oversee their bi-annual audit of financial accounts, to receive member requests for funds to charities, and to review requests and present their recommendations to the Executive Board. The club also created an annual budget and developed new guidelines and forms for requesting funds.

Dragonfly as a Symbol for Change

The Woman's Club of Antioch (CA) focused on change using the dragonfly as their symbol: D for dedication and determination, R for respect and renewal, A for attitude and awakening, G for giving and gracious, O for obedient and optimistic, N for nurturing, F for faithful, L for loving, and Y for youthful and yearning. The club invited community speakers to provide information on changes within their community. They united this year in adopting change because for a community to be whole and healthy, "we must respect the changes in our community, which in turn, requires people's love and concern."

Education on Federation

Each member of the River City Junior Woman's Club (VA) agreed to research, through the GFWC website, all the service and advancement areas for in-depth information on assigned topics. At various meetings, members reported their findings and provided ideas for service projects and specific organizations to volunteer with, including local groups that embrace the same goals. Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session and brainstorming to develop additional activities and programs to benefit the community.

501(c)(3) Reinstatement

The University Park Woman's Club, Inc. (MD) worked towards obtaining the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reinstatement of their clubs' prior status as a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt/non-profit entity. The club's Board of

Directors approved the use of operational funds for this project to cover the cost of a CPA and back tax filing. To prevent future problems, they created “Officer Instructional Guides” specific to their club and additional “Committee Chairman Guides” for ongoing use to help maintain the efficient operation of their club.

Light Up for Leadership

The Les Dames d’Etude of Opelousas (LA) members enjoyed short (3-10 minute) segments highlighting leadership ideas, tips, thoughts, and other information at each meeting. The three club members chosen to present these mini-programs were all past LEADS graduates.

GFWC Matching Game

The Glendale Woman’s Club (AZ) created a GFWC matching game by constructing a three-foot wooden frame with four rows and five blocks. One side of each block featured a printed GFWC logo, while the other side featured printed pictures designating particular GFWC partners and programs. To make the game more interesting, one block was a “red-herring” without a match to the other blocks in the game. Club members took turns turning the blocks to make a match. A small prize was awarded from a bag loaded with all kinds of GFWC items collected at past conferences or purchased from the GFWC Marketplace.

Lending Library of Leadership

The Dawson County Woman’s Club (GA) created a lending library of books and materials to include the GFWC yearbook, GFWC Leadership materials, membership recruitment, retention manuals, Juniors leadership manual, and Robert’s Rules of Order.

LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY ADVANCEMENT AREA

Advocacy for Headquarters Site

The GFWC Mississippi State President alerted all clubs that there was a threat rising in the state legislature to the GFWC Mississippi State Headquarters. The building, a designated National Historic Site, had been the state headquarters for 80 years. A member of the state legislature wanted to terminate the 80 year-old lease policy and sell the land site. It was alleged that he questioned why the state should have such a lease agreement with a “bunch of old ladies.” This comment triggered weeks of intense advocacy utilizing the president’s ten talking points for communications to members of the Mississippi Legislature, as well as the Lt. Governor and the Governor. The project was led and coordinated by the GFWC Mississippi State President. The high speed, expertly planned, and relentless campaign enlightened the Mississippi Governor and members of the state legislature. The MFWC’s “old ladies”, young ladies, and in-between ladies meant to win this battle. Waves of phone calls, emails, and USPS letters to the legislators and Governor, in addition to face-to-face meetings at the Capitol and Governor’s office, won the battle. The legislature adopted and the Governor signed into law a new 15-year lease, plus an option for extending the lease for an additional 15 years.

