



# **Top Projects**

## *From the 2016 Award Entries*

These programs and projects were selected as the Top Projects by the GFWC Special Project, Community Service Program, and Advancement Area Chairmen. The lists were comprised from the State Award Entries and Club Creativity Award Entries submitted by state chairmen.

# CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



## **You Plant, We Plant**

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

## **Cinderella Dreams**

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

## **We Dig Trees**

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

## **Parker Animal Shelter Trailer**

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

## **Eco-Kids in Nature**

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

## **Forever Young Fishing Derby**

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

## **Food for the Body and Flowers for the Soul**

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

## **Grow Hope Initiative**

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

**Recycling**

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

**Don't Throw it Away**

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