

2023 GFWC of NORTH CAROLINA TOP TEN PROJECTS

Congratulations!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

ARTS AND CULTURE:

Little Free Library – Waccamaw Siouan Tribe Dedication: The GFWC South Brunswick Islands Woman’s Club partnered with the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe and Shallotte Middle School Art Program to create a Little Free Library to support their quest to improve literacy among tribal members. Clubwomen provided the vessel to be used for the library, painting supplies, and books – the Siouan Tribe offered a design which honored their heritage – and the 6th grade art students from the middle school hand-painted the tribal design on all four sides of the structure. On March 4th, 2023, the Little Free Library was dedicated to the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe. GFWC-NC President Kim Fulcher was guest speaker. This beautiful library was filled with books for children of all ages and was installed in the playground next to the Tribal Daycare Center. **1 Project, 55 Members, 80 Hours, \$575 Dollars Donated, \$325 In-kind Donations**



Mollusks and Mimosas: GFWC of Holden Beach Woman’s Club received a large donation of oyster shells and decided to upcycle them into pretty trinket dishes and ornaments for members to keep. They also planned to donate these items to a local facility offering rehabilitation, long-term skilled nursing care, and respite care. After a successful ‘shell decorating class’, the club created over 100 trinket dishes and ornaments. These ornaments were placed on 15 small Christmas trees and all were donated to the facility. **2 Projects, 49 Members, 88 Hours, \$170 Dollars Donated, \$690 In-kind Donations**

Painting the Town: Members of the Charlotte Woman’s Club painted their city healthy, literally. The Uptown Farmer’s Market invited the club to partner with them for a unique project, to create a section of a street mural with fruits and vegetables. A local artist who created the market mural designed templates for the clubwomen to use for the project. This mural promotes healthy eating, even for disadvantaged citizens who lack access. **1 Project, 7 Members, 21 Hours**

Gingerbread Competition: The GFWC Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman’s Club held a Gingerbread House Fundraising Competition at the Fuquay-Varina Arts Center. The club raised money through registrations for this event and viewers were able to drop loose change or cash into bowls placed by each of the 39 gingerbread house entries to support their favorites. This event spanned over a two-week period, which provided opportunities for locals to see the gingerbread houses as well as learn about classes or events held at the Art Center. **1 Project, 7 Members, 16 Hours**

Mountain-to-Sea Trail Gallery Stroll: The Greensboro Woman’s Club partnered with local 4th graders to create an educational, art, and learning project that celebrated the wonders of the MST. Because the 4th grade curriculum focuses on NC geography, it was chosen to highlight the MST. The school’s art teacher spearheaded the effort for each student to assist in creating three large installations for display in the school hallway – one for the coast, one for the piedmont, and one for the mountains. The club arranged a gallery stroll for students, parents, and clubwomen to enjoy. **1 Project, 12 Members, 48 Hours, \$315 Dollars Donated, \$136 In-kind Donations**

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An Evening at the Museum: The Woman's Club of Raleigh together with the City Museum of Raleigh, a non-profit organization, hosted an evening of entertainment and reflection of the pandemic at the City Museum of Raleigh. The evening consisted of the Mask Project display, several authors reading their original writings from the book entitled Living the Covid Experience, songs shared by the Woman's Club of Raleigh Singers, and light refreshments prepared by the clubwomen. Members of the community came in to enjoy the museum and stayed to enjoy the program. **3 Projects, 27 Members, 73 Hours, \$31 Dollars Donated, \$225 In-kind Donations**

Art Never Stops Giving: Throughout the year, **The Fuquay Varina Woman's Club** offered art classes to various community groups such as a local nursing home, local assisted living facilities, the local library, and the Fuquay Varina Arts and Cultural Center. In each setting, members of the club set up and provided painting and card-making classes. In addition, this club partnered with the Fuquay Varina Arts and Cultural Center for a fundraiser called *The Easter Parade* which centered on creating Easter and springtime-themed hats and baskets. Community members were able to 'vote' for their favorites while also offering a donation – winners received a cash prize. **3 Projects, 21 Members, 54 Hours, \$235 Dollars Donated, \$30 In-kind Donations**

My Birthday Too! The Wake Forest Woman's Club supported a non-profit volunteer organization, My Birthday Too, which brings happiness monthly to children who may not otherwise experience joy on their birthdays. Clubwomen volunteered to assist with crafts and games at these celebrations throughout the year. They also provided art bags for the 24 children attending the November party – these bags included sketch books, crayons, watercolors, paint, books, colored pencils, etc. for the children to explore their creative sides. **1 Project, 19 Members, 63 Hours, \$383 In-kind Donations**

International Club Dinner: The Garner Woman's Club hosted an International Dinner to bring awareness to other cultures and to learn about traditional foods from various cultures around the world. Club members chose a country and a dish to prepare. On the night of the dinner, each member provided some background on the dish and its significance to the culture it represented. Also, each dish was labeled with which country it represented and a small flag from that country was placed by the dish. Recipes were shared by all. **1 Project, 15 Members, 20 Hours, \$300 In-kind Donations**

Edenton Pilgrimage: Members of the **Camden Woman's Club** attended the biennial Pilgrimage held by the Edenton Woman's Club. The two-day event featured tours of 20 historic private homes and public buildings, with guests greeted by ladies dressed in colonial attire. The group walked and rode golfcart/trolleys around the town while getting to know more about the area's history, culture, artwork, and architecture. Edenton, about 40 miles from Camden, provided a fun and educational outing for the clubwomen and allowed for a great bonding experience over lunch at a sidewalk café. They even took advantage of the historic jail as the backdrop for their online weekly Big Bang Raffle drawing, complete with several members locked up in the old wooden stocks for safe keeping! It was a great day, thanks to their Federation Friends in the Edenton club, fantastic weather, and lots of laughs and fellowship with fellow club members. **1 Project, 7 Members, 42 Hours, \$140 In-kind Donations**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

From Homeless to Happy: In a local community school, a teacher noticed two students falling asleep in school because the family was homeless and living in their car. Addressing safety, food insecurity and homelessness, ten members of the **Charlotte Woman's Club**, and several generous individuals, have moved this family from homelessness to an apartment, furnished with furniture to household necessities. The girls are A students, the mom is working full-time, getting her GED, and has applied for low-income housing. **1 Project, 10 Members, 2Hours, \$1000 Dollars Donated**



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First Responder Appreciation Day: Encouraged by the GFWC Community Connection Initiative to honor ‘Essential Workers’, the **Woman’s Club of Clayton’s** First Responder Appreciation Day included three events. Starting in January, they recognized the Clayton Police Department with 75 goodie bags; on May 2nd, International Firefighters Day, they delivered a baskets of homemade cookies and tea to all the fire stations in Clayton, which included EMS; the Appreciation Day was a successful partnership with the Clayton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Clayton, The Woman’s Club of Clayton, and a non-profit, One Compassion, to host a First Responder Appreciation Community BBQ. Despite the rainy weather, Club members continued to cook and serve. All agreed it was a united show of support from all the organizations to all the people that help to keep the community safe every day. **3 Projects, 73 Members, 38 Hours, \$ 151 In-kind Donations**

Fuquay-Varina 101: Striving for their members to have a stronger civic voice, the **Fuqua-Varina Woman’s Club** CEO CSP developed a new five-part project called Fuquay-Varina 101. Sparked by a presentation from the city’s Economic Development Manager, the members wanted more information, including how to find answers to their unanswered questions about their fast-growing community. A second F-V 101 meeting with the city mayor involved a pre-meeting collection of questions from members given to the mayor to ensure answers could be more complete. A third F-V 101 alerted members to various fraud and scam scenarios presented by police detectives. A fourth F-V 101 project based upon research by two members was the creation of a lovely bookmark containing emergency and nonemergency phone numbers. A fifth FV 101 project informed members about voter registration, the voting schedule, poll locations, and website resources. Members were informed using club social media, emails, and newsletter. **5 Projects, 70 Members, 155 Hours, \$65 In-kind Donations**

GFWC National Day of Service: - In support of GFWC’s National Service Day, the **Greensboro Woman’s Club** CEO CSP organized a food drive to donate to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Wanting to involve the community, they devised a unique plan. One member created a flyer to advertise the purpose of the food drive, the club, GFWC, and a list of suggested food items. The flyer was copied and stapled to 300 brown bags with handles. At their September meeting, the bags were given to members with the challenge to engage their neighbors and friends in the food drive. By the end of the month, over 175 filled bags were collected from their own pantries and from friends and neighbors. The total was \$1,833 worth of non-perishable food. Members delivered the bags to the Food Bank where the resulting weight was 2,089 pounds of food donated! **1 Project, 49 Members, 73 Hours, \$2,055 In-kind donations**

Generation Next Recipient: After meeting with the staff of the Girls and Boys Home of NC (BGHNC) the **GFWC Holden Beach** club adopted a project to collect diapers and wipes for the young mothers on campus. To encourage participation, the project was featured in Communique, a digital monthly newsletter sent to all members, and was reported at club meetings. On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, club members traveled to Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina in Lake Waccamaw, NC to deliver the donated items. President and CEO Marc Murphy and a staff member provided a guided trolley tour, which included stables, Thomas Academy, recreational areas, and resident cottages. At the Lakeside cottages where young mothers live, the members were treated to an inside look of a cottage with a living area, kitchen, and play area. Club members were pleased to learn that such pleasant and peaceful accommodations exist for these young moms. **1 Project, 49 Members, 88 Hours, \$350 Dollars Donated, \$963.00 In-kind Donations**

Collections for Homeless Shelter: The **GFWC North Wilkesboro Woman’s Club** has a strong relationship with the local Homeless Shelter and continues to work closely with them. In the past year, they renovated a new facility to enable serving a larger population. They called on us to help them with some of their needs. Over three months, we collected items they specifically asked for, which included 75 pairs of socks, 25 fleece throws, 20 \$5.00 gift cards to McDonalds, 10 large containers of laundry detergent, coffee, creamer, insulated coffee cups with lids, and 7 boxes of 30-gallon trash bags. Members were overjoyed to help their long-term partner

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and the shelter expressed their appreciation with verbal thanks and through their newsletter and on their social media page. **1 Project, 8 Members, 45 Hours, \$100.00 Dollars Donated, \$425.00 In-Kind Donations**

Takeout Hunger Day: Aligning with GFWC's National Day of Service, the **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club** CEO-CSP orchestrated an outdoor cookout for a neighborhood in a "food desert". Getting back to their roots, they identified a non-profit serving that area and then reached out to engage ten businesses and community partners, who donated 100% of the cost of the cookout. Publicized through the nonprofit's helping center, social media and Thrift Store, local radio interview, SWC podcast with the nonprofit's executive director as well as the club's social media posts. A free box containing a burger and hotdog plus trimmings of beans, chips, and cookies were given to 287 recipients in the target neighborhood. Appreciation permeated throughout the crowd, making the entire event uplifting, and gratifying to all present. The Statesville Mayor awarded the SWC with an official proclamation of "Takeout Hunger Day." **6 Projects, 23 Members, 100 Hours, \$3,050 In-Kind Donations**

Safety Focus: The **GFWC Triad Woman's Club** CEO-CSP hosted a program to focus on all types of safety. Facts and statistics were given on various types of safety, including personal, work, motor vehicle, medical, weather and home. As a follow up, the club held a two-hour self-defense class for women open to non-members at a local church. A female Guilford County sheriff deputy, with over 30-years of experience in law enforcement, shared tips and tricks to use in a violent situation allowing participants to repeat the maneuvers demonstrated during the class. Participants were given safety tools donated by a local company to always keep with them. Sixteen non-members participated. **1 Project, 4 Members, 12 Hours, \$35 Dollars Donated, \$94 In-kind donations**