Domestic Violence Action Coalition

The GFWC Covina Woman’s Club (CA) and their Domestic Violence Action Coalition (DVAC) is a statewide powerhouse of hundreds of Federation Clubwomen, politicians, nonprofit organizations, and concerned citizens who address the most pressing issues in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women. The GFWC Covina Woman’s Club works towards helping society adopt better solutions, better policies, and better legislation. The club coordinated workshops on cultural competency and diversity for college students and teens for other GFWC California clubs and community organizations. One of the current issues being addressed by DVAC is that a large share of current legislation on campus sexual assault excludes military campuses, leaving female military students, who have dedicated their lives to the service to our nation, vulnerable. The DVAC issues calls for members to contact their legislators when needed. They will not stop until women can safely exercise their human rights without fear of violence.

Legislation Day

The West Essex Woman’s Club (NJ) of 10 members holds a legislation day featuring a letter writing workshop for the general public. The workshop deals with local, state, and national issues. On the national level, letters were written on the following issues: Mental Health, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence and Stalking, and Animals in Domestic Violence. They also post the ALMANAC (state newsletter) in their local Senior Citizen Residence to keep the community updated on current issues.

Advocacy for Human Trafficking Bills

The GFWC Tampa Woman’s Club, GFWC Ruskin Woman’s Club, and GFWC Sun City Woman’s Club (FL) were on the ground floor of making a difference on the issue of Human Trafficking in Florida. Members sent letters and emails to their Florida House and Senate representatives on Human Trafficking bills pending in the state legislature. Due to their tireless efforts, the bills were passed in the legislature and the governor signed four human trafficking bills into law.

Advocacy for Education

The GFWC Barbourville Junior Woman’s Study Club (KY) supported legislation throughout the year by working with the Kentucky Education Association to promote awareness of pending educational standards, regulations,

and changes. Club members also contacted local and state representatives regularly regarding their community, children, and families.

Club Engagement with Legislative Issues

GFWC of Holden Beach (NC) took a very creative and systematic approach to the Legislation and Public Policy area. Goals included: providing a list of all legislators, both state and national, to members; having all members sign up for the GFWC Legislative Action Center; and engaging members in local, state, and national legislation issues. Monthly reports were given at their club meetings and were published in the club newsletter. In addition, the legislation chairman copies the GFWC Legislation and Public Policy chairman and GFWC Legislative Consultant. In total, 26 bills and 14 issues were tracked with 23 members contacting legislators 208 times.

Advocacy for Family Care Act

The Four Corner's Woman's Club (GA) applied for and received a grant of \$650 from the "9 to 5 Coalition" to promote Georgia House Bill 242, "The Family Care Act." The club advocated for the bill and arranged a successful community workshop that provided public awareness and built support for the legislation.

Advocacy for Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention

The GFWC Fairfield History Club (TX) began a grassroots effort that captured the attention of the entire community—advocating for legislation that would mandate two hours yearly training for all Texas educators and para-professionals in youth suicide awareness and prevention. The club drafted a resolution to support the effort and it advanced to GFWC Texas and clubwomen across Texas united in the effort to pass HB 2186. When time was running out and it appeared in the last hours of the 2015 legislative session that the bill would not be put on the docket for a vote, the club spread the word to all GFWC Texas District Presidents to inform their clubs to act immediately. Members were given a specific message to convey and instructed to start calling the offices of every legislator in the state and to keep it up until further notice. For two days the clubwomen called and called. Finally they were given the message from a legislator's office—no more calls—the bill has passed!

Advocacy for Highway Safety

The Liberty Woman's Club (TX) worked tirelessly to protect Texas Highways from "triple trailers" in 2014. GFWC members were asked to take action to make their voices heard. Members joined with the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT) to oppose legislation allowing bigger trucks on U.S. Highways. GFWC accepted the challenge and fought to prevent bigger trucks on U.S. highways with thousands of letters, emails, and phone calls to various members of Congress in 2015. The GFWC Texas Magnolia District created a video to show the actual length of the trucks and the additional 22 feet needed for the truck to stop. It was a very effective use of social media! GFWC sent a legislative alert to members to take action. In December 2015, the U.S. House of Representatives released the long-anticipated omnibus appropriations bill to fund the federal government. The controversial provision to allow longer double-trailer trucks, referred to as double 33s, did not make it into the bill. Congratulations GFWC members, you helped make this happen! This was a clear victory for highway safety, and GFWC members across the country were part of that success.

