



GFWC ILLINOIS CONVENTION BOOKLET 2023-2024



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GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 STATE STATISTICS

TOTAL # PROJECTS	TOTAL # HOURS	DOLLARS DONATED	IN-KIND DONATIONS	DOLLARS SPENT THROUGH ADVANCEMENTS	DOLLARS RAISED	TOTAL # BOOKS READ	# CLUBS SUBMITTING AWARD ENTRIES
OVERALL GFWC ILLINOIS STATISTICS							
5,356	168,993	\$585,668	\$302,953	\$104,763	\$955,602	2,477	72

TOTAL PROJECTS	VOLUNTEER HOURS	DOLLARS DONATED	IN-KIND DONATIONS
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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

179	4,466	\$22,158	\$19,735
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GFWC JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

270	3,206	\$42,759	\$18,284
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COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

ARTS & CULTURE

310	9,594	\$40,357	\$23,853
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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

685	25,406	\$144,790	\$116,008
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EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

356	15,793	\$196,617	\$29,295
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ENVIRONMENT

339	10,002	\$14,379	\$18,483
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HEALTH & WELLNESS

435	13,545	\$104,943	\$76,497
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ADVANCEMENT AREAS

TOTAL PROJECTS

VOLUNTEER HOURS

DOLLARS SPENT

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

1,043	9,921	\$14,505
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LEADERSHIP

752	29,187	\$57,517
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LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY

93	1,350	\$533
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MEMBERSHIP

391	18,746	\$32,208
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FUNDRAISING

TOTAL PROJECTS

VOLUNTEER HOURS

DOLLARS RAISED

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

413	25,886	\$955,602
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GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 STATE STATISTICS – CONTINUED

WHRC	TOTAL PROJECTS	VOLUNTEER HOURS	DOLLARS DONATED	IN-KIND DONATIONS
WOMEN’S HISTORY & RESOURCE CENTER (WHRC)				
	90	1,891	\$19,665	\$798

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON	VOLUNTEER HOURS	BOOKS READ
EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)		
	37.119	2,477

	TOTAL PROJECTS	VOLUNTEER HOURS	DOLLARS DONATED	IN-KIND DONATIONS
GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS				
Canine Companions	8	750	\$3,443	\$0
Heifer International	13	89	\$2,772	\$1,038
Hope for Justice	1	1	\$25	\$0
March of Dimes	4	6	\$196	\$0
Operation Smile	9	350	\$456	\$711
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital	14	182.5	\$2,233	\$300
UNICEF	0	0	\$57	\$0
UNF Shot@Life Campaign	4	5	\$270	\$0
Grand Total	53	1,383.5	\$9,452	\$2,049

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUBS THAT SUBMITTED AWARD ENTRIES FOR 2023