Purple Heart Foundation Banquet: The **Wake Forest Woman's Club** sponsored its 14th Purple Heart Foundation Banquet in August after a three-year hiatus due to Covid. The banquet paid tribute to any recipient of the Purple Heart and honored all veterans in various ways, including the presentation of colors by the Wake Forest High School Junior Army ROTC, the Walk of Honor, the POW/MIA ceremony, an inspiring guest speaker/author (a former POW and Purple Heart recipient). Clubwomen assist in preparing the banquet room; serve as receptionist/greeters; help local Boy Scout troop with beverage service; serve food; and help with clean up. Approximately 500 guests attended. The club received recognition on social media. **25 Members, 135 Hours**

Stemming the Pandemic of Child Abuse: The **Wilmington Woman's Club** CEO CSP focused on raising awareness among their membership about the pandemic of child abuse, especially in the form of sextortion (child abuse by internet means). The vital information shared by the Carousel Center, a local organization that primarily aids child survivors of abuse, included the essential facts about this pandemic and provided pamphlets of information that could further address the members' questions so that they could be alert to any indications of abuse in their own family or in their friends' families and know how to report it. **14 Members, 12 Hours**

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES:

Summer Book Bags: The Woman's Club of Clayton "Book Bags for First Graders" provided books for students to read during the summer break. Each bag contained four books, a bookmark, pencil, ruler, and a small stuffed teddy bear "book buddy." Over 400 books were collected for the project and clubwomen stenciled pictures onto the book bags to enhance them for the students. Before distributing the bags to the students at the end of the school year, club members read books to the students in each of the five first grade classrooms at the local elementary school Project. The students were attentive during the reading and excited to receive their book bags. **3 Projects, 73 Members, 58 Hours, \$257 Dollars Donated, \$523 In-Kind Donations**



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Back to School Basics: **GFWC of Holden Beach** started the school year by providing school supplies, clothing, and personal items to four area schools. Members enjoyed a “back to school” monthly club meeting with their own school pictures, yearbooks, and snacks that evoked memories of school lunches. The new teachers at each school received apple jars handmade by club members filled with candy and handwritten inspirational messages. Informational packets about the upcoming Student Arts Festival were also developed and delivered to each school. Snacks were provided at the end of the year to show appreciation to the teachers and staff. **3 Projects, 49 members, 118 hours, \$50 Donated, \$1046 In-Kind Donations**

Breakfast Buddies Tutoring: The **Greensboro Woman’s Club** partnered with a local elementary school to start a “Breakfast Buddies” Program. Each club volunteer worked one-on-one with a struggling reader once a week during breakfast time. They played word and reading games, read books, expanded the children’s knowledge of word families, and practiced vocabulary words. Some of the students were learning English as a second language so conversations were especially important. The school counselor reported that the children were always excited to work with club members. After eight weeks of volunteering, members were treated to a volunteer breakfast. The students performed songs and presented thank you notes to members. **1 Project, 12 Members, 85 Hours**

Read and Feed Support: The **Cary Woman’s Club** partnered with the nonprofit organization, “Read and Feed”, to strengthen literacy skills and provide food to children in low-income areas. Club members collected 374 children’s books for the program and supplied 22 cases of packaged snacks. They added encouragement to the snack bags by adding inspirational phrases and decorations to inspire the children’s reading experience. Volunteer tutors were trained by “Read and Feed” to ensure that the children received high quality instruction. The club’s efforts supported the program’s slogan, “Giving Kids an Appetite for Reading.” **1 Project, 39 Members, 163 Hours, \$250 Dollars Donated, \$424 In-Kind Donations**

School Adoptions: **GFWC South Brunswick Islands** provided support at a local middle school and K-8 school in an underserved area with a large Hispanic population. Club members worked directly with staff at both schools to fund their Positive Behavior Recognition Programs. Club members tutored students, provided supplies for projects, and assisted the media specialists during their Book Fairs. GFWC-SBI members donated requested items such as leggings, t-shirts, water bottles, and socks for students. Club members created Easter baskets supporting a PTO fundraiser. The “End of the Year Celebrations” for teachers at both schools were both a huge success as teachers enjoyed a buffet lunch and each of the 150 teachers were presented with door prizes. **6 Projects, 50 Members, 288 Hours, \$5270 Dollars Donated, \$2877 In-Kind Donations**

Rashad's Reading Corner: The **Wake Forest Woman’s Club** implemented a barbershop reading corner inspired by the national program “Barbershop Books”. This program is geared towards young boys of color having access to books in which the main character looks like them. A local barber, Rashad, encourages boys to read while they’re waiting, but also to read while getting their haircut. Several boys asked if they could take the books home. Club members supported the request and frequently restocked the books donated by the general membership. A yearly subscription for “Highlights Magazine Workbooks” is also provided for the boys to use while at the barbershop. There is a treasure box filled with prizes to reward the boys for their reading. With the positive feedback club members have received from Rashad and the community, this is a project the club will continue for years to come. **1 Project, 24 Members, 84 Hours, \$186 Dollars Donated, \$415 In-Kind Donations**

Scholarship Anniversary: Sixty years ago, **Garner Woman’s Club**, started awarding an annual savings bond to a local high school student which is now known as the Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship. This past year, club members invited the scholarship winners and their families to a very special dinner that recognized them as well as the 60 years of scholarships. Club scrapbooks were displayed showing the many scholarships awarded over the years. Along with the monetary awards, club members donated college supplies that were presented to the

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winners. The club is proud to celebrate the significance of 60 years of scholarships and its community partnerships. Many of the former recipients continue to stay in touch with club members and provide updates on their college successes. A few winners have also joined the club and continue to pay the Sallie Southhall Cotten legacy forward. **1 Project, 20 Members, 8 Hours, \$100 Dollars Donated, \$415 In-Kind Donations**

Library Support: The **Burlington Woman's Club** provided "hobo bags" for patrons to use when visiting the local bookmobile. Used t-shirts were donated by club members, laundered, cut, and threaded with shoestrings forming bags for carrying books. The bags were well received by the librarian and patrons. Seventy-five bags were donated, and more were requested. They have been especially useful for a group of disabled children and adults as they are unable to carry their books easily. Other support was provided by members volunteering at the bookmobile, serving as storytellers, and delivering books to homebound adults. The club also donated snacks for the Friends of the Library volunteers in appreciation for their fundraising efforts for special library programs. **6 Projects, 12 Members, 141 Hours, \$42 Dollars Donated, \$982 In-Kind Donations**

Wake Up and Read Support: For the second year, **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** supported the "Wake Up and Read" Program, a special Wake County initiative to provide books for home libraries and promote reading among area children. The club donated 2,033 books to this effort during the 2023 club year. Collection sites were placed throughout the community and checked regularly for donations. Club members received book donations from their sister Junior Woman's Club, friends, and family. They also purchased gently used books from yard sales and flea markets. Club members were invited by the "Wake Up and Read" Program to assist with distribution days. Each child was allowed to select 10 books for their individual home library. Club members had the opportunity to experience firsthand the heartwarming impact on the children and to share the results with other club members. **1 Project, 61 Members, 59 Hours, \$85 In-Kind Donations**

On Fire with Literacy: During the Halloween season, **GFWC South Brunswick Islands** participated in the Town of Shallotte's Halloween Spooktacular. The club arranged for a firetruck to come to the event and children were able to climb on the truck and talk to firefighters. Club members provided children's books about firemen. Fire Safety coloring books were donated by local insurance agencies and distributed to participants. Over 1000 children enjoyed the evening of games and treats. Club members also donated math puzzles for a Smart Start Lending Library and donated funds to the Literacy Council to help with the illiteracy problem in the county. **3 Projects, 46 Members, 45 Hours, \$1000 Dollars Donated, \$400 In-Kind Donations**

ENVIRONMENT:

GFWC-NC President's Special Project: Mountains-to-Sea Trail: **Burlington Woman's Club's** local trail that runs through their county, Haw River Trail, is part of segment nine of the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST). Members enjoyed a hike at one of the natural areas on the trail. This club owns a Thrift Store and for 2 months of 2023 they had a window display entitled, "Blaze Your Own Trails, 2023 from the Mountains-to-the Sea." The window featured a stylish solo hiker in the woods encountering a few animals and inside the shop customers found a NC map of state parks and trails as well as other information. They also had a Trail Tote drawing with things you would need while enjoying the outdoors. In May, they provided snacks for Friends of the MST Workday. In July, 14 bluebird houses were delivered to another area on the MST and donations were made to the NC Bluebird Society. Members also participated in virtual walks throughout the year walking 487.62 miles. **7 Projects, 58 Hours, \$502 Dollars Donated**



Down by the Seashore: Coastline preservation is an ongoing concern for residents of beach communities because dunes and their vegetation provide a natural barrier to erosion of the beachfront. **GFWC of Holden Beach** chose to explore the possibility of assisting Holden Beach, NC with a restoration/preservation project. The

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town hall was contacted, and they were told there was an ongoing project involving the planting of sea oats. Sea oats are native grass that grows naturally on beach dunes. This club also contacted a local company who has been restoring and preserving the beach since 2000 by planting sea oats along the beachfront. In 2023, this club invited a representative of this company to come speak at a club meeting. This club created a Facts Sheet to be displayed at four beach rental agencies on the beach discussing the importance of sea oats and the punishment of picking or disturbing them. They purchased sea oats to be planted by club members in April. Members, along with the local company, planted 260 sea oats. **3 Projects, 109 Hours, \$200 Dollars Donated, \$10 In-kind Donations**

Heritage Daffodil Rescue: Cary Woman's Club researched a local road site and received permission from the owner to rescue Heritage Daffodils prior to road construction. They deadheaded 863 spent daffodil blooms and this club, along with the local garden club and elementary and high schoolers, and high school environment club, dug up 700 bulbs in the fall. They cleaned, sorted, and bagged them with planting instructions to sell at a craft fair. Some bulbs were planted at a pollinator garden. They ended up replanting more bulbs at local churches, schools and along public greenways. They estimated they rescued and replanted over 2,000 bulbs. **2 Projects, 316 Hours, \$165 Dollars Donated, \$1,000 In-kind Donations**

Historic Clubhouse Perennial Garden: During the first part of 2023, **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** members raked, disposed of dead debris and plants, pruned, and removed trash from their 100-year-old historic clubhouse. This clubhouse is one of two original clubhouses in NC still used for club meetings. They sought advice from the Garden Club members, a horticulture professor, a master gardener member, and a local nursery owner for appropriate plants for their planting zone. They gathered a planting plan and selected, ordered, purchased, and planted perennials in May. Members care for the garden with ongoing watering, mulching, and pruning as needed. **3 Projects, 18 Hours, \$348 Dollars Donated**

Tiny House Community: Knowing that Styrofoam cannot be recycled in local municipal recycling bins, **Greensboro Woman's Club** decided to help a wonderful organization called the Tiny House Community. They had a speaker from this organization who explained the process by which Styrofoam is recycled and the amazing work done by the community to house the homeless. This organization raises funds for building tiny housing for those in need in their community. One of the ways they raise funds is through the recycling of Styrofoam. Members collected and transported Styrofoam consisting of 450 egg cartons, pieces of packing materials, food containers and Styrofoam clam shell containers. This was a very easy project but would impact a lot of people. **2 Projects, 40 Hours**

Children Programs: In 2023, the **Mebane Woman's Club** decided to create a Trail Rangers program for children because they understand that nature helps children learn about their world and provides lifelong benefits across physical, mental, and academic competencies. They created "Little Explorers" for children six and under and "Junior Trail Rangers" for children in 4th – 7th grades. Little Explorers is a monthly nature-based hour intended to excite and educate children with rotating outdoor themes. Each session begins with a nature-themed activity, walk, and ends with a nature-themed story. The Junior Trail Rangers met for orientation and received an activity book and bandana. This summer program included 5 environmentally themed in-person and self-paced activities. They learned the 7 principles of Leave No Trace, how to safely prepare for a hike, how to read a trail, and how to identify wildlife, insects and plants. Upon graduation, 14 students turned in their completed activity books, a piece of artwork that reflected one of the Leave No Trace principles and earned a Junior Trail Rangers badge. They partnered with the local recreation and parks department who handled the registration and offered a free meeting place. **2 Projects, 165 Hours, \$915 Dollars Donated**

