

## 2015 GFWC-NC Arts Community Service Projects Top Ten Projects

1. **The Woman's Club of Clayton**, working with Clayton Visual Arts and six local businesses, sponsored an event called Christmas in Clayton. Six historic homes in Clayton were toured, with TWCC clubhouse being the headquarters and starting place for the tour event. There was historic information, refreshments and two artists exhibiting their work at the clubhouse. The homes were decorated for Christmas and featured local artwork holiday festive music. While quests toured homes, others took horse drawn carriage rides and shopped at local shops. The money raised from this project was donated to nine local middle school and high school art teachers. 20 members participated with donations of 300 hours and \$75 with \$5100 in-kind donations.
2. Club women worked at the **Burlington Woman's Club** Thrift Shop. This Thrift Shop is a fixture in Burlington since it has been open for 45 years. Clubwomen worked a total of 1169 hours to raise the \$4050 donated by the club for projects in the Arts. One of these projects was to fund five (5) grants of approximately \$100 each that were made available to art and photography teachers in the Alamance Burlington Schools. Grants funded such things as calligraphy tools, supplies to make pottery for the one pottery class in the school system, portable hard back sketch books for a senior art class and mat board to teach students how to cut and mat their own mats.
3. **GFWC of Holden Beach** invited 28 members of the West Brunswick High School Jazz Band to their March meeting. With March being Keep Music in Our School Month, the focus was the need for educational music programs in area schools in spite of the reduced funding in these fields. Members provided refreshments, goodie bags for band members, and presented a check to the WBHS Band. After discussion at another meeting, an additional donation was made to the band's scholarship program. 39 members spent 302 hours and donated \$500 with \$685 in-kind donations.
4. The Arts CSP of **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club** seeks to bring performing arts experiences to children who might not otherwise have them. They partner with an agency that provides residential care for foster children and identified boys and girls who would most benefit from a night out with SWC members. Club members, children and their house mothers attend performances together. 3 members spent 10 hours and reported \$195 in-kind donations.
5. Recognizing the need to continue to provide awareness of the Scotch-Irish-German musical heritage in the Appalachian Mountains, club women of the **GFWC North Wilkesboro Woman's Club** were involved in Appalachian Christmas which is billed as a Christmas Card to the Wilkes County Community. Old Christmas carols were played on stringed instruments. The Wilkes Acoustic Folk Society Old Timey Band, a Scottish bagpiper and vocalists were a part of the musical program. Club women helped with directing, serving as MC and providing refreshments. 4 members spent 306 hours and gave \$119 in in-kind donations.
6. A monetary donation of \$1300 was made by **Charlotte Woman's Club** to the Queen's Music Therapy Program to support their work in providing music therapy to children who have disabilities. 30 members were involved.
7. The Community Music School is a local nonprofit group that offers music classes to the disadvantaged. **The Woman's Club of Raleigh** awarded a \$500 community service grant to provide low income students with high quality music lessons to create and enhance art appreciation

for this group of young people. The Arts CSP donated an additional amount of \$200 in honor of two club members. One club member is the founder of the school and the other club member currently serves on the Community Music School Board. Gift cards and certificates of appreciation were presented to all 17 faculty members for their commitment and hard work. 298 members donated 41 hours and \$700 with \$90 in-kind donations.

8. Members of the **Murfreesboro Federated Woman's Club** supported their Art Council. The Council is a group of volunteer artists and other individuals who have set up a building in which to teach arts and crafts to young beginning artists. They also work with older adults to learn to knot, crochet, paint and draw. 15 members volunteered 115 hours and made donations of \$100 and in-kind donations of \$88.

9. At their local Arts Festival, the **Anderson Creek Woman's Club** displays art entries from students K-12, club women and adults in the community. It is attended by school personnel, students and community members. An afternoon open house is a child-friendly event where scholarship recipients are also announced. An evening session for adults includes recognitions, a catered meal and a raffle with proceeds used to help with festival expenses. 35 members spent 393.5 hours and donated \$1464.

10. The **GFWC-NC Kings Mountain Woman's Club** helps host a community Fall Festival that has been a community tradition for 110 years. A Thanksgiving meal was served to nearly 700, and the 2015 theme was "Freedom Rings." A country store features aprons, pillows, homemade goodies and canned goods. A booklet acknowledging businesses and industries that support the club is given to those in attendance. Volunteers from the community assist with food, serving and clean up while local high school seniors work for community service credit. 29 members participated, spending 3410 hours and giving \$6801 in donations.

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## 2015 GFWC-NC Conservation Community Service Projects Top Ten Projects

### Recycling

1. **Community Partnering:** The members of the **GFWC North Wilkesboro Woman's Club** undertook a project in their community to educate the youth about the importance of recycling. They completed a cooperative project with Community in Schools (CIS) STEM with an Earth Day program on recycling. In addition, the club purchased recycling bins for all of the school's classrooms where the members had presented their program. The twelve members spent 15 hours preparing and delivering the program of information as well as spending \$261.59 on the bins.
2. **Pill Bottle Reuse Collection:** **GFWC of Holden Beach** participates in the Matthew 25: Ministries program by collecting empty prescription bottles and donating them. In turn, Matthew 25 evaluates, sorts, and processes the bottles before shipping them to developing countries where pill bottles are unavailable. Members donated 300 pill bottles while the club donated \$150.00 to support the Matthew 25: Ministries. The collection of empty pill bottles is one of the club's on-going conservation projects.
3. **"Shodding the World":** The members of the **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club** donated their old but still wearable shoes to the Sole Mates program. Shipped free in bulk, the shoes were distributed throughout the USA and to developing countries where inexpensive shoes are unavailable for the populace. In 2015 the club members recycled 320 pounds of shoes for which they received \$108.00 from Sole Mates, based on \$.50 per pound of donated shoes. Upon receipt of the money, the club purchased STEM kits it donated to a local school.

### Beautification

4. **Pollinator Garden:** After learning through a Conservation CSP program about the pollinator garden and other wildlife gardens in their community, the members of the **Cary Woman's Club** decided they wanted to become involved. Partnering with the Cary Garden Club, the friends of Page Walker, and some youth volunteers, the CWC members attended several planning meetings before prepping a garden and planting for winter. Together the groups planted and are continuing to tend a pollinator garden at the entrance of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center in downtown Cary. The garden, when it grows to maturity, is intended to attract and provide nectar, host plants, and amenities for bees, butterflies, and birds. Working 49 hours alongside local youth and contributing \$30.00 to purchase plants, the 42 members of the CWC demonstrated the ethos of environmental stewardship.
5. **Town Beautification:** The members of the **Warrenton Woman's Club** adopted the grounds of the Warrenton Presbyterian Church as their annual beautification project. Throughout the year the club members cleaned debris from the beds bordering the church in addition to planting perennial flowers in the urns at the church entrance and annuals in the church yard. One member periodically watered and weeded during the summer months. In appreciation of being able to use the church facilities for its meetings free of charge, the WWC made a small donation to the Warrenton Presbyterian Church.
6. **Adopt a Highway:** Four times a year the members of the **Western Wake Woman's Club** meet on the third Saturday of the month to pick up trash in their community.

