

# **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.

# JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

## **National Night Out**

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

# **Emergency Room Clothing**

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

### Slipper socks

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

#### **Dancing with the Stars of Sumner County**

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

#### **Candy Treats**

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

#### **Puppets**

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

#### **Birthday Bags**

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

#### **Halloween Masks**

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

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

#### **Gems for Mom**

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

#### **Door Decoration**

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