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Reinventing Mascara Wands: Wands for Wildlife, a non-profit organization, inspires people to help wildlife and the environment through re-purposing discarded mascara wands for use in wildlife care. Once the 30 wands were collected and cleaned according to the organization's specifications, **Wilmington Woman's Club** mailed them to the organization. The mascara wands are used in the cleaning process of very small animals and birds as part of the rehabilitation process. Once the animals were cleaned and rehabilitated, they are released back into nature. **1 Project, 11 Hours**

GotSneakers? Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club members gathered used sneakers to help with a fundraiser for a local elementary school PTA. "GotSneakers" provides a free sneaker recycling program that extends the life of used sneakers through reuse and recycling and offers financial opportunity to those seeking to raise money. **1 Project, 5 Hours, \$420 In-kind donations**

Supporting Envision Charlotte: GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Charlotte had a year-long recycling collection to support recycling initiatives at Envision Charlotte, which has found uses for many items that cannot be placed in local recycling collections that gives them another chance at continuing to be what they are or be transformed into something new. Members dropped off 8 trunks full of materials including #5 plastics, bubble wrap, berry containers, t-shirts and more. Envision Charlotte has been part of the GFWC-NC Director of Junior Club's Special Project for the past two years. **1 project, 11 hours**

E.L.K. (Eliminate Litter in Kannapolis) Initiative: The **A.L. Brown Juniorette Club** teamed up with the E.L.K. Initiative and volunteers each month cleaning local streets and communities. The director of E.L.K. spoke at a club meeting. The club made a monetary donation to the organization for the purchase of supplies and other items needed to make their work a success. **13 Projects, 288 Hours, \$150 Dollars Donated**

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

Helping Our Elderly Friends: Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club helps the elderly through addressing the needs of local independent living apartment communities for low-income residents. They bring companionship and friendship by conducting two-hour monthly BINGO games with prizes of items that cannot be purchased with food vouchers. Sixty residents were given gift bags filled with personal care items and homemade snacks for Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This project was expanded to include a second community and art and chair yoga classes were conducted in conjunction with the Arts CSP. **4 Projects, 58 Members, 658 Hours, \$ 650 Dollars Donated, \$1,933 In-kind Donations**



Brain Break Box: The **Sedgefield Woman's Club** had an ongoing relationship with a local elementary school with limited resources. They researched methods to lessen stress and frustration of students and collaborated with the principal and teachers to assemble 29 containers, Brain Break Boxes, one for each classroom and for the school office. The boxes included a balloon stress ball, a seek and find tube, a deep breaths card, a puzzle cube, fleece marble maze, a pop it fidgets toy and a wacky tracts toy. A member sewed the fleece marble mazes, while other members purchased the containers and labeled the boxes. Teachers and staff reported that the Brain Break Boxes have addressed a problem, easing the burden on teachers by alleviating student stress. **1 Project, 11 Members, 79 Hours, \$106 Dollars Donated, \$138 In-Kind Donations**

One Thing Leads to Another: GFWC of Holden Beach Health and Wellness CSP members prepared a dinner for 25 Rose House residents and staff. Rose House functions as the women's campus of Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. (CRCI) and is an 18–30-week substance abuse recovery program. Members toured the facility and learned the challenges faced by the residents. One challenge was lack of funds for dental care, creating low

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esteem as residents search for employment. Some residents of Rose House have experienced facial trauma leaving them with fractured or lost teeth. Upon a suggestion by a committee member, who is a dentist, \$200 was donated to the Patient Care Fund at East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine-Brunswick County, NC which provides emergency care of patients without financial means. **2 Projects, 49 Members, 72 Hours, \$ 240 Dollars Donated, \$183 In-Kind Donations**

Murky Udders: Based on research of breast health and a high cancer diagnosis failure rate for women with dense breast tissue, the **Woman's Club of Raleigh** prepared a long-term plan for advocacy for dense breast mammograms for all women. A former NC General Assembly representative spoke at a general club meeting, educating the members on the process of working with legislators with a town hall follow up to share information on dense breasts. Club members registered for the GFWC Legislative Action Center. A national speaker was presented at a November meeting and a resolution passed and is on its way to the GFWC International Convention in June 2024. **1 Project, 93 Members, 23 Hours, \$237 In-Kind Donations**

The Need Is There: As the **Wake Forest Woman's Club** President's Community Service Project, personal hygiene products and diapers for infants and adults were donated to Wake Forest Community Table, an organization that provides hot meals and fresh produce to those in need. These items cannot be purchased with food benefit cards. A member took the initiative to apply for and received a grant from Wake Electric Foundation, enabling the club to donate \$2,000 to supply diapers to 66 families. Feminine personal hygiene products were donated by members. Club members distributed the items twice a month at the Wake Forest Community Table meals. Based on the positive reception of the program and the ongoing need for these items which continue to increase in price, the club plans to continue the project. **1 Project, 25 Members, 60 Hours, \$200 Dollars Donated, \$2,400 In-Kind Donations**

Senior Services: Adopt a Senior Citizen: GFWC-South Brunswick Islands club members adopted "seniors" at an assisted living facility in Brunswick County with the goal of providing a personal touch by directly providing them with outside contact, friendship, and gifts. A "Get to Know You" party was organized where stories were shared. Members then made individual contact with their senior, sending cards, emails or visiting. Examples of activities were organizing the senior's closet and visiting the senior while in the hospital. The club hosted a Christmas Party for the entire nursing home and invited a local high school dance team as entertainment. Cookies and punch were served. Three other projects impacting seniors were also conducted, including donations to purchase tracking devices, volunteering with Meals on Wheels, and a monetary donation as well as personal care and hygiene items to a local inpatient nursing facility for activities. **4 Projects, 55 Members, 674 Hours, \$2,700 Dollars Donated, \$ 435 In-kind Donations**

Let's Fidget a Little: Seven **Wilmington Women's Club** members gathered with a variety of fabrics, ribbons, large buttons, short zippers, pom-poms, and other sensory inducing tokens to make 24 "Fidget Lap Blankets" for distribution at a community assisted living facility for dementia patients. The 24" x 19" blankets provide sensory activities that are calming and soothing for elderly people suffering memory loss. The sensation for these adults is like the one an infant might experience by fingering a blanket while taking a bottle or sucking a pacifier. Upon completion of the Fidget Lap Blankets, four club members visited the care facility for a tour as well as to meet the recipients of the blankets. The blankets were a real hit with each client choosing exactly the blanket she wanted! Due to the positive reception of the blankets, the club plans to continue it in the coming year. **1 Project, 7 members, 44 Hours, \$253 In-kind Donations**

Blessings in a Bag: With an ongoing project to address the issue of food insecurity for local children, all **GFWC-Warrenton Woman's Club** members participate by donating food, money, and time to organize donations, shop, assemble and deliver the bags to schools. This project is done in collaboration with local churches and the local

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food pantry. The number of children supported has increased from 20 to 53 children who are provided with food weekly on Fridays, with extra on holidays to take home for the weekend. Children in need are provided 2 protein items, 2 fruits, 1 juice, 2 snacks, 1 dairy, and 2 breakfasts per weekend. **2 Projects, 25 Members, 1,000 Hours, \$1,105 In-Kind Donations**

Take Ten: As part of the National Day of Service GFWC-NC's first cyber club, **Wendy's Wildflowers**, members decided to ask each clubwoman to fight food insecurity in their own community. Members donated and served in quantities of ten. They assembled food bank meals, donated food, donated money, and picked produce to be donated. Members donated food to food banks and pantries, school feeding programs and prepared meals. **1 Project, 16 Members, 33 Hours, \$370 In-Kind Donations**

Healthy Tip Placemats: The **Greensboro Woman's Club** Health and Wellness CSP sponsored a reusable placemat making workshop. Each placemat was decorated with information about the food pyramid and other healthy dietary facts. Encouraging messages such as, "Eat more vegetables!" and "Stay hydrated!" were included on the placemats. The placemats were decorated with flower and butterfly stickers in spring like colors. All placemats were laminated. Fifty placemats were delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients during the month of April. **1 Project, 12 Members, 37 Hours, \$85 Dollars Donated, \$200 In-Kind Donation**

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO):

Clubhouse Cupbook: A new project idea for the **Fuquay Varina Woman's Club** CSP this year was to develop a book exchange at the clubhouse for club members but space in our historic clubhouse is limited to bookshelves or cabinets. The CSP decided to clean out and utilize a storage cabinet, a.k.a cupboard, in the clubhouse's kitchen to be the location to collect and store books from members. We named this cabinet of books the "CUPBOOK". Members were encouraged in our newsletter and at meetings to bring books they had enjoyed to our meetings. Nearly 75 books have found their way to and from CUPBOOK. Members have shown excitement in finding a book in the CUPBOOK to take home and feel good about finding a new home for some of their favorite reads. **47 Members, 63 Hours**



Publicity on Reading: Fuquay Varina Woman's Club Education and Libraries CSP began the year with a pitch to members to join ESO if they enjoy reading. We announced at meetings and reported in club newsletters the background and functions of ESO membership (6 volunteer hours) The Juniorette ESO chair, Angela Moss, an active member of our club, spoke for 15 minutes about ESO at a club meeting at the local library hosted by our CSP (9.75 volunteer hours). Our CSP invited a speaker from the Fuquay-Varina Public Library who is the Adult Educator Specialist to inform our members of services, programs and resources for members to utilize at the library for increasing their knowledge of how the library can make it easy and comfortable for book retrieval (16 volunteer hours) Our CSP hopes this information shared with members stimulates joining ESO, joining a book club, or just relaxing with a good book. **32 Members, 32 Hours**

Newsletter Partnership with Federation Friends: GFWC of Holden Beach has partnered with GFWC Pennsylvania to share ESO information through a monthly newsletter created by this chairman. In the twelve issues prepared annually is information on all things related to reading, libraries, and books. Topics include books related to specific holidays, new authors, suggested books from members, nationally popular books, and GFWC information. **7 Members, 156 Hours**

ESO/Education Wreath: Cooper Academy has long been supported by **The Woman's Club of Clayton** in many ways, such as, gathering books for classrooms and students, volunteering to read to the 1st grade classes and initiating and creating craft projects for the EC classes. The ESO Committee created a custom wreath that

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promoted reading while also welcoming students and staff and featuring their mascot (The Rockets). The wreath was hung on an open wall in the waiting area for students and guests. Club members gathered needed items, including a sign that had the word "Welcome", with books illustrated on it. The ribbons that were used have pictures that relate to school, such as books, tape, ruler, scissors, school bus, pencils, an apple, a globe, crayons, paper, positive word messages and stars. Wooden Cutout Rockets with their mascot name were also added to represent their mascot. Books were attached to the wreath to represent The Woman's Club of Clayton ESO as well as encouraging the children to read. Now the children and visitors at Cooper Academy will be encouraged to look at something interesting and inspiring while they wait to meet their parents or teachers! **1 Project, 6 Hours, \$60 Dollars Donated**

Mountains to the Sea Trail Reading Challenge: Members of the **Wake Forest Woman's Club's** ESO group read book selections that either were set in various localities along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail or were written by authors from those places along the trail. One of our ESO members compiled a list of possibilities—23 books related to the Piedmont area, to Raleigh, to the New Bern area, to the Wilmington area, and to the Outer Banks. Books read for group discussion or by individual members were written up and placed in the monthly club newsletter, encouraging fellow club members to "read the trail" during the year. This was a creative way to traverse the trail for one and all, but especially for those who would not physically walk the trail. **1 Project, 2,062 Hours**