Anna-Jonesboro Woman’s Club	GFWC Illinois Federated Woman’s Club of Greater Belleville	Lisle Woman’s Club
The Antioch Junior Woman’s Club	GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman’s Club	Lockport Woman’s Club
Antioch Woman’s Club	The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman’s Club	Lombard Junior Women’s Club, Inc.
Argo-Summit, Bedford Park Woman’s Club	GFWC Illinois Junior Woman’s Encore Club	Lombard Service League, Inc.
Atwood Woman’s Club	GFWC Illinois Marion Woman’s Club	The Mahomet Town & Country Women’s Club
Beverly Hills Junior Woman’s Club, Inc.	GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club	Manhattan Woman’s Club (GFWC Illinois)
Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman’s Club (GFWC IL)	GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman’s Club	Mascoutah Tuesday Woman’s Club, Inc.
Carol Stream Women’s Club	GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Bismarck	McLean County Woman’s Club (GFWC Illinois)
Cerro Gordo Woman’s Club (GFWC)	GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Cahokia	Metamora Woman’s Club
Clarendon Hills Woman’s Club	GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Collum	The Mokena Woman’s Club
Darien Woman’s Club	GFWC Indian Head Park Woman’s Club	Morton Grove Woman’s Club
The Downers Grove Junior Woman’s Club	GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc.	Naperville Junior Woman’s Club, Inc.
Eldorado Woman’s Club (GFWC IL)	GFWC Macomb Woman’s Club	Naperville Woman’s Club
Elgin Junior Woman’s Club	GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman’s Club	Oswego Junior Woman’s Club
Fairmount Woman’s Club	GFWC Woman’s Club of Kankakee, Illinois	Palos Heights Woman’s Club
Fithian Woman’s Club	Glendale Heights Junior Woman’s Club	Palos Park Woman’s Club
Geneseo Woman’s Club (GFWC IL)	The Glenwood Junior Woman’s Club	Peoria Woman’s Club
GFWC Decatur Woman’s Club	The Herrin Woman’s Club	Princeton Junior Woman’s Club
GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club	Homer Glen Junior Woman’s Club	The Woman’s Club of Aurora
GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club	Impact Makers of Palatine	Tuscola Woman’s Club
GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman’s Club	Jackie’s Bow Ties Club	The Wauconda Woman’s Club, GFWC
GFWC Illinois CRF Junior Woman’s Club	Joliet Junior Woman’s Club (GFWC)	Wheaton Junior Woman’s Club
GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today	Junior Woman’s Club of Rock Island	Wood River Woman’s Club
GFWC Illinois Fairbury Woman’s Club of Fairbury	Lemont Junior Woman’s Club, Inc.	Zion Woman’s Club (GFWC)

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS

CLUBS | DISTRICTS | INDIVIDUALS

ARTS & CULTURE	GFWC Illinois Art School	\$ 10.00
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH	Hope for Justice	627.00
	Illinois Fire Safety Alliance	657.00
	USO	487.00
	Wreaths Across America	263.00
	Heifer International	492.00
EDUCATION & LIBRARIES	GFWC Illinois Scholarships	79.59
	Illinois Leadership Seminar	327.00
ENVIRONMENT	Shawnee National Forest	1,124.00
HEALTH & WELLNESS	Canine Companions	494.00
	Operation Smile	391.00
	Shot@Life	522.00
	UNICEF	227.00
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN	CRF – Children’s Research Foundation	1,505.00
	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital	740.32
	March of Dimes	147.00
GFWC	Survivor Scholarships	777.00
	WHRC	377.00
GFWC ILLINOIS	Isabella Candee Foundation	530.90
	“Our Promise...A Safe Place for Every Child”	4,776.00
	Total Donations	\$14,553.81

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Marsha Vaughn, Chairman

GFWC IL Darien Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 96 Members

Mother's Day Bags – Members prepared 30 colorful bags, which were given to Family Shelter Services (Women's Shelter) prior to Mother's Day. Donated items included shampoo, conditioner, shower gels, body lotions, soaps, nail polish, make-up bags, make-up and jewelry. This gift helped make Mother's Day a little more special for these moms. Our members enjoy doing projects from women, for women.

The Highland Woman's Club | District 22 | 33 Members

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed at our October meeting. When members entered the room, they saw a display, **"The Empty Seat."** This display honored a young woman and her child who were murdered by the child's father. The chair was draped in purple. A poster designed with State of Illinois statistics was placed on the back of the chair. On the seat of the chair, the chairman had placed the obituary of the young woman as well as objects that represented her life. It was a very touching and effective display.

Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 14 Members

NEW! "Unveiling Domestic Violence" – Our October meeting highlighted Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a presentation by Dr. Maribel Lopez – local author, minister, inspirational speaker and professor. Her passion is educating the community on woman empowerment, domestic violence, substance abuse, and early childhood education. Through her social work, she also helps individuals to heal from sexual abuse and rape, something she is all too familiar with in her own life. Her talk highlighted signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships, myths surrounding domestic violence, how abusers manipulate their victims, and how to support someone in a domestic violence situation.