Members are paired with other members they do not know very well so that they have the opportunity to generate new friendships. The success of the club's "Adopt a Highway" has been so successful that NCDOT recognized the WWWC in October 2015 for 25 years of participation in the program. In 2015 all fourteen club members actively collected trash, completing 22 volunteer hours.

#### Wild Life Protection

7. **Sky Watch Rescue:** At the October 2015 **North Carolina Sorosis** meeting, the members learned about the Sky Watch Rescue from its founder. The organization is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of local and migratory wild birds that are injured or orphaned in NC as well as in nearby states. Responding to the speaker's "wish list" for her rescue program, the members spent 13 hours and contributed 242 items (\$711.00 in-kind donation) in addition to making a \$150.00 donation to the Sky Watch Rescue. One member also made 50 bird nests for rescued birds, donating 50 hours and a giving a \$150.00 in-kind denotation.
8. **Plight of the Brown-headed Nuthatch:** The members of the **Greensboro Woman's Club**, concerned about the rapid decline of the brown-headed nuthatch in Piedmont NC, decided that they had to take action. The birds are losing the pinewoods and dead trees they need for food and nest cavities due to urbanization. To provide "housing" for the birds, the club purchased twenty one nest boxes for \$107.00 and spent 40 hours constructing the boxes. Upon completion, the nest boxes were donated to the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society that placed the boxes where they were most needed.

#### Proper Care for Domesticated Animals

9. **Community Partnering to Aid Domesticated Animals:** The members of the **Oriental Woman's Club** partnered with the Pamlico Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), a non-profit that shelters stray dogs and cats, provides for free spaying/neutering, and donates food and medicine to pets in need. The Oriental Woman's Club supported PAWS by providing its clubhouse free of charge for a major PAWS fundraising yard sale (\$300.00 in-kind donation) as well as giving a \$250.00 contribution to PAWS. In addition, several club members provided donations for the yard sale; the OWC also donated unsold items from a club silent auction and bazaar to PAWS for use in the sale. Throughout the year several OWC members volunteer for PAWS, working with the animals or doing other needed chores at the shelter.

#### Community Gardens

10. **Sow Much Good:** The **Junior Woman's Club of Charlotte** worked at one of the two locations for Sow Much Good, a local urban farming organization that helps provide fresh, organic foods to under-developed areas of Charlotte. The members helped water, weed, harvest, and clean produce for sale. The harvested products were then sent out to the pop tents in various parts of Charlotte or packaged into baskets that were delivered to homes on a weekly basis. The members also donated bottled water and gloves for the SMG team and future volunteers as well as gave a donation of \$1,000.00 to further the work of Sow Much Good in the Charlotte community. 5 members worked for 15 hours on this project.

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## 2015 GFWC-NC Education Community Service Projects Top Ten Projects

1. **Clayton Junior Woman's Club**, in conjunction with the Clayton Historical Society, held a "Mad Hatter's Tea" to encourage children to learn about and read, Alice in Wonderland and other books from that same time in history. They had a booth with tea and snacks. Even Alice showed up! Children came and enjoyed snacks while talking about the book and the historical time period. (5 members 55 hours \$40.00 donated)
  
2. **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** administered the Mini Grant program for the town of Fuquay-Varina, providing 21 grants in 2015. Materials were delivered to the 12 area high schools in early September. All printing and copies were donated. Thirty-two applications were picked up from the schools in October, and copies of the applications were made for judging. Five members met and reviewed all applications, choosing 21 to receive a total of \$5500.00 in awards. All principals, winners, and other applicants were contacted. The club prepared a list of winners for the Wake County Schools Administration and the Town Financial Office. Club members held a reception for everyone, including town officials at their clubhouse where checks were awarded to the recipients. The event was covered by the local press. (6 members 31 hours \$6,000.00 in-kind donations)
  
3. **GFWC North Wilkesboro Woman's Club** published a book of local history entitled **Lest We Forget- A History of Education in Wilkes County, Vol. 2** after years of research by six of their members who are retired educators. They recorded the dramatic changes and growth in this volume from 1975-2009, working in collaboration with the Wilkes County Retired School Personnel Association with which they also claim membership. In 2015, they completed the writing, and the 352 page book was published. (6 members 615 hours \$420.00 donation)
  
4. **Murfreesboro Federated Woman's Club** supported Chowan University in its many activities. Chowan is a small school in a very small historical town and they both benefit from a mutual commitment to each other. The club donated to the Fine Arts Department, and attended and supported the musical and drama programs. During the 2015 two-day Ghost Tours they worked with costumes and other needed items for college students acting during the tours. Club women worked the concession stands during Chowan's games. One member worked twice each semester with the Dean of the College of Education to elicit applicants from the student body for the GFWC-NC Sharon-Greenson Teaching Scholarship. In addition, individual club members gave donations to fund scholarships at Chowan. (15 members 100 hours \$1600.00 donation \$50.00 in-kind donations)
  
5. **Cary Woman's Club** partnered with Cary Newcomer's Club and Ruckus Restaurant to hold a fundraiser for *Note in the pocket*, an organization that provides clothes to homeless and impoverished children in Wake County Schools, K-12. They provide a mini-wardrobe, two weeks' worth of outfits for schools. Notes of caring and reassurance were written by the volunteers to include in the pockets, reminding these children that someone truly cares! Education CSP members organized the event, solicited prizes for gift baskets, prepared the baskets and raffled them off. The event was attended by 40 people and raised an astounding \$5,000.00 for *Note in the Pocket*. (25 members 100 hours \$5,000.00 donation \$200.00 in-kind donations)

6. **Charlotte Woman's Club** awarded *Heart Tutoring* a grant to cover the cost of adding a new school to their program to impact 50 students. Heart Tutoring is a math intervention program providing one on one tutors during the school day. Their mission is to ensure that all elementary students develop a strong foundation in math and enthusiasm for academics needed for long-term success, working with economically disadvantaged children performing below grade level in math. (30 members 6 hours \$20,000.00 donations)
7. **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club** sponsored their fifth **Read Across America** event at Cloverleaf Elementary School which has an enrollment of 829 and a faculty of 48. The event began with a presentation by children in the *Leader is Me* program explaining the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Club members planned the event, read, guided guests and provided refreshments for the guests and faculty. Three members dressed up as characters to entertain the younger children. The school's principal and many of the faculty and staff were dressed as characters from children's books. Volunteers from the community such as the mayor, a state representative, a minister, a principal, a police officer, attorneys, and members of several other civic organizations came. Each classroom had a volunteer who read a book and discussed what reading meant to him/her. The club sponsored a door decorating contest, judged the contest and awarded the two winning classrooms with "party boxes," and donated used books and stuffed toy characters. The event was covered by the local press. (18 members 168 hour \$175.00 in-kind donations)
8. **Burlington Woman's Club** adopted the goal of a part-time teacher at Eastlawn Elementary School to raise money to send ten to fifteen of her gifted minority students to North Carolina State University or UNC-Greensboro for their summer math and science camps. The club helped her with three yard sales, two in the school parking lot, and one at a member's house; and two school holiday shops to raise money for camp tuition. Linens, luggage, toiletries, clothing and spending money, were also provided – whatever each child needed to help them feel comfortable in this first-time away-from-home university campus experience. Club members organized donations and priced items for the yard sales. Small \$1.00 gifts bags were made for the Christmas and Mother's Day shops. Members helped with the sales and wrapped each gift. The TAU chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa collaborated with the club in these events. Money was also raised from the sale of thumb print note cards and stationery which club members helped these students make. Knowledge that this kind of experience builds social and academic confidence, impacts a child's future choices, and broadens their view of the world motivated club members to lend their support to this outstanding teacher and her goal for these talented students. (12 members 140 hours \$100.00 in-kind donations)
9. **The Woman's Club of Raleigh** supported the Mt. Vernon Redirection School which serves at-risk students who are experiencing inadequate success in their base schools and who are failing academically; some may experience behavioral problems. Once a month, on Fridays, five club women each volunteer to bake and contribute 3 dozen homemade cookies; others provide paper products, chips, and drinks for the students. These are served at a Student Incentive Celebration for the 65 students enrolled. Club members also support the school by linking their Harris Teeter cards to the "Together in Education" Program, which earns money for the school. Members volunteer as tutors and EOG test monitors during the school year. They also awarded Mt. Vernon Redirection School a \$1500.00 grant. (298 members 163 hours \$2634.00 donation)