Newsletter Articles about ESO and the MST Challenge: The Wake Forest Woman's Club's ESO Book Club featured monthly articles for their club's newsletter and to add a bit of creativity to their ESO readings, their selections featured writings that traversed the state of North Carolina. Their selections included Lee Smith's book, *Guests on Earth* (Asheville), Heather Bell Adams', *The Good Luck Stone* (Piedmont area of NC), David Sedaris', *Me Speak Pretty Someday* (Raleigh), Diane Chamberlain's *The Lies We Told* (Wilmington). Diane is a GFWC-NC Patterson Honoree author. Lisa Wingate's *The Prayer Box* (Outer Banks- Hatteras), Anne Rivers Siddons' book, *Outer Banks* and Ellen Elizabeth Hunter's *Murder on the Candlelight Tour* (Wilmington). **2 Projects, 9 Hours**

Friends of the Library Volunteering: The Woman's Club of Clayton ESO members enjoy assisting with book sales, supporting projects the library requests help with, and reading to young and emerging readers. **1 Project, 1 Hour, \$50 Dollars Donated**

ESO Poem: One Member of **The Woman's Club of Clayton** wrote a poem to foster participation in ESO. The poem was read at the Holiday ESO gathering and shared in the newsletter with fellow club members. **1 Project, 80 Hours**

Newsletter Articles about ESO Books: Each month book recommendations are highlighted in a designated ESO column in **The Woman's Club of Clayton's** newsletter. **9 Projects, 135 Hours**

Highlighting an ESO Reader: Annually, **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club** spotlights an ESO member in their newsletter sharing with the club her achievements and how she fosters the ESO program in the club. **1 Project, 450 Hours**

ADVANCEMENT PLANS

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:



Women Fore Women Tournament: The **Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club (FVWC)** Publicity committee was tasked with creating a logo, creating forms, updating the website to include pages covering the tournament, creating signs, business cards, social media graphics, and interactive forms for the club’s golf tournament for women golfers at Bentwinds Golf Club, Women Fore Women. The purple color theme for the event harkens to Alzheimer’s Research, Animal Abuse, Pancreatic and Thyroid Cancers, Opioid Awareness, and of course Domestic Violence. The logo features purple verbiage stacked and with a heavy font and a female golfer with an awareness ribbon looping and then becoming the ground under her feet. The club created business cards with QR codes that lead to the website’s registration page. These cards were placed in the ladies’ restrooms at the golf club and given to sponsors and players. They created fillable Acrobat forms available on the club website for registration. They placed large signs on the 9th hole with the QR code for the website to publicize the event. In November, a writer for Suburban Living interviewed club members and the article will cover FVWC and their volunteer projects and provide exposure for the event. **1 Project, 29 Hours, \$425 In-kind Donations**

Members Only Facebook Page: Camden Woman’s Club maintains a Facebook page that can only be seen by members, with the officers and directors as page administrators. This has taken the place of a written newsletter, saving both time and money while still letting everyone know what is going to be happening in the future, what they may have missed in the past, and any on-going or “present time” projects. It is also a way to say “happy birthday” to members, and to let everyone know if anyone is sick, had a birth or death in the family, or any other occasion that other members would like to know. Reminders are included about projects and events. Of course, pictures are shared regularly. **1 Project, 50 Hours**

Is Anyone Listening: Capitalizing on the opportunity for free publicity through podcasting, monthly podcasts were taped from June through December. Hosted by the **Statesville Woman’s Club’s** First Vice President and President, each “A Servant’s Heart,” episode spotlighted women in the community making a difference sharing their respective messages. Members were also highlighted. To increase our bandwidth, podcasts were embedded into the club website, snippets were loaded to Instagram, and entire shows appeared on the club’s Facebook page. Throughout the learning curve, it is apparent that shorter podcasts are more often viewed. The publicity received from the podcasts has bolstered interest in the SWC. Members agree that the use of this type of modern messaging taps into previously untapped audiences. The producer offered to produce shows at no charge in return for use of the SWC clubhouse to offer podcast training seminars to area businesses. **2 Projects, 163 Hours, \$98 In-kind Donations**

Officer Business Cards: Elected Officers of the **Cary Woman’s Club** have business cards available to hand out to potential new members or at community events or exhibits which help to publicize the club. The business card master includes the club logo, club address, web address and the individual’s name, elected office and contact information. Cards are also available for any members that request them. **1 Project, 6 Hours, \$12 Dollars Spent**

Intra-club Communication: Quality communication within a large club is imperative. **The Woman’s Club of Raleigh** has several ways of intra-club communication: (1) Their monthly newsletter is sent by email to all members and is mailed to members without email. (2) The weekly eflash is sent on Monday and consists of reminders of events, as well as member concerns information. (3) The Upcoming, is a monthly list of the events in the next month. (4) The club’s website also maintains a calendar of events, along with CSP, membership, scholarship, fundraising, community grants, and other pertinent information. **5 Projects, 3,225 Hours**

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Social Media: The Charlotte Woman's Club uses social media to announce their upcoming events and post photos of socials, projects, and meetings. They also posted Federation events such as GFWC Southeastern Region Meeting and GFWC-NC Fall Conference. The club also received "shout outs" from other social media sites that they repost, like collecting food for a local food pantry for which they were thanked. **10 Projects, 15 Hours**

Website: The Greensboro Woman's Club's website has links to a separate website for their clubhouse and event space, the Weir-Jordan house. Both websites feature a "donate" button to make it easier to financially support the club and clubhouse. Website traffic in 2023 included six inquiries about membership and three joined as new members. Twenty prospective members submitted applications and made initial dues payments through the website. **2 Projects, 20 Hours, \$749 Dollars Spent**

Website: The Charlotte Woman's Club uses Wild Apricot for hosting their website. It houses their public information, photos, and serves as a recruiting tool for potential members and partnering organizations. The Member Portal stores the club roster, directory, documents, and archives. The administrative software allows them to see how many members are opening the emails or how long they've been a member. One member is dedicated to updating the design, automating emails, and managing events. The online billing and payment of dues simplifies these processes and there is a mobile friendly app where members can register for a meeting or pay their dues quickly and easily. **3 Projects, 15 Hours, \$648 Dollars Spent**

Local Media Coverage: While electronic media is important, **Greensboro Woman's Club** also believes that traditional media can reach a different audience. To this end, they submitted articles to their local newspaper, Greensboro News & Record. An article, with a photograph, was published to focus attention on the GFWC National Day of Service. They believe that emphasizing their connection to the Federation is vitally important. Members were made aware of this newspaper article and were encouraged to share the article with friends and family. **1 Project, 2 Hours**

West Brunswick High School Athletic Boosters: GFWC South Brunswick Islands has a long-standing relationship with the WBHS Athletic Boosters. To help get GFWC-SBI's name out in the community and advertise their Sally Southall Cotten Scholarship to local high school seniors and their parents, this club donates annually to the Booster Club to have a banner displayed on the high school football field and in the school gymnasium/multi-purpose room. Their banner advertises the GFWC-South Brunswick Islands Club logo and alerts parents and students to the contributions they make to the school. **1 Project, 2 Hours, \$900 Dollars Donated**

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Spring is in the Air: GFWC of Holden Beach chose this theme for its annual *Blooming for a Cause Charity Gala*. Festive pink and lime green table umbrellas and placemats greeted visitors as they entered the venue. Throughout the day attendees were entertained with a fashion show, silent auction, wine auction, 50/50 raffle, a Heads and Tails game, a delicious meal, and a cash bar. The event benefited many community partnerships, new and old, and raised money for *Hope Harbor*, Brunswick County's only domestic violence shelter, and *Providence Home*, the only emergency shelter for troubled teens. Every member of the club participated in one or more Gala Committees, from solicitation of silent auction items to publicity and cleanup. The money raised will significantly impact their community by helping those most in need. In the 15 years of hosting this event the club has donated over \$300,000. **1 Project, 49 Members, 2500 Hours, \$47,989.04 Dollars Raised, \$25,886.00 In-kind Donations**



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Sip & Sign Brunch and Author Book Signing: GFWC Cape Fear Woman's Club (CFWC) hosted a creative event to raise money to impact their community improvement efforts. The event combined author talks by four female authors, a tasty catered brunch, a wine tasting, and a silent auction. It was held in a beautiful venue at the Cape Fear Winery, which was donated due to the club's 501-c-3 status. CFWC partnered with Pelican Bookstore who secured the authors and managed the book sales. Seventy-three tickets were sold at \$75 each. The club also developed new community partners as they solicited items for the silent auction. Planning and organizing the event was a new experience for many of the club members as the club was just organized two years ago and this was their inaugural fundraising event. Excitement mounted and they are already planning improvements for next year's project. **1 Project, 12 Members, 257 Hours, \$6,885 Dollars Raised, \$2,100 In-kind Donations**

Charity Winter Wonderland Gala: The Woman's Club of Raleigh held a first-time event, and they deemed it a spectacular success. The festivities included an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, a five-course dinner, dancing, and silent auction. These activities helped begin the holiday season in a fun and lively manner. Upon arrival, guests traversed the red carpet, entered the clubhouse lit with fairy lights, and received a complimentary glass of champagne. Everyone was dressed in elegant evening attire, and there was a professional photographer on hand to commemorate the evening. Many local sponsors stepped up to help the club with this event. The money raised will have a profound impact on the club's ability to award scholarships and community grants. **1 Project, 65 Members, 625 Hours, \$20,000 Dollars Raised, \$1,374 In-kind Donations**

Our Community Table, a Farm to Fork: The Mebane Woman's Club organized this event to support the club's Community Service Programs. The event featured locally sourced food prepared by chefs from Alamance and surrounding counties. Guests enjoyed a social hour with wine, beer, and appetizers, followed by a five-course meal. Members prided themselves on four things with this event: (1) every member contributed, (2) the money helped their service programs, (3) local chefs were featured, and (4) their community came together to break bread. Partnering with the local high school, students served as the wait staff. A special feature of the event was decorating the venue with photos of how the club's money is used. Stocking food at a local food bank and providing educational materials for a classroom in Haiti are just two of the many examples of worthy projects. The club also shared information on their major programs such as Mebane on the Move, Mebane Community Garden, and the Mebane Trail Rangers. **1 Project, 40 Members, 316 Hours, \$23,750 Dollars Raised**

A Taste of Iredell: The GFWC Statesville Woman's Club used clubhouse and patio décor to set the stage for an elegant evening of tasting, mingling, and appreciating good food, friends, libations, shopping, and music. The event highlighted local restaurants offering a wide variety of edible and beverage choices which guests enjoyed while they mingled and enjoyed the music of the South Iredell High School orchestra. The momentous unveiling of the Wall of Remembrance that honors past presidents and other remarkable members was the highlight. It was a festive, elegant evening that resulted in being able to fund an \$8,000 donation, the largest ever club donation to the Bridge Academy of the YMCA which serves the needs of homeless students. It also helped the club boost their capital campaign to refurbish the clubhouse. **1 Project, 29 Members, 1,248 Hours, \$35,187 Dollars Raised, \$3,004 In-kind Donations**

Taste of Carolina was featured by **The Woman's Club of Clayton** to spread the word about their past and present projects to serve the community. Eleven restaurants submitted fabulous food to be judged in different categories by the Wake Tech Culinary School, tickets were sold for the tasting, and items were collected for the silent auction. The most coveted award is the People's Choice Award that was decided upon by the attendees. The event was such a success that the club will be doing it again next year. **1 Project, 73 Members, 240 Hours, \$25,000 Dollars Raised, \$770 In-kind Donations**

The Holiday Auction-Mistletoe Marketplace hosted by **GFWC South Brunswick Islands** featured a giant charcuterie board that spanned several tables, dessert, cash bar, a silent auction, a live auction, photo booth,