View the YouTube video GFWC Texas Magnolia District against Bigger Trucks at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVVqaiJzr60>

MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AREA

All Hands on Deck

The Junior Woman's Club of Lake Murray (SC) held a membership event, All Hands on Deck, involving every member highlighting monthly, club-wide volunteer projects. The event featured nautical décor, themed refreshments, fun door prizes, and great hands-on experience with the many types of service projects in the club. Tables were set up so every person attending could view materials and information about each volunteer project. The club gained 16 new members.

Girlfriends Meet at Night

The GFWC Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve (MO) made a simple change from day to evening meetings and it made all the difference. They publicized plans for an informational meeting about club activities to help others. Light refreshments were served and the women came. In total, 16 new girlfriends were gained.

Jump on the Train

The Rancho Cucamonga Woman's Club (CA) put together a club meeting that was all about getting new women to join in the fun of being a member of GFWC. With train whistles blowing, the visitors were asked to jump on the train while members made them feel welcome by shaking boxes of candy to simulate being on a train. Those who decided to join were showered with a train whistle, red neckerchiefs, membership book, and other items. All aboard were 12 new members.

Hands on Meet & Greet

The Monroe Junior Woman's Club (GA) held a hands-on Meet & Greet gathering. Prospective members rotated from one station to the next to learn about the many community service program areas in GFWC. At each table, the ladies would make or do different things. They painted a craft pot for the Boys and Girls Clubs, put together a goody bag for local teachers, and wrote letters to soldiers. This craft/service project paid off with 11 new members.

Summer Garden Party

The Exeter Area GFWC Club (NH) held a casual garden party with refreshments and lots of fun conversation. The perspective members were taken inside for the second half of the party to fill them with information and excitement about GFWC and what it had to offer. This effort cultivated nine new members.

A Proud and Promising Future with Friends

The GFWC du Midi Woman's Club (AL) held a membership event with interesting booths for each of the service areas featuring a conspicuous membership activity. The event was intended to bring in new members while also engaging former members. It made for a fun evening of learning, remembering, and inspiring members. A total of eight new members joined that evening.

Dessert 8's

The Rochester Junior Woman's Club (MI) blended prospective members, new members, and established members together for an evening of desserts at eight different homes with only six to eight ladies present at each location. The small groups provided a socially comfortable setting. Forty-five women participated and the evening was a huge success.

September Salad Supper

The GFWC Sedley Woman's Club (VA) used a "Wizard of Oz" theme to ask members to look somewhere over the rainbow for new members. Sixteen young ladies were targeted and the fun began. Of the 16 invited, 10 ladies attended the supper in Oz and eight of those joined GFWC after traveling down the yellow brick road of knowledge. The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow was eight new members.

Open Doors and Heart

The GFWC X-Junior Women's Club (WY) made a decision to not play it safe. They elected energetic new leaders

and opened their doors and their hearts to a host of women, bringing in prospective members to every project and meeting. Because they have moved forward, they have gained not only new members, but a new and reenergized club full of excitement.

Growing Members

Winterport Woman's Club (ME) members took advantage of their annual plant sale by asking any woman who purchased plants if they would like to know more about their club. If the answer was yes, a member took their personal information and the club followed up by sending them the club newsletter and other information, planting the seed of membership in their minds. They watered and nurtured these women into becoming their newest members. What a way to grow our own!

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER ADVANCEMENT AREA

Firstie Project

The Covina Woman's Club (CA) wrote clubwomen back into their history by developing the "Firstie" Project. In their research, they came across a member who had achieved a remarkable feat, and they questioned, "How many other women from our Federation have gone unrecognized for their achievements?" They defined a "firstie" as a clubwoman that was "a first" in her community to receive recognition as a notable woman. She must have been a club member (past or present) and could have achieved her fame before or after becoming a member.