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## 2015 GFWC-NC Home Life Community Service Projects Top Ten Projects

1. Backpack Feeding Program: **The Woman's Club of Clayton** partnered with three churches and the North Carolina Food Bank to start a weekend backpack feeding program for children at two local schools. Members donated food at each meeting and packed the backpacks twice a month during the school year. Members also packed large boxes of food for the students during the time they are out of school (30 members, 36 hours. \$2,000 donated, \$125 in-kind donations)
2. SOUPer Bowl Saturday: **The GFWC-South Brunswick Islands Woman's Club** partnered with their local newspaper, potters, restaurants, and a church to hold a SOUPer bowl Saturday, raising money to feed the hungry in their community. Restaurants donated soup, potters donated over 300 soup bowls, and clubwomen made deserts, sold tickets to the event, and served the food. One club member made and donated over 50 of the handcrafted bowls. Attendees got to keep the handcrafted soup bowls. (39 members, 400 hours, \$5,856 donated, \$4,500 in-kind donations)
3. FDA Collaboration: The **Murfreesboro Federated Woman's Club** established an official partnership/collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration on women's health issues. The overall goal of such partnerships is to empower the public to improve their health, safety and well-being. The collaboration extends the reach of FDA Consumer Health Information. Each week the club receives an e-mail from the FDA relating to women. The club had a booth at a local festival distributing women health handouts, and at its District Fall meeting members also prepared totes containing the handouts and other materials to educate women on health issues. (15 members, 185 hours, \$105 in-kind donations)
4. Food Pantry: **The Anderson Creek Woman's Club** provides the primary manpower and funding, fundraising, and food drive events for the local food pantry. Approximately 600 families are fed each month, and over 3,000 pounds of food are distributed. Members volunteer twice a week registering families, sorting through donated items, stocking shelves and grocery bags, and assisting the elderly/disabled with transporting the bags to their cars. Members oversee a Shoes4Soles fundraiser to help raise money for the food pantry by selling used shoes by the pound; shoes are recycled by providing them to those in need. (35 members, 1,677 hours, \$2,981 donated, \$1,490 in-kind donation)
5. Homelessness: Members of **The Woman's Club of Raleigh** volunteered to prepare and serve dinner for the 35 homeless women who stay at the Helen Wright Center on a temporary basis. This Center provides temporary housing for those struggling to re-enter the community and work force and gain independence. The shelter offers basic needs, seminars, and a safe and encouraging residence for up to 2 months per woman, supporting 300 women each year. (90 members, 350 hours, \$900 in-kind donation)
6. Services for the Blind: The **Wilmington Woman's Club** collected eyeglasses, along with their cases, for six months and then delivered them to the Services for the Blind in October 2015. Members collected 172 pairs of glasses. (40 members, 82 hours, \$516 in-kind donations)

7. Aid to Families in Distress: **The Anderson Creek Woman's Club** supports its neighboring schools in Harnett County through its Arts Festival, web page, and Facebook page. The club was contacted by the high school requesting help for several families in need at Christmas time. One family's residence had burned down, and in another family, the breadwinner had lost his job. The club provided monies to help these families get back on their feet by providing security deposits for rental, water and electricity, and the first month's rent. (35 members, 41 hours, \$3,136 donated)
  
8. Children with Life Altering Illness: The **Charlotte Woman's Club** awarded a grant to The Sandbox, a Charlotte non-profit organization, to purchase "love baskets." The baskets, which are packed with non-perishable food, household supplies, and personal hygiene items help reduce the financial strain on families with critical and basic needs while dealing with the task of caring for a child with life altering illness or cancer. The grant money also helped offset some costs for its "An Evening of Believing Prom" held annually for children and teens that have been diagnosed with cancer of life altering illness. Several clubwomen attended the event for 350 honorees. The club is also featured as a sponsor on the organization's website. (30 members, 6 hours, \$10,000 donated)
  
9. Troubled Teens: Several times in 2015, the **Clayton Junior Woman's Club** made dinner to bring and eat with the girls at the House of Hope. They spent time eating and mentoring the troubled teens. Club members also spent played games and spent time with the teens after dinner. House of Hope is a therapeutic school, home, and counseling center for hurting and troubled teen girls and their families. (5 members, 29 hours, \$250 in-kind donations)
  
10. Special Needs: After the **A .L. Brown Juniorettes** of Kannapolis received a grant and started a Project Unify Committee six years ago, ten club members started a Project Unify Club. Several of the AL Brown Juniorette members are officers and others are members. A. L. Brown High School was chosen to be part of a grant again this year. This grant is given by the Special Olympics Organization for promoting Project Unify, Spread the Word to End the Word ([www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org)) recognizing March 2 as Spread the Word to End the Word day, to raise awareness about the hurtfulness of the R-word. The club helped plan the projects for upcoming events to promote acceptance of those with special needs. (20 members, 4 hours)

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## **2015 GFWC-NC International Outreach Community Service Projects Top Ten Projects**