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and incredible entertainment. Past presidents were recognized at the event, and in addition to doing a surprise (entertaining) rendition of the “Twelve Days of Christmas”, several sponsored the event with donations of \$100 each. The \$1,000 cost of the venue was covered through the sponsorship of a local business who is a longstanding supporter of the GFWC-SBI. One club member served as the emcee while another served as the auctioneer for the live auction. Club members sold tickets to the event for \$25 each. Entertainment included a comedic act and a famous singer/songwriter performance. All members were engaged in this event at some level including ticket sales, setup and cleanup, decorations, and assisting with the silent and live auctions. While the Holiday Auction has been a traditional event held at their November Club Meeting, this year the committee gave it a new spin resulting in the largest net profit from this event to date. Funds raised through this effort helped fund many club projects which benefited the entire community. **1 Project, 55 Members, 342 Hours, \$9,485 Dollars Raised, \$9,605 In-kind Donations**

Havana Nights the Annual Charity Ball organized by the **Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman’s Club** included a dinner buffet and live music for listening and dancing enjoyment. Sponsorships for a coffee bar, patio lounge, and a Cuban churro dessert bar also added to the fun. Kendra Scott Jewelry sold gorgeous jewelry for those looking to get a jump start on Christmas shopping. All the sponsors donated a portion of their sales to the club. A silent auction and 50/50 raffle brought in additional money. It was truly a special night which helped fund club projects such as, Sunshine Bins, Story Walk, Baby Blessing Box, and many more. This event was a great way to kick off the holiday season! **1 Project, 45 Members, 289 Hours, \$21, 830 Dollars Raised, \$1,000 In-kind Donations**

Pocket Tree Fundraiser for Note in the Pocket was a project organized by the **Cary Woman’s Club** to raise money for students who are homeless or who have lost their housing and are not attending school because of not having appropriate clothes to wear. The club raised money by hanging “pockets” on their tree in the Town’s Christmas Giving Tree project where residents could take home a pocket and donate to *Note in the Pocket* online to <https://noteinthepocket.org>. Club members hung a total of 200 pockets on the tree which disappeared rapidly. They love their continued partnership with *Note in the Pocket*! **1 Project, 39 Members, 37 Hours, \$2,325 Dollars Raised, \$22 In-kind Donations**

Easter Parade organized by the **Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club** was a fundraiser as well as an art project. Citizens were asked to create entries to be judged for creativity. Entries were built around an Easter hat or basket, and the cost to enter an entry was \$10. The entries were submitted and judged in categories from young children to families or groups. Sponsorships for \$100 were sold and allowed smaller business partners to participate. This project extended the club’s art reputation and strengthened bonds with small businesses. **1 Project, 9 Members, 52 Hours, \$1,718 Dollars Raised, \$135.00 In-kind Donations**

LEADERSHIP:

What is Your Why: In April, the **GFWC Triad Woman’s Club** had the privilege of welcoming Lori Seiler, GFWC-NC Leadership Advancement Plan Co-Chairman, to their monthly club meeting. Since Lori has a rich Federation history and passion for GFWC, club leadership thought she would be a great person to help their members realize what part they play within the organization. She asked the question: “What is Your Why?” and gave each person a small picture frame with this statement to take home. A member enjoyed the program so much she brought this question before her women’s church group and shared it in her church newsletter. This program really made them think, ponder, and realize their purpose in the Federation and in life. **1 Project, 5 Members, 10 Hours, \$50 In-kind Donations**



Not for Profit Tax Status: As the **GFWC Cape Fear Woman’s Club** prepared for their first fundraiser, they knew it was important to obtain 501C3 status. Two members spent hours studying the tax code and instructions. The

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club submitted their application, paid the fee, and obtained 501C3 status six weeks later. **1 Project, 2 Members, 20 Hours, \$200 Dollars Spent**

Creating the Perfect Two Year-Two Step Plan: Administrations come and go quickly. **GFWC of Holden Beach** operates on a two-year rotation. Leaders work hard to create the perfect two-step rotation for orderly transitions to move the organization forward and create stability and continuity. With the establishment of the office of President-elect, they are ready to move the organization forward. They have written plans because they know unwritten plans cause confusion and are not meant to be followed! The President-elect schedules a meeting for current and incoming chairmen to distribute information which includes meeting agendas, award entries, and suggested dates for completion, agendas, scripts and articles. Committee members meet with the President-elect to establish a plan for the coming year. Their leaders never assume a new chairman knows what to do. They explain roles and responsibilities and encourage new chairmen to be creative while working with committee members to develop future projects and programs. The club budget includes a line item for Community Service Program Committees. All Community Service Program and Advancement Area Committee Chairmen are requested to develop a program or project for club participation, to provide a report of information at all club meetings, and an article for each issue of The Communique, their digitally published newsletter sent to every member monthly. **1 Project, 49 Members, 250 Hours**

Welcoming a Younger Generation: The **Mary Stewart Woman's Club** created a Junior Department and recruited four new members of Junior age. One member volunteered to be their mentor to help elect a chairman, establish potential projects, and orient new members to the Federation. **1 Project, 14 Members, 28 Hours, \$250 In-kind Donations**

A Leadership Festival: Chasity Melvin was the speaker at the May 2023 Meeting of **The Woman's Club of Raleigh (TWCR)**. Chasity is a former WNBA, All-Star who served as an assistant in the NBA G League; was an assistant coach for Loyola University Maryland's basketball program and became the first female coach in the history of the Charlotte Hornets franchise when she joined their G League Affiliate, the Greensboro Swarm. She is an outstanding person, a role model for all who meet her, has a passion for helping people reach their full potential, a great mentor, and a true leader. Before the meeting, the club hosted a Celebrating Successful Women Showcase. TWCR celebrates many of their members who are leaders as owners of their own business. These members can talk about their business and distribute business cards to attendees. Club and Individual awards are presented followed by the Installation of the 2023-2025 elected leaders, as well as the new Trustee member for 2023-2028. What a glorious occasion as TWCR celebrated leaders at all levels during this Leadership Festival. **4 Projects, 229 Members, 218 Hours, \$100 Dollars Spent, \$450 In-kind Donations**

The Extra Mile Campaign, Extra, Extra! In 2022, the **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** implemented the Extra Mile campaign. In 2023, the club continued that campaign by asking for each CSP to try to make improvements to their projects by streamlining the process, changing them to be more effective based on historical information, or by adding new projects. Leadership encouraged members to think outside of the box. Every CSP made improvements to projects or added projects, sometimes both. This expanded the reach of their projects, improved quality, implemented new projects, or gave members opportunities to volunteer in new ways. Each CSP reached out of their comfort zones and tried to increase their impact. They awarded the Extra Mile hiking stick, a monthly prize to a member that went the extra mile. Each winner gets to keep it for the month. They often also give a gift of honey for the "Busy Bee Award", or a night light for positivity and the light they give to others. Small tokens, but a real sentiment of thanks for their efforts that others may not have noticed otherwise.

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They have worked diligently to make sure that members hear “thank you” and “great job” from all club leaders.

1 Project, 70 Members, 28 Hours

District 9 Meetings: Camden Woman’s Club is always well represented at all District 9 meetings! Their club was honored to have 4 members serving on the 2023 Executive Board as President, 1st Vice President, Treasurer, and Chaplain. The Club President also attended each Board Meeting. Everyone attending the district meetings gained valuable information about GFWC-NC from the state and district officers. Meetings featured local keynote speakers that captured everyone’s attention. Of course, no GFWC-NC District 9 meeting is complete without the very popular teacup raffle. **4 Projects, 33 Members, 68 Hours, \$160 Dollars Spent, \$40 In-kind Donations**

Not So Boring Board Meetings: Engaging more members in the **GFWC South Brunswick Islands’** Monthly Executive Board meetings has created more informative and exciting meetings. In addition to their Executive Board, Media Coordinator, Historian, and State Officer, they invited CSP Chairmen to join their monthly Board meetings which are held at a Board members’ home or town hall facility. By expanding the participants at these meetings, new ideas and perspectives are shared, and important issues are discussed freely. Board recommendations are shared in a timely manner with all members through their newsletters and general club meetings. The larger group has become more trusting and their goal for transparency has been achieved. CSP Chairmen convey information in their meetings and emails. They socialize, enjoy refreshments, and make more informed decisions by including and inviting more of their members to the table! One member from each CSP will also serve on this year’s Budget Committee. With these leaders “on board” the budgeting proposal for the next year should be more indicative of the club and community’s needs. Future goals include allowing each CSP to have more control over the funds needed for projects and donations thus allowing for more involvement and review of the donations they continue to support while investigating other organizations that need assistance. **2 Projects, 20 Members, 384 Hours, \$30 Dollars Donations, \$400 In-kind Donations**

President’s Leadership Moment: Each month, starting in October, during the general club meeting, the **GFWC-NC Fuquay Varina Junior Woman’s Club** President speaks to educate members on leadership, best practices, and helpful tips to improve their leadership skills. In October, they focused on Fundraising and how to effectively lead a successful fundraiser. Tips included proper organization and time management, as well as delegation and the importance of legitimate contracts. The following month focused on GFWC history and leading well inside of the state and national organization. **3 Projects, 25 Members, 4 Hours**

It’s Going to Be Expensive: In 2022, the **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman’s Club (SWC)** launched the Historic Preservation Capital Campaign to raise funds for clubhouse renovations. In 2023, they learned the cost of the renovations would be \$75,000 more than expected. Acting quickly to save their historic building, affectionately named “The Grand Ole Lady”, the Ways and Means Committee was determined to find innovative fundraisers targeting new audiences. The Marketing Committee focused on publicity resulting in the use of podcasting, digital billboards, banners, and website overhaul. They also solicited a grant from a local business with historic ties to SWC. Utilizing the relationship with the local Chamber of Commerce greatly facilitated networking as a sponsorship tactic. Through proper messaging, we received funds earmarked specifically for the campaign. To date, \$62,000 has been raised thus far! The board is practicing conservative stewardship of monies earned and proactively preparing annual budgets: house rentals, general budget, campaign. Yes, it will be expensive, but the Statesville Woman’s Club resolves to keep their “Grand Ole Lady”. **8 Projects, 14 Members, 1,800 Hours, \$70 In-kind Donations**

LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY:

Enrollment in the Legislative Action Center (LAC): The **Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club (FVWC)** encouraged members & nonmembers to enroll in LAC. The publicity team



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created a flyer with a QR code that directs the individual to the LAC site. The flyer also provided detailed instructions on how to sign up to use the site to advocate for public policies. FVWC posted the LAC on their Facebook page, so signup was only a click away. **1 Project, 38 Members, 18 Hours**

The Power of You: A GFWC Advocacy Training Series: The Triad Woman's Club encourages their members to move from a volunteer to an advocate and to attend GFWC free webinars for assistance on how to do just that. The goal is for their members to become more comfortable with legislative advocacy. Members can do so by listening to the GFWC Legislation "The Power of You" webinars to learn what advocacy is and civic engagement strategies to influence local, state, and federal legislators. **1 Project, 4 Members, 4 Hours**

Proclamations: Inaugural National Day of Service: To bring awareness of food insecurity in their town and county, **GFWC-South Brunswick Islands** members worked with municipal staff to develop proclamations regarding food insecurity and The National Day of Service. The proclamations were read and declared on September 30th as "Step Up to End Hunger Day of Service" in Brunswick County and Shallotte. For the County Proclamation all Brunswick County GFWC Clubs were invited to participate and attend the Board of Commissioners meeting for the presentation of the proclamation. Each participating club received a signed, framed copy of the proclamation. **2 Projects, 55 Members, 31 Hours**

Grassroots Advocacy Becomes State GFWC Legislative Action Center Alert: This project, which began from reading a newspaper article, initially was to be a way for **GFWC of Holden Beach** members and GFWC-NC District 7 to voice their opinions to local legislators on Bills before the North Carolina General Assembly. Because of their membership in GFWC, they were afforded the opportunity to utilize the GFWC Legislative Action Center to make it a one- step process for every member in GFWC of North Carolina.