GFWC IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 10 Members

NEW! Angel Shot – A poster was designed to be put in women's restrooms in bars and restaurants that serve alcohol. It told women who were in a situation where they were uncomfortable, didn't feel safe, or being abused to go to the bar/server and ask for an Angel Shot – **neat** means to escort them to their car, **dressed** means call them an Uber or Lyft, and **with lime** means call the police. A second piece was created to be a "cheat sheet" to go behind the bar for the bartender/staff. A member canvassed the bars and restaurants in Coal City, Diamond, and Carbon Hill to ask the managers if they wanted to participate. All of the 11 businesses not only agreed to participate, but commented that it was a great idea and even complimented the club on the project. The posters were then printed, laminated, and delivered. In all the establishments where women were the managers or bartenders, they were thrilled with the project!

GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman's Club | District 17 | 10 Members

Women's Shelter Brunch and Bingo was held by the GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman's Club on February 11, 2023, with 42 in attendance. Several egg casseroles plus French toast casseroles, fresh fruit, sausage and gravy, and many muffins and donuts were served. Drinks included juices, water and coffee. The profit was \$604. A grant was received from the Thriven Insurance Company for \$250 to cover expenses. Participants paid \$10 for brunch and one Bingo card. Extra cards were purchased for \$1 each. The proceeds were split – \$325 went to the Harbor House, which is opening a women's and children's shelter in Iroquois County, and \$304 was donated to God's Food Pantry, which services the western half of Iroquois County.

GFWC Illinois Lincoln Woman's Club | District 17 | 81 Members

Donations to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) – Used cell phones were collected throughout the year to be sent to the NCADV, which in turn receives financial donations for the cell. Lincoln Woman's Club collected cell phones monthly and 28 cell phones were sent in for this purpose, which supports the work of this organization to end domestic violence.

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM – CONTINUED

GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Bismark | District 18 | 22 Members

Valentine Bags for the Shelter – During January and February, members made Valentine bags, which were given to women at Crosspoint at the Y Domestic and Transitional Shelter in Danville. Club members donated mugs, tea bags, coffee, Valentine socks, candy, net body sponges, and more. Items were placed in donated, colorful, reusable totes. A local business and ministry also shared items that were included in the totes. Twelve club members met and assembled the totes with colorful tissue paper. An inspirational note was included in each tote. The club also made staff bags with thank you cards to show appreciation for all they do. In addition, a local children’s ministry donated Valentine bags with goodies for all the children living at the shelter. The club wanted to make Valentine’s Day special for the woman and children at the shelter!

GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman’s Club | District 5/6 | 36 Members

Dine-2-Donate for Northwest CASA (Center Against Sexual Assault) – Members had lunch at a local restaurant that returned a portion of the lunch check. The \$250 collected was donated to Northwest CASA. This organization has been serving the needs of survivors of sexual violence.

Palos Park Woman’s Club | District 3 | 137 Members

NEW! Women At Risk International Speaker and Pop-up Boutique – A representative from the non-profit Women at Risk International spoke to the club at an evening meeting on topics of exploitation, sexual trafficking, and abuse of women throughout the world. The mission of this organization is to protect and empower survivors. The organization set up a pop-up boutique at a club meeting to sell items made by survivors. Members purchased \$1,324 in merchandise, with proceeds going to Women at Risk. It was an informative meeting that provided an opportunity to donate to an organization focused on helping abused women.

GFWC IL Coal City Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12 | 10 Members

NEW! Wooden Pumpkins – A member purchased small, pre-cut wooden pumpkins that she painted purple. She also had different stickers to decorate them and markers to write positive words/sayings on the pumpkins. These could be used as coasters or decorations to remind each woman of her worth.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 3 (11–20 members) | Fox Valley Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 2 (21–50 members) | GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 1 (51+ members) | GFWC Illinois Palos Park Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 3

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM

The Highland Woman’s Club | District 22 | 33 Members

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed at our October meeting. When members entered the room, they saw a display, **“The Empty Seat.”** This display honored a young woman and her child who were murdered by the child’s father. The chair was draped in purple. A poster designed with State of Illinois statistics was placed on the back of the chair. On the seat of the chair, the chairman had placed the obituary of the young woman as well as objects that represented her life. It was a very touching and effective display.