Dinner Party Honoring Notable Women

The Morgan Park Junior Woman's club (IL) undertook a project that honors our heritage by recognizing the contributions and celebrating the lives of notable women. In the spirit of the Dinner Party installation service by Judy Chicago in the 1970s, they "invite" notable women as "guests" to a dinner party, and create a place setting for each. Club members can choose a "guest" to introduce, collect information about the notable woman, give a biographical presentation, and display a dinner plate/place setting honoring the subject's life and accomplishments.

GFWC 125th Anniversary Celebration Tea

GFWC Hastings Woman's Club (MI) held a GFWC 125th Anniversary Celebration Tea. This event was held at Adrournie House, and original Sears & Roebuck Catalog home built between 1893 and 1894. GFWC Michigan State President and special guest Fran Leonard presented an overall history of GFWC, and the state's First Vice-President and local club member Donna Brown provided a history of the Hastings Club. The owners of Adrournie House related the history of the home and also gave tours.

Times Revisited Program

GFWC Virginia clubwomen researched, scripted, and performed a 40-minute program titled "Times Revisited," a travel through time, in honor of GFWC's 125th Anniversary. The premise was two clubwomen finding an old suitcase in the attic at GFWC HQ and by revealing the contents of the suitcase to tell the story of GFWC. The years were divided into Federation anniversaries of 25 years, underscored with the trivia, fashion, and music of the times.

Ask Granny Project

The Woman's Club of Arlington Evening Membership Department (NJ) offered an "Ask Granny" project promoting genealogical research that included the Genealogical Society, the Woman's Club, the Arlington Junior Woman's Club, and a class of sixth grade students. It introduced the attendees to family tree research, with the goal of passing information to future generations.

Club Calendar

GFWC Taunton Women's Club (MA) created a club calendar in honor of Women's History Month to collect money for GFWC's Women's History and Resource Center. It featured pictures of famous women and stated "Women make a difference that we want to remember for future generations to model." Each day had a question or gave a direction involving donating money to WHRC. For example, "Did you call a friend today?" If yes, pay 10 cents, if no, pay 15 cents.

Memorial Day Parade Float

GFWC Morehead Woman's Club (KY) decided to highlight a GFWC project during World War II for their Memorial Day Parade float entry. For their theme, they selected a World War II Navy Hell Cat fighter plane. In 1942, GFWC raised \$154,459,132 through the sale of war bonds, enabling them to purchase 431 planes. The World War II plane constructed for the float was made of cardboard, chicken wire, and papier-mâché.

Club History—Your Grandmother's Study Club

The Collinsville Study Club (AL) members have produced a club history entitled "Your Grandmother's Study Club,"

1960-2015,” which continues the history of the club from the previous edition, “Your Grandmother’s Club, 1929-1959.” Club members researched club records including yearbooks, scrapbooks, and minutes from the last 55 years, which are housed at the public library. They used GFWC WHRC guidelines on how to archive, donate club records, and research and write a club history.

Long-Time Members Project

The La Crescenta Woman’s Club (CA) has undertaken the “Long-Time Members” project by conducting interviews of long-time members using a recommended list of questions and completing necessary forms to comply with requirements. The purpose of the project is to familiarize members with the experiences and history of club women who have been members for many years. They started by interviewing the members that had been in the club the longest. These interviews are being kept in a special album with photographs of the members who are highlighted.

Service Project Honoring GFWC’s 125th Anniversary

The Las Noches Woman’s Club (AZ) honored the 125th Anniversary of GFWC by collecting 125 items each month to donate to a residential home for children whose parents are incarcerated, or Save the Family, an organization that helps homeless individuals and veterans to find housing and jobs. They donated 125 each of oatmeal, paper products, macaroni and cheese, and hygiene bags.