### **GFWC PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS:**

1. UN FOUNDATION “SHOT@LIFE” – GFWC of Holden Beach chose to focus on SHOT@LIFE as its major International Outreach project for the year. The six CSP committee members provided leadership and all club members participated. The project goals included fundraising, advocacy, and awareness components. The club’s October meeting featured a pharmacist from Walgreens who discussed the value of immunizations and spoke about its “Get a Shot, Give a Shot” partnership project with SHOT@LIFE, donating toward global childhood immunizations for each shot Walgreens provides to its clients. (Eight members supported this project by getting immunizations at their local Walgreens.) SHOT@LIFE-themed decorations and refreshments were featured. Small sandwiches, meatballs, fruit, cheese, nuts and desserts were served in small shot glasses. International dolls and a SHOT@LIFE banner were also displayed. In recognition of World Polio Day (October 24), the CSP organized the club’s big SHOT@LIFE fundraiser – a cocktail party attended by sixty guests. Club members, their spouses, and community friends attended. Also attending were the GFWC-NC 1st Vice President, GFWC-NC Leadership Chairman, and the GFWC-NC International Outreach Chairman, who provided information about the connection between GFWC and the UN FOUNDATION “SHOT@LIFE” program. The cost to attend was \$20 per ticket: the cost to immunize a child from four deadly preventable diseases – measles, pneumonia, diarrhea, and polio. All food and beverages were donated by club members. The banquet of appetizer type food was presented in shot glasses and 75 of the SHOT@LIFE Pneumonia and Polio virus stuffed figures were placed in shot glasses and sold for \$1 each. Through the club’s efforts, \$2042 was raised. This fundraiser was specifically scheduled during a SHOT@LIFE matching campaign, which doubled the fundraising impact to \$4084.  
(39 members participated, 541 hours, Donated = \$4084.00, In-Kind = \$2331.00)
  
2. UN FOUNDATION “SHOT@LIFE” – GFWC-NC Statesville Woman’s Club also focused on supporting SHOT@LIFE in a variety of ways. One of its members applied to attend the February 2015 SHOT@LIFE “Champions Summit” and was accepted. She was awarded one of seven GFWC travel scholarships. Empowered by the experience, she advocated with NC’s members of Congress to keep the funding in place for global childhood vaccines, while emphasizing that she belonged to GFWC, an organization of 100,000 members who support this program. That connection definitely got their attention. The club made a \$125 donation and achieved the “Bronze Level” of giving through SHOT@LIFE’s GFWC Lifesaver Awards Program. Later in the year, the club’s CSP committee hosted a SHOT@LIFE fundraiser – an international dinner and 50/50 raffle, with all profits going to SHOT@LIFE. Though the main purpose of the dinner was to raise funds and awareness, the ladies took delight in the evening’s presentation of food, drink, and decorations highlighting lands far away. The club’s SHOT@LIFE “Champion” was the guest speaker and her honorarium was added to the total funds raised. The club was able to raise an additional \$625, reaching the “Silver Syringe Lifesaver Award” level with this effort for giving through GFWC. Members signed the online “Advocate 2 Vaccinate” petition in support of global vaccine programs, LIKE’d and SHARE’d social media posts from all the alliance organizations that promote the global programs (SHOT@LIFE, GAVI, etc.), and also posted photos on Facebook after receiving their flu shots at Walgreens.  
(69 members participated, 271 hours, Donated = \$750.00, In-Kind = \$1025.00)

3. **U.S. FUND FOR UNICEF** – In October, members of the Fuquay-Varina Woman’s Club, along with family members, participated in the annual “Trick-or-Treat” Box Collection for UNICEF. The club encouraged the Fuquay-Varina High School Junioresettes to partner in the project by providing boxes and information to them. Working with the Junioresettes proved to be a rewarding experience and resulted in the Junioresettes collecting donations of \$84.41. (24 members participated, 26 hours, Donated = \$372.94)
4. **OPERATION SMILE** - GFWC Burlington Woman’s Club members operate the BWC Thrift Shop which helps to support club projects. Five club members toured the Operation Smile Headquarters in Virginia Beach and delivered 106 Smile Bags, 86 child-size hospital gowns, 149 “No-No” arm bands, and various interactive toys. A nurse who has made many trips with Operation Smile spoke at a club meeting, sharing experiences and pictures documenting the difference that the operations have had in the lives of these children and their families. Two “Sew Fests” were held and members also spent many hours sewing at home. Besides being a productive hands-on activity, “Sew Fests” have become a source for fellowship, team-work, and personal satisfaction know these efforts lead to life-altering changes for these children. (68 members participated, 1769.5 hours, Donated = \$1150.00, In-kind = \$393.29)
5. **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** – At each meeting, NC Sorosis promotes “Give a Gift”, instead of “Get a Gift” on members’ birthdays. Club members purchase items through Heifer International to help families in other countries. (40 members, 12 hours, Donated = \$1050.00)

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

6. **CONTINUING THE LEGACY** – Three members of The Woman’s Club of Raleigh’s International Outreach CSP served on the application review team to select a Raleigh Young Women of Achievement Award in the International Outreach area of community service. This award honors high-school aged women who have shown leadership and service in innovative and compassionate ways. The awardee had traveled to the Dominican Republic to experience the country’s culture and became involved with the poor village of Las Lomas. There was no running water in this town and this young woman raised the \$4000 necessary to create a running water system. She also created The Global Service Club. The Woman’s Club of Raleigh awarded a community grant in the amount of \$3000 to The Global Service Club to fund the completion of the water system in Las Lomas. (298 members, 580 hours, Donated = \$3000.00, In-kind = \$270.00)
7. **GREAT DECISIONS LECTURE SERIES** – This GFWC-sponsored activity follows topics provided by the Foreign Policy Association. The Woman’s Club of Raleigh offered a 7-week lecture series in February-March. Topics included a variety of international policy issues. The club partnered with Duke University’s Triangle Institute for Security Studies which helped secure the speakers. Club members, as well as 62 citizens from the community, attended this series which is offered as a public service. (45 members, 670 hours)
8. **REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES:** The Charlotte Woman’s Club invited the director and founder of Refugee Support Services to speak to the club about the organization which

connects local volunteers and refugees in personal relationships in order to empower the refugees and to enrich the community. The organization's "Fruitful Friendships" program teaches self-sufficiency skills to refugees and educates local citizens about refugees in their community. A monetary gift was given to the organization in honor of the speaker and to support its mission.

(30members participated, 12 hours, Donated = \$1950.00)

9. "FULL BELLY PROJECT": GFWC South Brunswick Islands continued their support of this project in 2015. Members assisted with the preparation of food for the Fully Belly Project's International Foods Fundraiser and then several members attended that event. Club members also traveled to Wilmington for a tour of the Full Belly Project facility. Club donations of \$608 were presented to Full Belly Project representative at the club's April "Night of Benevolence: Caring for Our Community" event.

(39 members participated, 154 hours, Donated = \$608.00, In-kind = \$500.00)

10. PARTNERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING HUMANS (PATH) – In March, the International Outreach CSP of the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club invited a speaker from PATH to present a meeting program educating members about human trafficking. Not only is this crime widespread in the US, it also poses a major problem worldwide. Members were made aware of the types, causes, effects and remedies for this form of modern-day slavery. Handouts were distributed for members to share with friends and family. PATH also received a \$100 donation from the club.