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

GFWC ILLINOIS STATE PROJECT: “OUR PROMISE: A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD”

Debbie Monteith, Chairman & Loretta Revesz, Junior Chairman

GFWC Woman’s Club of Aurora | At their **April luncheon**, bookmarks with child abuse awareness tips and information were created for each member. Blue ribbons were attached to each bookmark. Child Abuse Awareness flyers were placed on easels and blue pinwheels from PCA Illinois were used in the centerpieces. The collection table was decorated with teddy bears, balloons and PCA brochures.

GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Bismarck | Members place **“Prevent Child Abuse” yard signs** at their homes and other locations in the community to show support for prevention. Members met at the woman’s shelter to join residents and staff to **plant pinwheels in their flowerpots** at the entrance of the building and around the peace pole in support of PCA Illinois. They also decorated the bulletin boards in the lobby with pinwheels that were handmade by children.

Elgin Junior Woman’s Club | The club has partnered with their local Police Department to **plant a pinwheel garden** at the station. The station supports the garden by purchasing the pinwheel and blue lights, which make the display visible to all who drive by at night. Members supported the PCA Illinois project of **Wear Blue Day** in April with T-shirts that said “I Wear Blue Because Child Abuse is Preventable.”

GFWC Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club | The **Share Your Heart** program is sponsored by this club to provide Christmas gifts for needy children in their community. Members of the community pick up a heart and bring a gift for a needy child. They collected over \$3,125 from the generous community to purchase gift cards for the families. Members help bag the gifts and check that the gifts were the right sizes as indicated on the hearts. Space at a local church was donated for the project and the hearts are put on trees around the community at businesses and at churches.

GFWC Illinois Fairbury Woman’s Club | Members asked their local grocery store if they could stand outside and **collect donation money** for PCA Illinois. It was approved and two Saturdays were chosen as collection days. A total of \$244.31 was collected.

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club | Members **planted pinwheels** at the administration building and the public library in the flower beds, and a sign the club had made was hung on the fence surrounding the reading garden. A new addition this year was the site of the new Children’s Advocacy Center. Two large metal pinwheels were placed there along with a large group of pinwheels and two flags.

Homer Glen Junior Woman’s Club | Members declared war on each other with their project **Penny War for PCA Illinois**. Members raced to fill their own jars with pennies and dollar bills, which counted as positive points. They also had the opportunity to sabotage each other by dropping silver coins (quarters, dimes and nickels) into jars of other members to subtract from their score. At the end of the night, the contents of all the jars were tabulated and scored accordingly. The club raised \$300 for PCA Illinois. **(19 members, 14 hours, \$300 donated)**

GFWC IL Coal City Junior Woman’s Club | Members **planted pinwheels** at four schools, the district administration building, village hall and Campbell Memorial Park. **PCA yard signs** were displayed in members’ yards.

Fox Valley Junior Woman’s Club | At the club’s May meeting, their speaker was Jennifer Samartano the Northern Region Prevention Specialist from PCA Illinois. Members **learned about how PCA Illinois helps prevent child abuse** by promoting prevention coalitions, home visitations through the Healthy Families Illinois initiative and offering programs such as Safe Baby, Substance Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Trauma and Resilience. The club **planted 500 pinwheels** along with a banner in front of the Aurora Police Department.

