

GFWC of North Carolina Environment Community Service Program Top Ten Projects - 2022

Greensboro Woman's Club (GWC): Crayon Initiative – The Greensboro Woman's Club is committed to recycling. They were intrigued when they discovered the Crayon Initiative. This is a unique nonprofit that collects unwanted crayons from restaurants, schools, and homes, then melts them down and remanufactures them for art programs at children's hospitals across the country. Five of these hospitals are in North Carolina. 19 club members distributed special collection boxes to schools, day cares, restaurants, scout groups and others. 315 pounds of used crayons were collected and shipped to Crayon Initiative. **26 MEMBERS 77 HOURS \$100 DONATED \$329 IN-KIND DONATIONS**

GFWC of Holden Beach: Bottles for Bowser – This club's Environment CSP collected empty pill bottles to distribute to two local animal shelters to recycle, repurpose, and keep these items out of landfills. The clean and empty pill bottles are used by these shelters to distribute medication to the animals that they service, either at the shelters or when they are sent home on medication. Collection boxes were placed at three locations in the area. Club and community members were notified about the project. Committee members created collection boxes, wrote collection notices, collected, cleaned and removed labels. 575 used pill bottles were collected and distributed, along with donations of blankets, sheets, towels, puppy pads and cans of dog food. **46 MEMBERS 37 HOURS \$235 IN-KIND DONATIONS**

Cary Woman's Club: Lemur Adoption – This club renewed their adoption of "a Grey Mouse Lemur, who lives at the Duke Lemur Center. This lemur is part of the breeding program at Duke University and participates in Alzheimer's disease research. The research is non-invasive, teaching the lemurs to respond to signals on a laptop, and recording their changing responses as they age. Since lemurs are prosimians, and close relatives of humans, the research can predict human responses to aging. Club members have also adopted lemurs to support this research. **29 MEMBERS 3 HOURS \$200 DONATED**

Wake Forest Woman's Club (WFWC): Pollinator Garden – Aligning with the GFWC Community Connection Initiative, "Sparkling seeds, brilliant butterflies, glamorous garden gloves" WFWC recognized the importance of pollinator gardens, which provide a natural safe habitat and food source for pollinators to help pollinate fruit and vegetables. The garden at Tyler Run Park was established in 2019 and is enjoyed by hundreds of people each year. In partnership with the Town of Wake Forest, the garden continued to thrive in 2022 attracting pollinators and curious children. The garden is maintained by the club and town providing maintenance twice a year. In May a garden clean up and planting event was held. During this event, several children and families inquired about the garden and members educated on their importance. In October the garden was again cleaned, mulched, and weeded. **20 MEMBERS 18 HOURS \$50 DONATED \$40 IN-KIND DONATIONS**

Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club (MAJWC): Play for All....All for Play – MAJWC secured a grant for the Mount Airy City Schools and B. H. Tharrington Parent Lighthouse Team to purchase playground equipment. The updated playground equipment will be used for ALL students with and without physical disabilities. The equipment is modern, safe, and used for recess. It also provides a means of health and wellness for children utilizing the equipment. The school and playground are within walking distance of lower income residential rentals and is purposely in an ungated area so that the community may partake and find enjoyment in using the playground. Three club members worked to secure the \$25,000.00 grant. Installation completion expected in April 2023. **3 MEMBERS 40 HOURS \$25,000.00 DONATED**

Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club (FVJWC) - Earth Day "Clean the Quay" – FVJWC traditionally celebrates Earth Day by organizing a community litter pick-up known as "Clean the Quay". This annual event is publicized on their website, social media, and word-of-mouth. Club members picked up roadside litter to ensure waste doesn't end up in the local watershed and creek system. Trash bags, fishing hooks, and cigarette butts were among the collected debris. FVJWC also held a social media photo "party" featuring Earth Day. Club members and their families participated in this virtual project, tagging their posts with #EarthDay and #CleantheQuay to encourage followers and friends to go outside and beautify the Earth for Earth Day. **4 MEMBERS 8 HOURS**

GFWC-South Brunswick Islands (GFWC-SBI)- Lord's Miracle Acre Vegetable Garden- GFWC-SBI partnered with a local ministry to support local food pantries and provide a healthy addition to the non-perishables typically donated. New Beginnings Community Church established the Lord's Miracle Acre Garden Ministry where volunteers gather and tend it as needed. Over 14,000 pounds of vegetables were raised in this garden in 2022. The vegetables were all gathered, cleaned, bagged, and delivered to local food pantries for distribution to those in need. Vegetables were also provided to the local Meals on Wheels program serving our elderly at-risk populations. GFWC-SBI donated \$1,000 and club members volunteer where needed. **53 MEMBERS 10 HOURS \$1,000 DONATED**

North Wilkesboro Woman's Club (NWWC): Feeding the Birds, Bees, and Butterflies- NWWC participated in a fun, hands-on project beginning with a quiz about birds, bees and butterflies from Our State Magazine. The quiz provided participants with the opportunity to see how much they knew about the importance of these animals in our ecosystem. With most of the club members failing miserably, a short presentation provided information on what they could do to ensure these wonderful creatures survive, pollinate, and reproduce. Club members made bird feeders from recycled China teacups and saucers to hang in their trees at home. They also made water-dishes for butterflies that were placed around their homes. An educational, fun, and easy project! **8 MEMBERS, 12 HOURS \$75 IN-KIND DONATIONS**

Wilmington Woman's Club: Retree Oakdale Cemetery- Arbor Day- Members of this club began saving their spare change to purchase live oak trees for planting in the fall at Oakdale Cemetery. Established in 1852 as North Carolina's first rural cemetery, Oakdale encompasses 65 acres of land. Hurricane Florence caused severe damage and destruction to hundreds of trees and flower beds. The club purchased (8) trees and delivered them to the cemetery for planting in November. Fast growing oaks are a necessity to replace the tree mantle that provides homes for many birds and insects. Wilmington Woman's Club has joined others from the local community as members of the Wilmington Tree Initiative to help repair the damage created over four years ago and is now a community focus. **11 MEMBERS 20 HOURS \$600 DONATED**

GFWC Wake Forest High School Juniorette Woman's Club - Recycle Greeting Card Fronts into Bookmarks - During their February 16, 2022, general meeting, this club emphasized positive traits of leadership by completing a hands-on project of recycling greeting card fronts into 100 handmade bookmarks to be offered free to customers of a local bookstore. Club members wrote inspirational words on the backs of bookmarks that had been cut from the colorful greeting card fronts. They attached yarn fringe and embellished each bookmark with markers, stickers, and a "Juniorettes Step Up, Wake Forest High School Juniorette Club" label to each one to gain recognition within the community. **8 MEMBERS 4 HOURS**