(48 members participated, 20 hours, Donated = \$100.00)

## **GFWC Junior Special Project: Advocates for Children Top 10 Projects**

1. Members of the Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh assisted SAFEchild (Stop Abuse For Every Child) in holding their largest fundraising event of the year - a Gala held at Marbles Kid Museum in downtown Raleigh. Clubwomen helped set up the silent auction items and decorate during the day, and in the evening, they dressed to the nines to greet guests as they arrived at the event. They assisted with registration, the silent auction, and encouraged donations throughout the night. More than \$150,000 was raised from the event.
2. The Kannapolis Junior Woman's Club, along with their Juniorettes, in honor of National Dental Health Month, provided dental health booklets to their Adopt Classes. In the booklet were worksheets and coloring pages. They also provided dental health packets to the students.
3. GFWC South Brunswick Islands club members collected used holiday and greeting cards and sent them to St. Jude Children's Hospital for recycling. Once recycled, the cards will be used as part of the hospital's fundraising efforts.
4. GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club has a close relationship with the Children's Homes of Iredell County (CHIC), which is the local residential foster homes. CHIC has a thrift shop that benefits the homes, and community volunteers are a large part of the shop. Members from the woman's club are encouraged to shop there and they donate frequently. For the 2015 club year, the club donated 18 boxes of used books to be sold in the shop's library.
5. Henderson Junior Woman's Club volunteered at the Northern North Carolina Girls on the Run two 5K events. Members worked the registration table, assisted with Happy Hair for the girls, and were scattered along the race route to cheer for the girls as they ran. The club also had members involved in organizing the events.
6. The Henderson Juniorettes organized and held an Adopt-A-Thon for animals at the local animal shelter. They partnered with area companies and were able to provide gift and good bags to families that adopted pets. It was a great project and many animals were adopted that day.
7. Members of the GFWC Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club researched and worked with their town officials, as well as the families of children with disabilities for the town's first Splash Pad. Through their dedication to the community, the club purchased a fully waterproof wheelchair that can be checked out free of charge to anyone who wants to enjoy the Splash Pad but needs the assistance of a wheelchair.
8. The Woman's League of Mt. Airy's members participated in the city's Healthy Kids Expo. This event is planned by the Mt. Airy Parks and Recreation Department. Members of the Woman's League volunteered at the Expo, helping children plant tomato plants, which were donated. The children then took the tomato plants home to grow in their yards.

9. The Outer Banks Woman's Club participated in Food for Thought. The club supported this local non-profit by volunteering to pack food bags. Members also provided monetary donations. With their assistance, non-perishable weekend meals were packed and distributed to approximately 600 needy students weekly during the school year.

Number of Projects—137    Number of Members—311    Number of Hours—4,178    Money Donated—  
\$24,841                      In Kind Donations—\$24,841

Submitted by:

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**GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
AND AWARENESS  
TOP 10 Projects**

1. A talented member of the **Durham Woman's Club** made two **purple purses** with matching coin purses to celebrate the Purple Purse Campaign. One purse was raffled off during a club meeting and the other at the North Durham Curves. Money made was used to purchase items for the Durham Crisis Response Center.
2. The **GFWC NC Statesville Woman's Club** hosted a **Mardi Bra Party**. The Mardi Gras theme was created by decorating with purple, green and gold. Mardi Gras themed food was served. Guest were asked to bring bras, panties and feminine hygiene products. In kind donations were over \$4500.
3. The **Wendell Woman's Club** prepared forty-two (42) personal care bags for their local women's shelter.
4. The **Southport Junior Woman's Club** hosted a Prom of the Decades. Each member and guest was asked to bring items to help their local women's shelter. Over \$350 worth of toiletries, paper goods, diapers, etc. was donated.
5. Members of the **GFWC North Wilkesboro Woman's Club** painted their pinky finger nails blue and black as an imitative to end BULLYING in their schools and in the community.
6. **GFWC of Holden Beach Woman's Club** held their seventh annual Blooming for a Cause charity gala to benefit Hope Harbor Home and Providence Home. The event included a fashion show, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, a wine auction and a luncheon. They raised over \$106,000.
7. The **Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh** had a member serve as a facilitator for "Men Engaged in Nurturing Strategies (MENS). This is an 11 week program to help men make the connection between the violence they may have experienced in their families of origin and the violence they are enacting in their families today.
8. A Bridge and Game Dessert Party was held by the **Cary Woman's Club** to raise money for InterAct, a private, non-profit, United Way agency that provides safety, support and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence. They were able to donate over \$1600 to InterAct.
9. The **Oriental Woman's Club** collected items to fill Easter baskets for children under the Coastal Women's Shelter domestic violence program.

**Prevent Child Abuse America GFWC Domestic Violence Partnership**

10. At **The Woman's Club of Clayton's** annual rummage market, there were copies of the pinwheel coloring sheet for kids to color while their parents shopped. The kids were also given Prevent Child Abuse pinwheel stickers. Prevent Child Abuse pamphlets were given to all shoppers.

Prepared by:

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## **2015 GFWC-NC Advancement Areas Top Ten Projects Communications and Public Relations**

North Carolina clubs reported their 2015 Communications and Public Relations activities. Club goals included fostering communication among club members, keeping club members informed of GFWC and GFWC-NC activities and promoting public awareness of the Federation. GFWC-NC clubs understood the importance of name recognition, branding, and marketing. To further support this belief clubs utilized the tools listed below with hopes of broadening recognition within our local community regarding the local club, GFWC-NC and GFWC.

From E-mail, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to radio, television and newsprint, GFWC-NC clubs got their message out! Social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube certainly gained popularity as communications media during 2015. In addition, traditional media outlets such as radio, television, magazines and newsprint reach other people. Email was an essential tool for almost everyone.

1. The Western Wake Woman's Club launched their website which contained information about their club and the federation, how to join, calendar of upcoming events, and fundraising events as well as an online donation option. In order to increase the community's awareness of their club, and recruit new members; club members significantly increased their activities on Facebook. LIKES and POSTS for their page increased over 100% during 2015.
2. GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club reported that their overall increase in membership was a result of their Facebook page. Some ladies new to their community were introduced to their club by Facebook, liked and followed the club, then decided to join. They used their page as a venue to post information regarding GFWC News and Notes, GFWC Leadership, and GFWC Partners. These were wonderful tools for connecting club members to each other but, more importantly, connecting the club to the community.

While embracing the wave of electronic media, NC clubs also reported details of their efforts at publicizing club meetings, projects and activities in local newspapers and television stations, and GFWC-NC and GFWC publications. This included information on service projects, fund-raising, attendance at district and state meetings, and membership opportunities.

3. The Outer Banks Woman's Club used public service announcements to promote their Arts and Crafts Show. One of the local newspapers interviewed the club president regarding the Angel Gift Program and it was featured in a special Christmas on the Coast section. The publication provided an opportunity to support the event, the club and the federation, and it was directly related to the increase in attendance.
4. The GFWC South Brunswick Islands club has an outstanding relationship with their local small town newspaper. The members submitted press releases and photos to the newspaper that were posted before and after their special events and meetings. The newspaper served as the media sponsor for their major fundraisers. Throughout 2015, members appeared on the local "Our Hometown" show to promote their fundraisers and other club activities. The broadcast aired multiple times and is now available on YouTube. Press Releases and media coverage were directly related to the increase in attendance at fund raisers and success of membership recruitment.

Other print media that clubs used included membership brochures and note cards. These formats were visually appealing and of high quality that featured information about the club, including

mission, history, organizational structure, programs/activities, opportunities for involvement with the local clubs and their affiliations with the Federation.