“OUR PROMISE: A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD” – CONTINUED

Fithian Woman’s Club | Members previously **planted pinwheels** outside but this year they took a different approach and partnered with the local library and moved the project inside. A poster was created to explain what pinwheels for prevention is about including facts about child abuse. In addition, 50 free pinwheels were made for children to take, and a pinwheel coloring page was made available. The library has book stations along the portion of the Kickapoo Rail Trail that runs through Oakwood. At the first station, a sign was placed noting April is Child Abuse Awareness month, along with the Pinwheel for Prevention sign. At each station along the trail pinwheels were planted.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15

Category 3 (11–20 members) | GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 2 (21–50 members) | GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Bismarck | District 18

Category 1 (51+ members) | The Woman’s Club of Aurora | District 11-12

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 OUR PROMISE: A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD

Homer Glen Junior Woman’s Club | Members declared war on each other with their project **Penny War for PCA Illinois**. Members raced to fill their own jars with pennies and dollar bills, which counted as positive points. They also had the opportunity to sabotage each other by dropping silver coins (quarters, dimes and nickels) into jars of other members to subtract from their score. At the end of the night, the contents of all the jars were tabulated and scored accordingly. The club raised \$300 for PCA Illinois. **(19 members, 14 hours, \$300 donated)**

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CRF)

Megan Mitchell, Chairman & Connie Head, Junior Chairman

Book Donation | **The Morris Woman's Club** donated "*Ellie and Brigid's First Day of School*" to the Morris Area Public Library in recognition of Mental Health Month and Children's Day. The book is based on Brigid's personal experiences, addresses bullying in school, and a way to cope with it in a manner kids can understand. The co-author, Brooklin Gervais, and illustrator, Skylar Easson, attended the presentation to autograph the book, as well as Foundation member Shauna Randazzo. The Kenna Foundation is an Illinois not-for-profit based in Chicago that works to empower women and girls. This is the first of a series of books for kids talking about emotional and social issues and ways to cope with them. Brooklin is working with Shauna to extend their outreach in several ways, summer camps for girls, working with community organizations, offering professional developments to school districts and now books. The Foundation publishes the books, and the proceeds go toward scholarship funds to send girls to college to major in the S.T.E.A.M. fields. Morris' own Skylar Easson brings a vivid life-like element of art to the group, enabling kids to learn important lessons through different art mediums. The goal of this project was to provide a quality book with this message to our children and to promote the work of this foundation in helping children learn to cope with social and emotional issues. **(6 hours, \$11 in-kind donation)**

Cardz for Kidz | One of **Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club's** service projects for the end of the year was to make cards for Cardz for Kidz, NFP. Its founder, Ike Nwankwo, started volunteering at age 14 for a children's hospital in Michigan. Due to his experience as a patient, he began to understand what it was like to be restricted to one's bed in a hospital. This eventually led him to organize his first Cardz for Kidz event in 2010 for the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and become a 501 (c)(3). This was such a fun project and allowed everyone to have a little fun and indulge their creative side – stickers anyone! **(5.5 hours, \$40 in-kind donation)**

Child Advocacy Center Field Trip | Members of **Highland Woman's Club** took a field trip to the Child Advocacy Center in Wood River and delivered two large laundry baskets and eight stuffed backpacks for children receiving services at CAC. Co-Chairmen Nancy and Mary Jane shopped for these goodies, packed them, and coordinated with the Child Advocacy Center's Executive Director. The club's October Service Focus was funding for this project, which included **40 hours of service and \$450 in-kind donations.**

EXTRA Program | **Princeton Junior Woman's Club** members saw a need at the local high school and created the EXTRA program to help. Almost 50% of high school students attending Princeton High School receive some type of lunch program assistance. Many of these students are only given one option for lunch; whereas, students who are not on a lunch program can choose from many different options. As such, students on the lunch program are very obvious to other students. PJWC members worked with school administrators and established a program where the school will randomly select 10 kids each month that are enrolled in the lunch program and give them an extra \$10 in their lunch accounts. This money can be used to buy extra food or snacks and helps these students blend in more with their peers. The program started in January 2023 and has been a huge success. **(3 hours, \$900 donated)**

Hope's Front Door | Club members from **Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club** and community members donated new school supplies. Some were shipped directly to Hope's Front Door and others were dropped off at local small businesses, which members then retrieved and brought to Hope's Front Door. DGWJC volunteers helped sort supplies and pack backpacks to support local students in need. **(47 hours, \$1,000 in-kind donations)**