1 Project, 49 Members, 115 Hours

Legislation and Public Policy at Monthly Club Meetings: At their monthly **GFWC-South Brunswick Islands** club meetings, updates on State and Federal legislative issues were communicated to the membership. In addition, members were encouraged to attend the GFWC-NC District and State meetings. At the October meeting, 30 minutes of the meeting was devoted for members to enroll in the Legislative Action Center and act on the following: 1) Protect Children Online Alert 2) Support Increased Funding for Services to Victims of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. **1 Project, 50 members, 88 hours**

Local Museums Matter: Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club members engaged in supporting the preservation of their town's Museums. A petition campaign in support of the museums and to demonstrate to the town that its citizens understand the value of and support the museums. The petition campaign gathered almost 1,000 signatures to show support to potential donors, Town Management, and to help secure funding for the building.

1 Project, 70 members 49 Hours, \$556 In-kind Donations

Continuous Advocation and Monthly Newsletter Updates: After several years of inactivity, the **GFWC-South Brunswick Islands** monthly newsletter was revived at the beginning of this club year. The intent is for it to serve as a useful communication tool for members containing information on all things GFWC from the local, district, state, and international levels. This newsletter is packed full of helpful information and keeps members up to date on Legislative issues, current State, and Federal Alerts. Members are also reminded and encouraged to act so their legislators know how they want them to vote. **1 Project, 55 Members, 50 hours**

GFWC LAC Enrollment: At every **GFWC of Holden Beach** meeting, enrollment, and a particular item on the GFWC LAC is discussed and action is asked to be taken by the members. The Club Legislation and Public Policy Chairman maintains a list of all actions taken by members and responses received. A copy of the responses for each is sent to GFWC. **1 Project, 49 Members, 155 Hours**

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Flag Retirement: The **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** partnered with the American Legion and three local Girl Scout Troops to collect tattered flags at several collection sites in town. This project spanned from Memorial Day until Flag Day. The Girl Scout Troops respectfully and properly disposed of 40 torn and ragged flags. Club members collected flags weekly from the collection sites and delivered all the collected flags to the American Legion. **1 Project, 36 Members, 50 Hours**

Bylaws and Parliamentary Procedure: The bylaws and standing rules of **GFWC-South Brunswick Islands** are reviewed annually. With a recent increase in new members, it was necessary to review parliamentary procedures to familiarize them with "Robert's Rules of Order". To educate, bring awareness, and increase participation and efficiency in meetings, the Club's Parliamentarian provided each member with a handout explaining proper procedures for holding a meeting, as well as how to correctly propose and vote on motions. **1 Project, 55 Members, 30 Hours, \$30 In-kind Donations**

MEMBERSHIP:

Retention: With Love from the Club : **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club's (FVWC)** sent birthday cards to members to celebrate with love from the club. Cards were brought to meetings and Connect Events for members to sign for members who were ill, recovering, or experiencing a loss. Eleven Connect Events, usually lunches with walks, craft projects and/or museum visits were scheduled. Members and prospective members walked and talked while enjoying exercise and fresh air. Members were encouraged to take part in all CSP projects, and to meet other members. This increased CSP collaboration and showcased members' talents. New members were given the historic club cookbook with hopes they will gather the ingredients they need to start "cooking" with FVWC. To keep things simmering, mentoring was encouraged so new members would feel connected. Invitations to Connect Walks, the Connect Social, Meetings, and Fuquay Varina Junior Woman's Club events were highlighted. This year long project fostered inclusion and friendship. **6 projects, 70 members, 654 hours, \$110 Spent, \$1,550 In-kind**



The Woman's Club of Raleigh's focus on membership includes a **New Member Project**. They organize, choose their leader and project, which gives them an opportunity to get to know each other. After hearing a speaker from the USO at a general meeting, the 2023 New Member Class decided on the direction for their project. They visited the USO at Raleigh Durham Airport as their first step. While talking with the manager, they discovered that nursing mothers had to use a chair in the corner of the bathroom to nurse their babies and take care of their children. This was not ideal, so they worked with the USO Region Manager, to produce a space and a plan. They removed everything from a designated office and made decisions about furniture and colors. A loveseat was added with a cover that could be wiped down, a mirror, lamps, tables, pillows, a rug, and art. The final task was naming the space. They decided to call it the Comfort Room so mothers and military personnel would know it could be used to bring their families comfort and relaxation. The plaque on the wall says it all - over 2,000 visitors pass through each month!! What a change this room created for everyone involved! **1 project, 21 Members, 113 hours, \$952 Spent, \$114 In-kind**

Public Utility, Public Visibility: To promote membership, **GFWC of Holden Beach** decided to return to basics. Receiving information through the mail, rather than social media or online outreach, can be a well-received change of pace. After all, what is old is new again, right?! The Town of Holden Beach has over 2,000 residents and property owners. After speaking with the town manager, an insert was designed, produced, and placed in the March utility bill. The insert contained information about the club, its programs, and The Little Free Library that members designed, built, and donated to the Town of Holden Beach Park. The bill reaches year-round residents and renters. Inquiries were received and two guests attended the April meeting and one joined. Another property owner, moving to Holden Beach, requested additional information. The goals were realized

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when potential new members expressed interest and positive feedback was received. **1 Project, 49 Members, 25 Hours, \$120 Spent**

Creation of a Junior Department: Mary Stewart Woman's Club (MSWC) is dedicated to the longevity of the Federation. The Club held a social event and invited three young women, who were the daughters of members and encouraged them to invite a friend or two. They were interested in becoming members. The only question was how best to support them. Options were discussed and they agreed on a Junior Department to "wet their feet." The Club Vice President serves as a mentor for the group to educate them on forming a Junior Club and how to participate. The junior members planned and hosted four projects during the club year. **3 Projects, 18 Members, 24 Hours, \$80 Spent**

Everyone Just Wants to Belong: Recognizing the 80/20 rule, the **Statesville Woman's Club** board agreed it is easy to allow 20% percent of the club to do 80% of the work, but if it were allowed to persist, new and older members would get complacent. To ensure all members had a role in club happenings, the first step was to survey areas of interest and tally results. GFWC Community Service Programs (CSP) were realigned into three Community Service Teams (CST), assuring all five CSPs were incorporated. Members were assigned to a CST based on their survey. At the September meeting, committees were represented by color and name. Meeting attendees were directed to sit with their teammates marked by team-colored tablecloths and balloons. CSTs rotate meetings to host the programs, plan refreshments, and decorations twice a year. Meeting for coffee or drinks or sharing a meal were popular and e-mails, texts, cards, zoom, and phone calls were recommended and will continue to be included in Statesville Woman's Club's plans. **4 Projects, 28 Members, 560 Volunteer Hours, \$214 Dollars Spent, \$894 In-Kind**

Now You Know: To foster retention and enhance involvement, the **GFWC of Holden Beach** Membership Vice President emailed a summary of each monthly general meeting to members not present. With each Now You Know letter, members were informed of programs, committee reports, and important dates. Each letter is different depending on the current club focus so members that are unable to attend can continue to be connected. Through this outreach, eighty-three contacts were made. The Now You Know letter fostered involvement and retention. To focus on recruitment, a list of potential members was maintained. The Communique newsletter was sent to keep them in the know. The newsletter provides info on who opens it, how many times, and clicks on articles. One woman moving to Holden Beach is excited to join because of the newsletter. **15 Members, 25 Hours**

NC Sorosis has strategized ways to continue advertising the club. They use **Purse Cards** and provide them to the members for distribution. These cards are printed with information about meeting times, NC Sorosis history, club mission, projects and benevolences, and website and Facebook information. Members are reminded to replenish their supply of purse cards as needed. This has been an effective recruiting tool. At all fund-raising events, purse cards, contact information cards, and club brochures are provided to prospective members. This year, 11 cards were collected, and invitations were sent to attend the Meet and Greet. At community events, members wear **"ASK ME" buttons** and aprons with the club logo to encourage questions and conversation about NC Sorosis. The "ASK Me" buttons, aprons, and purse cards are vital tools for recruitment and awareness of NC Sorosis. **51 Members, 960 Hours**

Increase Membership – We Can Do It! Due to a decrease in membership, **Wake Forest Woman's Club (WFWC)** met to brainstorm ideas on how to retain members and increase membership one month at a time. In January, they hosted an afternoon "Meet and Greet." To help retain members, CSP Chairmen were asked to assign a veteran buddy CSP member to help acclimate each new club member joining their CSP. In February, the four new members from the "Meet & Greet" were recognized at the club's meeting, given a rose, informational packet, and nametag. Membership Orientation Meetings were held for the four newest members and any

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member who would like to attend. Also, in February, the Membership Interest Form on the club's website was updated. In March, the club added an Instagram account, Facebook posts were increased, and they shared the GFWC Promotional Video. In April, club members' anniversaries were recognized. The May Banquet included awards. In July, two club members appeared on the CBS My Carolina segment to promote the club's Art in the Park event. In August, they hosted a "Meet and Greet" to kick off the new club year, including food and fellowship. Five new members were welcomed at the September meeting. Seeing WFWC in action at community events, on social media, and inviting friends to meetings resulted in 13 new members in 2023. **1 Project, 140 Members, 86 Hours, \$75 Spent, \$450 In-Kind Donations**

Prospective Member Socials: The **Mebane Woman's Club** was founded in 2001 and has had a positive impact in the community. During COVID, the club struggled with membership and was fractured over vaccinations and beliefs. Membership and meeting attendance dropped. They researched how other clubs were increasing membership and engagement by attending GFWC meetings and interviewing guests who did not join. They realized that guests visiting the business meetings felt left out, confused, and overwhelmed so they changed our process. In 2023, prospective members completed an online application directed to the VP of Membership. They receive an email and a call to invite them to the next prospective membership social and encouraging them to visit the website. This process allows them to get to know five current members, ask questions, and enjoy dinner. Since the prospective member socials were held an hour before monthly meetings, it encourages current members to participate too. Members were so excited to see the growth in our club and in 2023 the Mebane Woman's Club added seventeen new members and three previous returned. **10 Projects, 12 Members, 20 Hours**

Getting to Know Us is a Membership initiative that provides monthly small group gatherings where prospective members engage with a few current members. It is a casual information session, and refreshments include pizza and beverages. The cost of the pizza is partly covered by the GFWC membership grant. Getting to Know Us is held from 6-8pm on the third Thursday of each month. The time slot works for people whose schedules do not allow for daytime event participation. A brief history of GFWC, GFWC-NC, and **The Woman's Club of Raleigh**, is shared. Each current member shares some favorite activities and experiences to encourage conversation and interest. In addition, they have a small project that helps prospective members learn about ongoing events. Without exception, the prospective members say this is a valuable way to become better acquainted with the extensive opportunities that membership in The Woman's Club of Raleigh would afford them. **9 Projects, 25 Members, 24 hours \$90 Spent \$25 In-Kind Donations**

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER:

Historic Connections to New Members: Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club (FVWC) held 3 new member meetings to offer background and information about the federation and club. These meetings are called FVWC 101 and started with the club historian teaching the history of FVWC from 1926 to present day, their historic clubhouse, and its contents. She covered larger projects that were impactful to the town, like starting the Fuquay-Varina Public Library, with FVWC members administering the library and the moves made along the way, being a driving force advocating for early streetlights in town, and the building of the clubhouse and how it was financed. The Treasurer presented the history of GFWC-NC, GFWC, and legislation that has passed because of our Federation. FVWC is the oldest service organization in the town, with a rich history that has been preserved well. **4 Projects, 130 Hours, \$ 170.00 In-kind Donations**