5. The GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club proudly displayed their membership brochure along with GFWC and GFWC-NC pamphlets for persons and organizations renting their clubhouse. The GFWC South Brunswick Islands used printed materials that donned the GFWC logo accompanied by their club name. These printed materials included thank you notes, get well cards, missed you cards, club brochures, and event functions. While much publicity relies on online media, we know that there is still a place for print media and the visible impact it makes on recruitment. Many people still like to have something they can hold and read.

Clubs reported on other ways they made their volunteerism visible in their communities. The Women's League of Mount Airy wore their club aprons at each event they held. The aprons had the club's name embroidered on them. They displayed their colorful club banner for all to see on the road side or entry way to events. The GFWC South Brunswick Islands wore nametags, federation blue shirts, aprons with the GFWC logo and club name, and GFWC member pins. These efforts plus the advertising in area stores, local newspaper, and on the local radio station helped these clubs maintain a visible presence in their community.

6. The GFWC of Holden Beach networked with the Town of Holden Beach during weekend concerts for residents and tourists. The club members assisted with the event, and displayed club and federation materials. Their walking through the crowd and introducing other to the federation helped raise money for their event, Blooming for a Cause Charity Gala which helps provide funding for women's and children's shelters. The county library allowed the Outer Banks Woman's Club to have a display onsite to educate the public on the club's activities and community service. The efforts in the community have proven successful with the awareness campaigns and recruitment efforts for The GFWC of Holden Beach and Outer Banks Woman's Club.
7. The GFWC South Brunswick Islands club hosted a "Night of Benevolence: Caring for our Community" in April in honor on Federation Day. Invitations were mailed to the local media, charitable organization, local representatives and federation leaders. These invitations displayed the GFWC logo and club name on the front with a special message on the inside for each of the recipients. Over 25 organizations were recognized for their big heart and for all that you do for the community. This event was an example of how to promote the federation and community. Photos and an article of this event appeared in the local newspaper.

The creativity shown in the use of these multiple forms of media has led to both enhanced personal interaction and increased online awareness. In turn, our advocacy for our service work, our fundraising efforts and our recruitment efforts have all improved.

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## Fundraising Advancement Area

The club women of North Carolina were very busy during the 2015 club year in their efforts to raise funds for the local clubs, their districts, and our state as a whole. Fundraising is done on many different levels all the while recognizing that all efforts are valued and have an impact on our communities. There were 109 projects reported and from those projects 16,280 volunteer hours were recorded and \$122,135.00 were donated. The following report will highlight several key projects conducted by the clubs in North Carolina.

1. **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club Annual Geranium Sale.** Each year the club not only holds an annual geranium sale, which is advertised locally through print and social media, they ask for donations so that other organizations in the community can receive the plants. The plants are presold in advance with one big event on delivery day. The geraniums are also purchased through a local nursery to strengthen the community bond. *(1 project; 273 volunteer hours; \$2,350.00 raised)*
  
2. **SOUPer Bowl Saturday** - This project was a true community effort hosted by the **GFWC-South Brunswick Islands, Inc.** which benefited the local Food Pantries in Brunswick County. Attendees of this event were given an actual bowl of soup in a disposable container and also were given a beautiful handcrafted pottery soup bowl that was theirs to keep as a souvenir of the event. Club women donated homemade desserts and one member made over 50 of the donated bowls. The remaining bowls were then auctioned off to raise an additional \$588.00  
*(1 project; 400 volunteer hours; \$5,856.00 raised)*
  
3. **Christmas Mall Gift Wrapping – The North Carolina Sorosis Woman's Club** sets up a gift wrapping booth in their local shopping mall from Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Members wrap gifts and 10% of the money goes to their Club house Fund, the remaining is used to support their local scholarship fund.  
*(1 project; 825 volunteer hours; \$4,581.00 raised)*
  
4. **Taste of Carolina Cuisine & Silent Auction** - This was the 11<sup>th</sup> year that the **Woman's Club of Clayton** has hosted this event and though the ups and downs of the economy it was still very well attended with 350 tickets sold by club women and the community. Attendees enjoyed food prepared from local restaurants, rated their favorites, and then those were judged by culinary students from a local college and awards were distributed. Additionally, club members collected items from local merchants for the Silent Auction. *(1 project; 3,254 volunteer hours; \$23,206 raised)*
  
5. **Fashion Madness** – This project encourages shopping local with a fashion show highlighting clothing from six local stores. The fashion show included a lunch prepared by the Clubmembers. Members from three local clubs participated in this project either, cooking, modeling or organizing. The three clubs were: a General Club, **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club**; a Junior Club, **Fuquay-Varina Junior Woman's Club** and a Juniorette Club, **Fuquay-Varina Juniorette's Club**.  
*(1 project; 321 volunteer hours; \$1,353.00 raised)*
  
6. **Spring Salad and Dessert Luncheon – The Warrenton Woman's Club** members prepared a variety of salads, desserts and drinks for the luncheon. Tickets were sold before the event. Funds were donated to the John 3:16 Center, and the Warrenton Rotary Club to help support their Town Clock Project as well as the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

*(1 project; 220 volunteer hours; \$641.00 raised)*

- 7. Fashion Show, Silent Auction & Luncheon** - This event is held annually by **The Woman's Club of Raleigh** and is one of its largest fundraisers benefiting *Dress for Success*. This activity involved the entire club by encouraging members to participate in some way whether purchasing tickets to attend; soliciting items for the silent auction; donating to the Members' Corner Silent Auction; purchasing Raffle Tickets; modeling for the fashion show. Several local stores combined their efforts by donating shopping bags, table decorations, goodie bags, clothing, shoes and make-up for the event.  
*(1 project; 1800 volunteer hours; \$20,089.00 raised)*

- 8. Stock Your Cellar – The Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh** held its second Wine Raffle this year. Members secure donations of wine from local restaurants, wine retailers and wineries across the country each valued at \$20.00 or more. Over 80 bottles were collected and tickets were sold for \$20.00 each or three tickets for \$50.00.  
*(1 projects; 498 volunteer hours; \$6,350.00 raised)*

- 9. Raffle Baskets** –Clubs from across the state supported their districts by providing themed raffle baskets at their GFWC-NC District Arts Festivals and Annual Fall Meetings. Funds from these raffles supported special projects for each district including scholarships, wounded warriors, childhood hunger, domestic violence awareness, anti bullying programs and district expenses.  
*(18 projects; numerous volunteer hours approx. \$7,000.00 raised)*

*In 2015, GFWC North Carolina clubs incorporated GFWC Partnership approved Fundraisers to raise funds for their clubs.*

- 10. Flower Power** – Two clubs participated in this GFWC Fundraising & /Development Partnership. These club women purchased bulbs and “bought” into the ease and stress-free approach to raise funds while creating beauty at their homes and in their community.  
*(1 projects; 69 volunteer hours; \$837.00.00 raised)*