KidzFest Booth | At Joliet's KidzFest, **Joliet Junior Woman's Club** members created a carnival-themed booth with a Bozo buckets game and putt putt golf for attending children to enjoy. Each child received a prize for their efforts. The event had booths from companies and organizations from the area, as well as churches giving away backpacks, magic shows, a petting zoo, and firetrucks, with many giveaways in preparation for the new school year. The Joliet Junior's booth had constant visitors of families and their children playing, even though it turned into a cold rainy day. They answered questions about JJWC and handed out a few brochures and August Blast Off invites. **(32 hours, \$50 in-kind donation)**

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CRF) – CONTINUED

Pajama Party | At the **Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club's** October General Meeting, in honor of Advocates for Children Week, they invited guest speakers from the Will County Children's Advocacy Center, Assistant Director Jaelyn Lundquist and Forensic Interviewer Cruz Ramirez Arzuaga. They spoke about their work with children in the court system and how they provide a safe space for victims to give testimony. The speakers, as well as club members, all attended the meeting while wearing their favorite cozy pajamas. The club then donated 75 sets of children's pajamas to the Will County Children's Advocacy Center. In the spirit of a true pajama party, everybody enjoyed popcorn, drinks, and candy. **(30 hours, \$1,125 in-kind donations)**

Prevent Child Abuse | **The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman's Club** planted over 88 pinwheels on the curve where U.S. Route 24 crosses the main street of town on April 3, 2023. This is probably the busiest corner in the small town. They also placed a sign at the spot and a banner to explain the purpose of the garden. An article was placed in the weekly newspaper to explain the purpose of the pinwheel garden, inviting anyone who stands against child abuse to add a pinwheel. Another article and picture were put in the paper. The pinwheel garden stayed up for two weeks. They purchased 10 pinwheels to add to the pinwheels rescued from last year's garden. **(8 hours)**

Rising Stars Buddy Baseball | This is **Wheaton Junior Woman's Club's** largest event of the year. Work on this project begins in March and continues through August. They organize a five-week interleague baseball program for kids with various special needs. Kids are paired with an able-bodied buddy in order to assist them with playing the game. Juniors and community volunteers are organized through an online signup. They get a lot of volunteers through the local high schools. The season ends with a potluck-style barbecue. **(240 hours, \$250 was donated)**

Making Trauma Dolls | Members of **Tuscola Woman's Club** cooperatively worked with the local Kiwanis Club to make trauma dolls. The local Kiwanis club made the dolls and 11 club members met on May 11, 2023, to stuff and sew shut 28 dolls. These dolls will be given to hospitals and The Crisis Nursery. **(27.5 hours)**

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1-10 members) | Glendale Heights Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6

Category 3 (11-20 members) | Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

Category 2 (21-50 members) | Highland Woman's Club | District 22

Category 1 (51+ members) | The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CRF)

Fithian Woman's Club | District 18 | **Fair Hope Children's Ministry Project**

The project chairperson toured the Fair Hope Children's Ministry and discussed with the Director how FWC might partner with this children's ministry. Fair Hope is a non-profit organization that endeavors to support new mothers and their babies/children in Vermilion County. FWC voted to support the infant layettes that Fair Hope provides to new mothers. FWC members donated 39 burp cloths, 3 swaddling blankets, 15 receiving blankets, 12 wash cloths, 6 hooded towels, 12 bibs, 22 onesies, 17 sleepers, 17 body wash/shampoo sets, 5 baby lotions, 20 Desitin Ointments, 2 packages of Q-tips, 12 baby bottles, 34 packages of baby wipes, and 324 diapers. In addition, FWC provided information to be included in the layettes. FWC provided 58 *Milestone Moments* brochures in English, 28 *Milestone Moments* brochures in Spanish, 50 copies of *How to Cope with a Crying Baby*, and 26 copies of *Shaken Baby Syndrome/Take the Safe Baby Pledge* brochures. To coincide with Child Abuse Awareness Month, FWC delivered 919 baby items and 162 educational pages to the Fair Hope Children's Ministry. **(12 members, 36 hours, \$728.76 in-kind)**