Historically Speaking: In 2023 **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club (FVWC)** partnered with Fuquay-Varina Museums to document the FVWC history, the club's Jennie Award State Winner, and the Strong Women of Fuquay. The FVWC candidate for the Jennie Award was selected as the State representative. As a valued club and community

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member, her exceptional efforts in Fuquay-Varina and North Carolina were filed with the Fuquay-Varina Museums for historical record and significance. She is the club historian and drove the effort to have it placed on the Historical Register. She started the Fuquay-Varina Garden Club and co-founded the Fuquay-Varina Museums. She has detailed current events, saved the records from the defunct local newspaper from destruction, and worked her magic to renovate the old two room schoolhouse and post office. FVWC is proud of these efforts and the dedication this member has to their town and to the accurate representation of its history. **3 Projects, 35 Hours, \$25 In-kind Donations**

Archival Activities and Data Digitization: The Weir-Jordan House has served as a repository for records and historical documents of the **Greensboro Woman's Club** for 100 years. Their "archivists", a group of club women who are interested in preserving historic artifacts have cataloged and organized these stored materials. To safely preserve the records a member contacted the Greensboro History Museum for advice. They were referred to staff at the Special Collections and University Archives Center at UNC-G who welcomed the Club's documents for digitizing and inclusion in the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections & University Archives. All originals will be safely stored at the UNC-G Center of Special Collections. For over 100 years, the Greensboro Woman's Club has served the community, and they have the documentation to attest to this history. **12 members, 77 hours**

Archives: Preserving Our History: The Woman's Club of Raleigh clubhouse has an Archives room for club history and documents. An immediate need was to find a system where information could be located when needed. In February, the Archives Chairman and a new member decided to spend one morning a week in the archives room. The Chairman and the President would hold the only key so that new items would not be added until a new system was established. The plan quickly unfolded! First, the financial documents were organized, placed in labeled drawers, while some were discarded. Drawers were labeled (by decades) for year-end reports, awards, minutes of board and general meetings, fundraising, and history. To preserve club history, yearbooks were organized and bound in groups of 5 with lettering on the spine indicating the club years in each volume. **1 Project, 3 Members, 202 Hours, \$52 In-Kind Donations**

Business Model Analysis and Transition: The Weir-Jordan House (WJH) Board of Trustees, along with the **Greensboro Woman's Club** Executive Board were forced to examine several avenues to move forward after the loss of their in-house caterer. Due to the advanced age of the venue's commercial kitchen equipment and soon-to-be mandated upgrades, the WJH needed to move to another operational model. The kitchen will become a "receiving kitchen" with vetted caterers serving food prepared off-site. A part-time Venue Manager was hired to execute this new model. Club members donated needed items while others made monetary contributions to help with operating expenses. Simultaneously, other issues to deal with were plumbing repairs, painting, yard maintenance, electrical issues, air conditioning maintenance, kitchen electrical issues, and parking lot maintenance. Preserving this house is synonymous to preserving the history of the Greensboro Woman's Club. Dedicated Board of Trustees members believe in the importance of historic preservation. **1 Project, 35 Members, 285 hours, \$3,570 In-kind Donations**

Weir-Jordan House (WJH) Venue Support Team: Due to budget limitations, the position of WJH Venue Manager has limited hours. Several clubwomen volunteered to assist in overseeing events, taking care of basic duties. With clubwomen in this position, they can share the history of the WJH and the **Greensboro Woman's Club** with rental clients. Many clients have little knowledge of the service that the Greensboro Woman's Club provides to the community. Members working events can spread the word about the history and community impact of the club and Federation. **1 Project, 18 Members, 261 Hours**

Modern Yearbook for the Ages: The **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** Yearbook was created and kept on a digital platform this year. With an online presence members can access these resources when needed and they are

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backed up for added protection. The yearbook committee requested photos from all CSPs and projects. The yearbook chronicles community connections with businesses, non-profits, and individuals. FVWC yearbooks are filed with the Fuquay-Varina Museums for viewing by visitors and for safe long-term storage. While this is quite the task, it is worth the effort to save the history of projects and community connections for the ages. **1 Project, 1 Member, 16 Hours**

GFWC Marquee: Camden Woman's Club donated \$1000 to GFWC for the repair of the original iron marquee located over the doorway of the Washington, DC building that has served as GFWC headquarters for over 100 years. Preserving this iconic piece of GFWC history was the focus for the 2023 Annual Giving campaign. The goal was to raise \$75,000 for GFWC and the Woman's History & Resource Center. **1 Project, 45 Members, 1 Hour, \$1,000 Donated**

Read All About It! The **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** monthly newsletters are carefully curated with each officer giving thanks, thoughts, and overviews of the month's projects, reminders for deadlines, CSPs offering information about upcoming projects and requests, the monthly budget recap, and updates from all standing committees. Compiling this amount of information each month is taxing, but the newsletter crew makes it happen, on time, in pdf format. Photos are curated from prior projects and included in the newsletter making it a fun and interesting read. **1 Project, 40 Hours**

Salute to NC Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the NC Flag is said at all General Meetings of **The Woman's Club of Raleigh**. Every guest who attends asks about the salute to the NC flag. New members learn about it in orientation. To coincide with Women's History month, Juanita Bryant wrote the following article for our club newsletter: Did You Know? History of the Salute to the North Carolina Flag, By: Juanita Bryant
I served as the President of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs from 1968-1970. At the time, the Federation had 16 Districts across the state. The 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents toured the state during the summer to provide training sessions at each District Meeting. The President and Director of Juniors toured the state in the fall for each of the District's Annual Meetings. I had the opportunity of staying in the home of two sisters from a small club in the eastern part of the state (below Faison and Burgaw) that kept the club active. They asked me why I did not use the Salute to the flag of North Carolina along with the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. I responded by telling them I was unaware of the Salute. They responded by telling me that it follows the Pledge to the U.S. flag and that you extend your right arm, palm up and recite, "I salute the flag of North Carolina and pledge to the old North State love, loyalty and faith." Following this visit, I introduced it to the North Carolina clubwomen and the state, districts, and clubs have used it at each meeting since. In the 1980's a Statesville clubwoman advised me that she had researched it and could never find that it had been officially adopted. Clubwomen went to work along with the Wake County Democratic Women, as they also used the Salute at their meetings. I contacted Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin in the North Carolina House and Senator Katie Dorsett in the North Carolina Senate. They were successful in getting it in both the House and the Senate. However, we had to wait one session as there were those who wanted to tie this in with prayer in schools. GFWC-NC clubwomen wanted it to stand alone. We are grateful to Senator Dorsett and Representative Goodwin for all they did along with the Clubwomen and the Democratic Women. The Salute to the North Carolina Flag was approved by the General Assembly in 2007. The bill was passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate. Today it is widely used in clubs and political groups across the state. North Carolina is the seventeenth state to adopt an official flag pledge. ' I salute the flag of North Carolina and pledge to the old North State love, loyalty, and faith. "**1 Project, 200 Members, 2 Hours**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE & AWARENESS PREVENTION



Local Shelter Support: During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the **A. L. Brown Juniette Club**, received information about Domestic Violence Awareness and how to prevent and avoid it. From this they had two main projects. (1) Club members collected cleaning supplies and paper products, and (2) members made purple ribbons and sold them for donations for their local shelter. These Juniettes donated \$100 along with the cleaning supplies to their local shelter, CVAN. They collected \$120 at their JV Football game in honor of CVAN. **4 Projects, 77 Members, 20 Hours, \$220 Dollars Donated, \$200 In-kind Donations**

Safe Alliance: For more than 100 years, Safe Alliance has been providing hope and healing to those impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. Their services include a hot line, shelter, trauma center, victim assistance court program, and counseling. **Charlotte Woman's Club** focused on the Mecklenburg County shelter which provides nineteen apartment-style suites for families and single adults. Additionally, they provided the shelter with most urgent priority needs, including a stroller, two Pac 'n Plays, sheet sets, comforter, towels, laundry pods, diapers, wipes, and deodorant. Providing some of the basic needs and uplifting survivors during chaotic, traumatic times. **2 Projects, 23 Members, 17 Hours, \$1,070 Dollars Donated**

Hello to the Holidays: Saying *"Hello to the Holidays"* has never been more fun and supported a better cause than when the **Clayton Junior Woman's Club** welcomed the 2023 Holiday Season. On November 9th at the rustic, yet elegant Twin Oaks Barn, the Clayton Juniors dressed in sparkly jewel tones and hosted a fun-filled fashion show to showcase trending holiday attire that would take any wardrobe through the holiday season. Drawing on local retailers, the Clayton Juniors assembled the fashion show to include looks such as Gathering for Family Holiday Pictures, Thanksgiving Meal, Hallmark Movie Hibernation, Razzle Dazzle Holiday Party, Ugly Sweater Office Party, and several others. Event tickets were available in two tiers and sold by club members. Top tier VIP ticketholders were offered a special goodie bag, a champagne welcome, and a dedicated seat along the raised runway for viewing the looks. All tickets included food, unlimited drinks, and of course access to the fashion. The Clayton Juniors were able to auction off some of the fashions featured in the show via a silent auction. They offered gift baskets, and a gift certificate for a facial to obtain that desired flawless holiday look. *"Hello to the Holidays"* was held to help say goodbye to domestic violence and bring awareness to the mission of Harbor House, a Domestic Violence Safe Haven for Women and Children in Johnston County, NC. **1 Project, 9 Members, 250 Hours, \$1,200 Dollars Donated, \$1,500 In-kind Donations**

Interact's Pass It On Thrift Store Donations: Seven **Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club** members donated a total of more than 15 large bags of quality clothing, shoes, and accessories to *"Pass It On"*, InterAct's Thrift Store in Fuquay-Varina that supports victims of domestic violence. Survivors and their families who receive services at InterAct can shop at the *"Pass It On"* Thrift Store, at no cost, to help rebuild their lives. This club brought in donations at their October General Meeting and delivered them on the following day. While it's difficult to estimate the value of the clothing, it is estimated to be \$5,000. Several members of the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club joined in with beautiful donations, making this a great collaborative project between the two clubs. **2 Projects, 20 Members, 19 Hours, \$5,000 In-kind Donations**

SAFE Dreams: Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club focused on a new Special Project that would benefit SAFE Domestic Violence Shelter by gathering items on the shelter's needs list. Each person entering the shelter at SAFE gets a new pillow that they take with them when they transition to their own home. Club members donated pillows, and created notes of encouragement to attach to each in English and Spanish in hopes the recipients

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realize a life free of violence. To increase the outreach on this project, they placed bins at seven locations with posters describing the project and a 25-sheet pad of items needed. They published the SAFE Dreams project on their Facebook and Instagram pages with images that gave donation items, photos of the bins along with @mentions for the businesses hosting the bins for them, posting each location and list multiple times. Club members gathered enough goods to fill seven SUVs and cars. Items ranged from sheets, dish and clothes detergents, hair care products for all ethnicities, paper towels, lotions, tampons and pads, cleaning supplies, towels, deodorants, pots and pans, comforters, diapers, books and toys for children, pajamas and clothing, office supplies, coffee, and of course, pillows with encouraging notes plus much more. These items were delivered to the offices of SAFE. Club members sincerely hope the recipients will have SAFE Dreams and will move into a violence free life. **2 Projects, 57 Members, 123 Hours, \$ 1,471 in-kind Donations**

The Clothesline Project: At the 2022 GFWC Southeastern Conference, a Clothesline Project presentation was made that caused two friends from two clubs to plan a joint project with t-shirts displayed at two libraries. **GFWC of Holden Beach** club member served as facilitator and it quickly morphed into a complex, cooperative effort to raise domestic and sexual violence awareness and prevention in the local community. The project involved four GFWC clubs in Brunswick County to cover its five libraries and adding a sister club, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Women's Club, Horry County, SC, to cover their library.