## **Leadership Advancement Area**

1. The GFWC of Holden Beach Club offers retreats and gatherings to focus on team building activities and discussions on how to improve their club. These events are planned as pre-opening get together in an effort to encourage attendance at GFWC, GFWC-NC meetings and SER conferences. The members gather at members' homes or hotels on their way to attending the events listed previously.
2. The Raleigh Woman's Club's created an award which is their President Special Community Improvement Program: called RYWOA which stands for Raleigh Young Women of Achievement and it is to "honor the future of seven High School Seniors of Achievement in the areas of Leadership and GFWC's Six CSP's Art, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, and Public Issues. Seven young women receive a 1000.00 cash award each, an engraved award, and certificate and are highlighted with their photos in a program at awards banquet. Their families, siblings and sponsors of the event join the attendees in April to celebrate their accomplishments.
3. The Raleigh Woman's Club formed a New Leadership Standing Committee position on their Board of Directors in 2014 which has prospered in 2015. This committee works to support the needs of the club as set forth in their Leadership Section of their current Strategic Plan and is responsible for promoting leadership development and identifying and strengthening leadership skills of members by informing, training and motivating them to realize their optimal leadership potential.
4. The Charlotte Woman's Club established a Leadership Institute in honor of one of their clubs Past Presidents and a Past GFWC-NC State President. This Institute helps supports leadership development and training opportunities for their club members. These opportunities are then funded by the club at the local, district and state level for members who are interested in pursuing leadership opportunities within our organization.
5. Several clubs have established leadership goals is to encourage members to become involved in the community and to raise awareness of local, state and national governmental issues. They encourage members to represent their clubs on community coalitions, boards, councils and other organizations. The members serve as a community & club volunteer are now serving as Town Commissioners, Directors and Curators of local Museums, Presidents and volunteers with organizations like Meals on Wheels, Libraries, Revitalization Committees of their Communities, Garden Clubs, Chamber of Commerce's' American Federation of Suicide Prevention and so on.
6. The Raleigh Woman's Club Sponsors the Wake Young Woman's Leadership Academy (A Juniorette Club). Two of their members serve as co-advisors.
7. Numerous clubs across the state participate in our State GFWC-NC LEADS program. They nominate a club member whose must demonstrate leadership capabilities at the club level. Exhibit a commitment to the Federation, and understanding of the GFWC mission of community service. She must also demonstrate leadership skills, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm and flexibility and be interested in pursuing higher leadership

goals with GFWC-NC. She also must agree to share information with others. Her clubs nomination letter is submitted to her District President and District LEADS committees within our 9 Districts determine their winner and submit that name to the State LEADS Chairperson. In 2015 the LEADS committee chose to change this event and hold a 1 ½ day standalone event. Here they are given the opportunity to learn about GFWC, and GFWC-NC and help build each attendee Leadership Skills. Current and Past State Leaders are brought in to mentor and talk to the 9 District Attendees. One person is selected by our State LEADS committee to be our representative at the GFWC level LEADS program. The winner is announced at our GFWC-NC Annual Convention and The GFWC-NC helps to pay for part of their transportation and accommodations to attend the GFWC LEADS program.

8. The Down East Woman's club has 100% participation in holding a District Position. The club has a total of 5 members and one was elected to serve as their District President and District Secretary, Other members appointed to serve as the District Chaplain, Parliamentarian, and Teaching Scholarship Chairman.
9. Several clubs have started collecting information about their members' talents and skills. This helps their Membership Chairman to identify the individuals for leadership positions.
10. Clubs throughout NC nominate outstanding Women of Achievement and provide those names to our GFWC-NC Women of Achievement Committee. This committee selects the honorees and recognizes them at a banquet prior to our GFWC-NC State Convention. GFWC-NC and Clubs across our state feel this is an important way to recognize Women of Achievement here in North Carolina.

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## Membership Advancement Area

1. Members of the **Cary Woman's Club** held a member orientation with a "Speed Up-Dating" theme at a meeting. The orientation provided a time to reminisce and to add "CSP dates", which were programs and events for the club year. The activity added excitement and a fun way for involvement and to impact the community.
2. The **GFWC of Holden Beach** provides new members a GFWC of Holden Beach Yearbook, which is a binder filled with information about GFWC, GFWC-NC, District, and the club. The Yearbook contains a club history and other documents, and includes information about the Community Service Programs and upcoming dates. In addition, copies of GFWC's trifold, GFWC-NC's "*An Orientation to Federation*", a list of officers and committee chairmen, roster of club membership with pictures, and a FAQ sheet that addresses forms, reimbursement, and terminology. New members also receive a printed badge to wear at each meeting.
3. The Vice President of Membership Retention for the **Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh** coordinates "Connect Dinners" throughout the year. The informal gatherings are held at member's homes, with one or two held each month. Seven Connect Dinners were held with 21 members participating, with the purpose to have a diversity of members at each meeting. The club has found that the Connect Dinners have been highly positive as the members have been able to get to know each other in smaller settings, which has been effective to build relationships into membership goals for retention.
4. A member of the **Warrenton Women's Club** shared information about GFWC to new members at an orientation. The Club President also emailed new members information about the functions of each of the Community Service Programs to share information and so new members could make a decision about which to join and become active in.
5. Members of the **Oriental Woman's Club** assign a mentor to new members. Mentors are asked to provide new members with background on the club, obligations of membership, and reminders about meetings and events. New members are also assigned as a hostess for a club meeting, which is a way for the new members to meet other members of the club, with their goal to greet members and guests.
6. **The Woman's Club of Raleigh** provided a thank you gift of a list pad with pencil and sticky notes or magnets to each member who brought a guest. Each month, the club held a drawing at the general meeting of all the members who brought guests that month and provided a door prize to the name drawn. Introductions of guests and members who brought the guest are introduced at each meeting. The club awarded two free membership renewals at the end of the club year for a member that brought in the most new members and one winner that was from a drawing for all that brought a new member into the club during the year.
7. The **Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club** has promoted projects and programs through the club's website, Facebook page, and word of mouth. The majority of new members in 2015 learned about the club through the website. With the club as a member of the Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce, the club website is linked to the Chamber of Commerce's website, so the club receives free publicity through this membership.

8. The members of the **GFWC-NC Statesville Woman's Club** held a Mardi Bra Party for the ladies of a local woman's shelter. The purpose of the party was to collect new bras, panties, and feminine hygiene products for guests since domestic violence victims are rarely able to take items with them to shelters. Over 500 garments and 2,000 hygiene products were collected, and the event also increased awareness of the club, with the event received by over 300 women through evite and Facebook. The publicity also assisted in awareness and possible recruitment for the club.
9. The **Warrenton Woman's Club** stressed the importance of members feeling "accepted and valuable as a member of GFWC." With that in mind, members were invited to arrive thirty minutes early for meetings to socialize and catch up with each other prior to the start of the meeting. This time also allows for new members to get to know club members.
10. The **Moyock Woman's Club** hosted a membership recruitment event and provided an overview of Federation and club history. As part of the recruitment event, five-year and ten-year members were provided to club members. The event targeted recruitment of new members but also recognition for current members, and 6 new members joined the club.

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## **Legislation and Public Policy Advancement Area**

GFWC-NC has emphasized the positive role we can play in the areas of Legislation and Public Policy Advancement and has encouraged clubs to address these areas at the local, state, and national levels. Getting out the vote is good, but influencing the vote is better. Our clubs have risen to the challenge. The best of these efforts are submitted below.