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

ARTS & CULTURE

Karel Volpert, Chairman

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15 | 18 members

Christmas Package Door Hanger: For their holiday service project, this club filled boxes and wrapped them with Christmas wrap, ribbons, and bows for residents at a local nursing home. The boxes were filled with items suitable for men and women, wrapped, and finished with a bow and ribbon that would allow it to be hung on the outside of the residents' doors until Christmas. On that day, they got to open their box to find goodies inside which were socks, toiletries, games/puzzle books, snacks, and more. A tag was placed on each gift saying, "Donated by GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club." Materials were donated by club members. Total boxes made were 55 for ladies and 45 for men.

Lisle Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 62 members

"Earth Day" Art Contest: This club wanted to generate enthusiasm in art by allowing students to use their creativity and talent and promote their environmental awareness. The theme of the contest was "Earth Day". Lisle Elementary School had eighteen 5th grade students participate. The first winner was awarded a \$50 gift certificate to an art store, a blue ribbon, and a framed award certificate. In addition, the Mayor of Lisle presented a framed Proclamation of Achievement to the winner at a Village Board Meeting. Other award certificates and ribbons were presented for Best Theme and Special Merit. All other participants received a certificate. Artwork was hung in the Lisle Library District's Children's Section on Earth Day and displayed for two weeks. In appreciation of the assistance of the art teacher, he was given a \$20 gift certificate.

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman's Club | District 11/12 | 45 members

Liberty Arts Festival: Members presented "The Art of Cooking" at the Grundy County Historical Museum during the Liberty Arts Festival in Morris. They researched ways different cultures who settled Illinois (Indians, Early Settlers, French, German, Irish, Yankees, Scandinavians and the Southerners) have impacted the way we cook and the foods we eat today. Historic cooking utensils "borrowed" from the museum were displayed. Members shared information with visitors as they came in and looked over the display. Many contributed personal information about using some of the utensils.

Tuscola Woman's Club | District 19 | 57 members

Connecting with Their School: This club sponsors a Juniorette and Gentleman High School Club (Jet's) which meets during the lunch hour at Tuscola High School. The Jet's Club had the opportunity to create "Spirit" posters using various media-colored pencils, markers, and crayons. On card stock members were instructed to think of a message that would make someone feel good about him or herself. The posters were placed around the school. The purpose was to give the Jet's members an artistic opportunity to express themselves. Also, the project provided an opportunity for the students to be a part of the community and their school and gave them an opportunity to reach outside of their world artistically and touch others.

Naperville Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 60 members

Fine Art & Artisan Fair: The Naperville Woman's Club Fine Art & Artisan Fair is the longest running juried art fair in Illinois. The event has a six-decade history. Over 100 artists from all over the country exhibited their work at the Naperville Settlement. The idea behind the fair was to create a festive atmosphere for the whole family. Admission was free to the family-friendly event that featured free painting for kids at Petite Picasso art tent, a balloon artist, and educational and fun photo opportunities. Festival attendees could also flex their own artistic abilities by painting one of two hundred sixteen 8 by 8-inch squares which were stapled together on an 8 by 12-foot mural to complete a reproduced piece of art by one of the fair's exhibitors.

Anna Jonesboro Woman's Club | District 25 | 10 members

Soldier's Aid Society: Club members attended and assisted with the Shawnee Arts Council's event for the 2023 Civil War Weekend which was held in March. Members took part in the reenactment of the 1864 Civil War "Soldier's Aid Society". It depicted the home front scene which was a member's home where ladies gathered to prepare bandages and make cot quilts for the soldiers. Club members wore era costumes and demonstrated working on patriotic quilts.