An email explaining the idea invited five clubs to attend a Zoom Meeting to discuss the possibility of completing the project. All five clubs were interested, and the first meeting was held January 18th. The following decisions were made: (1) Participating Clubs: GFWC-Cape Fear Woman's Club, GFWC of Holden Beach, GFWC North Myrtle Beach, GFWC South Brunswick Islands, and Southport Woman's Club; (2) Hope Harbor Home and Boys and Girls Homes of NC decorated the t-shirts. Decorated t-shirts were displayed during April 2023 at Leland and Rourk Libraries and during May 2023 at Southwest Brunswick Library, Harper Library and North Myrtle Beach Library. The displays all had hand painted t-shirts, but each display was as unique as GFWC club members and those who painted the t-shirts. **1 Project, 49 Members, 235 Hours, \$150 Dollars Donated, \$415 In-kind Donations**

The Clothesline Project: Members of the **GFWC-Cape Fear Woman's Club** took a slightly different spin on The Clothesline Project, which is a visual display of t-shirts representing violence statistics that often go ignored. Each shirt is made by a survivor of violence or by someone who has lost a loved one to violence. The color of each shirt represents a different type of violence. The purpose of the project is to increase awareness of the impact of violence and abuse, to honor a survivor's strength to continue, and to provide another avenue for them to courageously break the silence that often surrounds their experience. This club's display was at the Leland Public Library and was up for the month of April. They had the children from The Boys & Girls Home of North Carolina decorate the t-shirts. They included a banner with the club's name, brochures about the club, and information about the purpose of the project. Other GFWC clubs in the County (GFWC South Brunswick Islands, GFWC of Holden Beach, and GFWC-Southport Woman's Club) all participated in the project. This club also loaned their clothesline to the Southport Woman's Club. **12 Members, 12 Hours, \$210 in-kind donations**

The Clothesline Project originated in Hyannis, Massachusetts in 1990. The project uses a display of shirts designed by women who experienced some form of sexual or domestic violence. They tell their story in their own words or artwork and, in doing so, find healing and bring awareness to those who view the display. **GFWC-South Brunswick Islands** partnered with other local clubs GFWC Cape Fear Woman's Club, GFWC of Holden Beach, GFWC North Myrtle Beach, and GFWC Southport Woman's Club to sponsor the Clothesline Project in Brunswick County. Club members set up the display at the Rourk Branch Library in Shallotte. The t-shirts were on display during the Month of May. Flyers with contact information were included in the display. The Brunswick Beacon, local newspaper, featured project in the June 22 issue of the paper. **1 Project, 4 Members, 25 hours, \$35 In-kind Donations**

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Be FREE Sticker Campaign/Podcast Support: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention topics were determined to be opportune foci for the **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club (SWC)** podcast, *A Servant's Heart*. A domestic violence advocate from a local shelter was interviewed by the President in the podcast. Actions that the local community and SWC could pursue were identified. As a result of this conversation, the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program (CSP) elected to position this topic as a priority for action in 2024.

Part two of the Signature Project podcast featured a discussion between the President and Vice President on statistics and incidence in our region. The conversation enlightened listeners who may underestimate the commonness of female exploitation in this heinous manner. Attempting to spur other nonprofit entities into action, the "Dress a Girl" project implemented by a Woman's Club in Vermont (as a President's project) was cross promoted.

The SWC "BEFREE" sticker campaign was launched in December. Members were provided stickers containing Human Trafficking hotline QR codes for dissemination in women's restrooms and other strategic locations.

3 Projects, 24 Members, 54 Hours, \$10 In-Kind Donations

Next Step Ministries-Victim Support Bags: **GFWC-Triad Woman's Club** collected and filled 12 bags with lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, tissues, deodorant, mints, pens, post-it-notes, sanitary pads/tampons, combs, and lip balm. Included in these small bags was a note card with a note of encouragement to the recipient. The inscription on the outside of the bags had the saying, "Always remember that you are Braver than you believe, Stronger than you seem, Smarter than you think and loved more than you know!" The bags were delivered to Next Step Ministries in Kernersville to be given to the residents at their safe house. **1 Project, 5 Members, 5 Hours, \$170 In-kind Donations**

JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN



March of Dimes: GFWC- South Brunswick Islands continued its support of the March of Dimes. In promotion of the 2023 Walk for Babies "A Mother of a Movement", one GFWC-SBI clubwoman attended the Kick-off Rally in Myrtle Beach, SC and serves as the Brunswick County MOD representative. All club members were invited to participate in the 2023 March for Babies in May. A budgeted donation of \$1,000 was made to MOD which was applied to the GFWC-SBI Team total. Through advertising efforts to build their team, members donated an additional \$386 to the event. This was accomplished in part through the link added to our Club's Facebook page to accept donations and encourage members to participate. The club's Sewing Committee completed 7 no-sew fleece blankets of varying children's themes and one member hand-crocheted a baby blanket for the MOD Blanket Challenge program. These eight blankets were mailed to the Georgia distribution center for delivery to military families upon the birth of their babies. Six members participated virtually in the March for Babies Walk in May 2023. **5 Projects, 55 Members, 35 Hours, \$1,060 Dollars Donated, \$546 In-kind Donations**

Bike Rodeo: The Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club (FVJWC) hosted its first Bike Rodeo on October 22nd, the 1st day of Advocates for Children week, where they provided free bike helmets, bikes, and safety information to kids in the community. This was a community event with several partnerships formed. (1) FVJWC received 100 bike helmets after successfully applying for a helmet grant through the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Helmets ranged in size from toddlers to adults, and nearly all were given out to kids at the event. (2) The Fuquay-Varina Police Department helped support the bike rodeo by sending several officers, disseminating bike safety information, helping kids navigate a bike obstacle course, and helping kids select the right size helmet for optimal safety. The department's car seat inspection specialist also offered car seat

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inspections for interested attendees. (3) The Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church donated space at their Fall Festival for the FVJWC to host this special event. (4) Play It Again Sports in Holly Springs donated 20 bikes of varying sizes to give away to kids who registered. (5) The FVJWC club provided bike spoke decorations as giveaways and led a bike license plate craft for the kids. Over 100 kids attended the bike rodeo, and everyone was excited to receive helmets and goodies. **1 Project, 10 Members, 17 Hours**

Jared Boxes: Jared McMullen was diagnosed with an incurable brainstem tumor in 1999. He carried a backpack full of toys and games to all appointments and questioned why other children didn't bring toys to their exam rooms. Jared shared his toys and invited the other children to join him in a game of UNO. At just 5 years old, he demonstrated faith, wisdom, and compassion for others. For more than 20 years Jared Boxes have brought the gift of play through toys in a box to young patients as they navigate through their hospital experience. At the **Charlotte Woman's Club** December meeting, 22 of their members filled boxes for Levine Children's Hospital. The club provided \$181.00 to purchase plastic shoe boxes, crayons, card games, puzzles, and activity sheets. Club members also provided fun, fuzzy socks, and activity books. The boxes were filled, decorated with stickers, and delivered to the hospital. **1 Project, 22 Members, 50 Hours, \$181 Dollars Donated, \$524 In-kind Donations**

Shoe Boxes: Since its inception in the mid-60's, the **Junior Woman's Club of Charlotte** has provided thousands of pairs of shoes and socks to Charlotte's children. To identify the children with the most need, JWCC partners with Thompson Family Services - a company that provides clinical and prevention services for children and families across the Carolinas by empowering them through therapy, education and prevention-based care. Within Thompson, JWCC directly supports the 56 children within their program called "Friends of the Children - Charlotte". This program focuses on Charlotte's most vulnerable children - living well below the poverty level - and pairs them with long-term mentors, referred to as a "Friend", for 12.5 years. We divide this project into two events, one in Fall and the other in Spring, with 30 children supported in each. **2 Projects, 5 Members, 24 Hours, \$2,000 Dollars Donated**

Confidence Project: All five members of the **Junior Woman's Club of Charlotte** partnered with The Confidence Project to not only support a fellow clubwoman's organization, but also to further help the underserved children in the Charlotte area by providing them with personal hygiene products. For the Spring Shoe Closet project, the members of JWCC also provided 56 Confidence Kits to all of the children that are a part of Thompson Family Services' Friends of the Children program. The kits were provided to the Events Director at Thompson, who then provided them to all of the children and used them in their education sessions about hygiene and its importance. The club was informed once all kits had been distributed and it was also noted that all of the children were excited and eager to use the kits provided. JWCC and The Confidence Project's partnership has inspired a desire to maintain good hygiene in these children and is excited to continue this new project in the future. **1 Project, 5 Members, 1 Hour, \$ 300 Dollars Donated, \$ 1,000 In-kind Donations**

2033 Books for Wake up and Read: **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** gathered 2033 books for Wake Up and Read by asking members for donations and placing donation boxes in the library and the arts center. When Wake Up and Read distributed the books to the schools, members were invited to help children choose ten books that were reading level appropriate. The members who took part said it was a joyful event watching children excited about their new books! Members also donated ten new books and participated in Read for the Record, which had them reading the chosen book to school classes then donating the book to the school library at each school. One member even read the book to her grandchild's class in Hawaii and donated a book there. **15 Projects, 70 Members, 51 Hours, \$750 Dollars Donated, \$1,270 In-kind Donations**

At Risk Children's Project: In March **GFWC- South Brunswick Islands** welcomed Ray Cockrell, Chief Mission Officer of Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina (BGHNC), as their guest speaker. BGHNC is committed to

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providing a comprehensive array of residential and community-based services to meet the needs of vulnerable children and youth by addressing their physical, emotional, mental, behavioral, social, educational, and spiritual development. A \$1,000 donation was presented from GFWC-SBI to Mr. Cockrell. In February, six members of the Health & Wellness CSP visited the BGHNC campus in Lake Waccamaw for a tour and to deliver two clothes baskets packed with many of their wish list items. They enjoyed meeting the new President/CEO Marc Murphy and touring the campus. When a petition alleging abuse or neglect of a juvenile is filed in district court, the judge appoints a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem advocate and an attorney advocate to provide team representation to the child. There are currently 200+ children in need in Brunswick County. Two GFWC-SBI members serve as guardians with Brunswick County. **3 Projects, 55 Members, 290 Hours, \$1,100 Dollars Donated, \$50 In-kind Donations**

Toiletry Donations: North Wilkesboro Woman's Club continues to support the needs of residents at J. Iverson Riddle Home in Morganton. Club members donated body wash, shampoo, deodorant, lip balm, body lotion, shaving crème, feminine products, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and shower soaps. Coloring books, crayons, drawing pads, and small puzzles were also included. Members received thank you notes from the residents for their gifts. **1 Project, 8 Members, 9 Hours, \$87 In-Kind Donations**

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child: In November the **Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club (FVJWC)** filled twenty shoebox sized containers with toys and personal hygiene items to send abroad through the Operation Christmas Child program by Samaritan's Purse. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. Members brought in donations to fill each box. The items collected included small toys, combs, pencils and notepads, tissues, sunglasses, and more. Our club created ten boxes for a small boy, ages 3-5 and ten boxes for a small girl, ages 3-5. **1 Project, 33 Members, 33 Hours, \$200 Dollars Donate, \$700 In-kind Donations**

Read and Feed: Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club partnered with the Read and Feed organization by supporting students, their families, and tutors with a hot meal on five dates: February 13, March 20, May 1, October 30, and November 27. The Read and Feed organization provides tutoring to students at Fuquay-Varina Elementary School that need extra help in reading. Each night at Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church, food was provided by FVJWC for approximately 80 people, with families often going home with a to-go bag. A lead food coordinator organized the food and several club members helped set up, serve food, and clean up each night. **5 Projects, 16 Members, 35 Hours, \$1,370 In-kind Donations**

Thank you!

...to ALL our GFWC-NC Clubs for the outstanding work you completed across our great state and in your communities in 2023! Thank you for sharing your information via the State Statistical Form Report and Award Entries. We appreciate ALL of you and commend you on your accomplishments!