Like most causes, the efforts at the club level have issued from the passion of a champion. In each instance, usually through the Public Issues CSP, the club has become involved in policy and legislative issues. In **Warrenton, NC**, email and club announcements were used to inform members about important public policy issues. Among the topics addressed were military sexual assault, campus sexual assault, domestic abuse and prevention of abuse, education reform, tractor-trailer length, funding for global health/development/humanitarian programs, aiding the Humane Society, urging the prevention of the government shutdown, veterans with disabilities, eliminating robocalls, and funding for cancer research and treatment.

Often, information on these topics came from GFWC and/or GFWC-NC, but the members also were encouraged to educate themselves through reading local newspapers, viewing internet news websites, and attending various governmental meetings such as city and county councils and school boards. Once informed, members were urged to contact local, state, and national elected officials to influence their vote on pertinent issues.

Another area of interest that received increased awareness was personal safety and crime prevention. Often individuals feel impotent in securing their own personal safety or preventing crime, but simple steps were shared that help keep us secure. Most of these dealt with sharing crime and fraud alerts from the NC Attorney General, but installing and/or monitoring smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors was also stressed. While we may never know the efficacy of these efforts, the fact that lives were most likely saved make them well worth the time involved. Twenty-five members spent thirty-seven hours participating in these efforts involving legislation and public policy and personal safety and crime prevention.

**GFWC of Holden Beach, NC**, took a more systematic approach. They set goals to achieve which were:

- To provide a list of all legislators, both state and national.
- To have all members enroll for GFWC Legislative Alerts.
- To engage the membership in local, state and national legislation and issues.

The first goal was quickly achieved. A handout with all the information was developed and distributed. It included each legislator's name, office locations, telephone numbers, email addresses, and website link.

The second goal was accomplished in a variety of ways. At the February and March meetings "how to" presentations were made, and members who had their smart phones with them enrolled during the meetings and began receiving the GFWC Legislative Alerts. Others were given a handout listing the steps to enroll in other ways. Also, the information was included in the monthly Communiqué, the club's newsletter.

Although members enrolled immediately in the GFWC Alerts, reporting of action was slow, and the third goal was going to require some extra effort. To move from awareness to engagement is difficult, especially with people who have many causes. Monthly reports were given orally at the meetings and were published in the Communiqué newsletter. Even though the club does not meet through the

summer, updates continued to be given in the newsletter. By September, when meetings resumed, interest had increased significantly and members had become more involved. Reports of personal contact from legislators were shared, and several of the issues being tracked had actions, both positive and negative. Two of the bills that members urged passage of were passed, and one which members urged defeat of was defeated. In addition to the club's local efforts, contact was made on their behalf at the national level also since Becky Weber, GFWC Legislation Chairman and Debra Bryant, GFWC Legislative Consultant were copied on everything and in turn contacted legislators on issues that required immediate action. In total, 26 bills and 14 issues were tracked with 23 members contacting legislators 208 times. It seems like this club went from 0 to 60 in one season's efforts in making a difference.

As an added bonus, one member of the club served GFWC on the Resolutions Committee and discussed the reason for having resolutions and their importance. Additionally, she wrote articles for the Communiqué (newsletter) and posted pictures on the club's Facebook page about her time working in Washington. She and others participated actively in GFWC Day in Washington, DC, where they worked with Congress on issues of importance to women. In total, this club had 72 hours of work, \$50 in-kind donations, and 39 members participating.

GFWC-NC has shown that efforts to influence legislation pay off in benefits to women and society at large. We are committed to growing these efforts in the future.

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## **GFWC-NC Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) Advancement Area Top Ten Award Entry**

1. **North Carolina Sorosis** celebrated its 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 4, 2015. The President, as a reminder to the club members, came dressed in a different decade for each general club meeting. In December several members joined the President's lead and came dressed in period dress from the 1920's to the 1970's. During part of the program, the historian shared an interesting and informative piece of club history. This information was such a hit that she was asked share similar information at every general meeting. In 1895, North Carolina Sorosis was organized with 15 charter members and today they have 86 members. Perhaps the demographics of membership has changed, but they remain committed to their original goals - community service, advancement of women's and children's causes, the promotion of the arts, conservation, education and aid to the veterans and to the disabled. North Carolina Sorosis represents a continuum of 120 years of service to their community and its citizens. This is not a claim that many organizations can make!
  
2. **GFWC of Holden Beach** formed a committee to determine what is and what should be done with their items of historical importance. They plan to decide how these items can be saved and catalogued. They are still in the important phase of planning and their goal is to complete their plans by the end of 2016.
  
3. **The Woman's Club of Williamston** celebrated their 90th Anniversary by having a fundraiser to honor and recognize the club's contributions. Their November Gala was the highlight of the celebration. The Gala was an opportunity to celebrate a long and distinguished history and a time to celebrate their ninety year legacy of leadership and contribution to the community. One of the members acknowledged the Gala by saying it was a tribute to all "of all women who have come before us and the women who are currently active in helping give back to the community."
  
4. In celebration of Federation Day, **The Woman's Club of Raleigh** Archive Committee researched club history and prepared a brochure for their club which they called, The Woman's Club of Raleigh - Club Firsts. This informational brochure was full of interesting "Firsts." The brochure highlighted the numerous activities and projects led by the club within the community where they live. Their club is definitely leaving their mark in society.
  
5. One of the President's goals for **North Carolina Sorosis** was to update the recording of club history. The last time anything had been written in book format was in 1982. A committee was formed, and they were anxious to tackle this very daunting task. The history booklet has been completed and contains the names of past presidents, annual events and activities, club business, fundraisers, names of the Night Department Chairman, Clubwomen of the Year, club awards and scholarship winners. This information was compiled from the club's minutes, newspaper articles, treasurer's reports, scrapbooks and annual reports written by the presidents. Club members were very excited to see this project completed. The completed

records are being stored in the North Carolina room in the New Hanover County Public Library.

- 6. GFWC of Holden Beach** formed a Past Presidents Committee. This leadership group was asked to utilize the talents of these individuals in a productive and positive role. Their responsibilities were as varied as the women themselves, but the main focus in 2015 was to share their knowledge of previous club projects and activities with the newer membership. They shared the history of these projects and highlighted GFWC organizational procedures and protocol. This group is being instrumental in leadership and is educating club membership in the history and ways of GFWC.
- 7. The Woman's Club of Raleigh** has a Club Archive Committee, which consist of 8 members. The work of this committee consists of collecting and compiling club history and filing the permanent records. WCR has a secure reserved club house archive area. The committee accepts all club information. They carefully research and document the information provided to validate its worth. Their club archives are becoming a treasure cove of memorabilia from past presidents since they donate their administration scrapbooks to be filed as history. The Woman's Club of Raleigh has 112 years of history, and their archives are bursting at the seams with the rich knowledge of valuable club activities.
- 8. The Woman's Club of Williamston** organized and published a cookbook in 2015, called "A Taste of Williamston." The cookbook was published in honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. The cookbook provides historical information throughout the publication and included information about past presidents and the Woman of the Year award recipients. Some recipes were published in memory of past members. The success of this project is shown in the sales of the cookbooks. In 2015, 262 cookbooks were sold.

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