ARTS & CULTURE – CONTINUED

Argo-Summit, Bedford Park Woman’s Club | District 5/6 | 27 members

Zoo Tree: The club purchased a tree to decorate during the holiday season at the Brookfield Zoo. The theme chosen by the club was “GFWC Partners”. Various partner organizations of GFWC were researched and logos used to create the ornaments. Shopping for materials was needed to make the decorations. Members attended an evening meeting to make the ornaments and, on another day, went to the zoo to decorate the tree.

The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman’s Club | District 17 | 10 Members

Art Show for High School Students: This club held an art show at the Gilman-Danforth Area Public Library inviting all high school students to display their talent. The art teacher coordinated with the club’s Arts and Culture Chairperson to arrange the displays. There were five categories: black and white drawing, color drawing, watercolor painting, acrylic painting, and mixed media. First, second, and third place cash prizes were issued in each category. There was also a people’s choice award. A reception was held to award the winners with parents and guests welcome. There were snacks and punch served. The advertising included a Skyward call to parents of art students, school Facebook and Twitter, the club Facebook group, and the town electronic announcement board. There were pictures of the winners and an article in the local newspaper.

GFWC Joliet Junior Woman’s Club | District 11/12 | 29 members

StoryPoint Memory Care: Club members brought materials to make crafts with seniors at the StoryPoint Memory Center. The activity was to make a mummy face out of paper plates. Holes were punched in each paper plate and yarn was crisscrossed through the holes. It was a great activity for the seniors because of the socialization and because of the hand/eye coordination required for the project. Many family members of the club members participated as well including one husband and two children. All the materials were donated.

GFWC Illinois Woman’s Club of Bismarck | District 18 | 22 members

Spanish Culture: Members learned about and celebrated Spanish culture at their May club meeting. Hostesses decorated the tables with floral and woven table runners, plants, a Spanish flag, fruits and vegetables, maracas, and more. A napkin, fan, and silk flower decorated each place setting. Members were asked to place the flower behind their ear as Spanish women do. The evening began with an introduction of Pable, a foreign exchange student at the local high school. The hostesses then served Spanish foods which included sardines, salami, ham, cheeses, rice pudding, churros, Spanish peanuts, grapes, olives, and salsa and chips, and fruit infused water. Following the meal, Pablo answered questions about his Spanish heritage and customs. Accompanying Pablo at the meeting were two of his friends from the high school. Also attending the meeting was the Eighteenth District President. A photo of Pablo and our club members was taken, printed, and given to Pablo along with a card thanking him for speaking to our group.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Fairbury Woman’s Club of Fairbury | District 17

Category 3 (11–20 members) | Fithian Woman’s Club | District 18

Category 2 (21–50 members) | GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 1 (51+ members) | Lisle Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023

ARTS & CULTURE

GFWC Illinois Eldorado Woman's Club | The Wizard of Oz | District 25 | 10 members

The Eldorado Woman's Club started the year planning and getting everything ready for the District 25 Spring Convention that they hosted. The theme was none other than the Wizard of Oz. (This followed the theme of State President LeeAnn Conlon and Director of Junior Clubs Patti Kuchar.) One of the club members built a replica of the "Emerald City" and a tin man. The club also had a scarecrow and a lion that was scared of his own shadow to use as decorations. Another of their members made a Dorothy dress for a member to wear when she sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" for entertainment during the morning district convention meeting. That was not all. The yellow brick road went from the foyer to the fellowship hall and was drawn and installed by some of the other club members.

As decorations for the fellowship hall, members took coloring sheets — one of Dorothy with Toto, one of the Scarecrow, one of the Cowardly Lion, and one of the Tin Man — to their local elementary school and asked permission to have a coloring contest in the four first-grade classrooms. The teachers had the children color their pictures for their art project that day.

Members went back and picked up the sheets and hung them around the room where the convention was to be held. During the lunch break at the convention, the visitors from the other district clubs judged each class separately and a winner from each class was chosen. Each winner received a McDonald's gift card, and all of the classes were provided with cookies and juice drinks. The teachers were also given a gift. Three club members went to the school later that week and presented the winners with their gift card, provided the refreshments for the classes, and gave the teachers their gifts.

For lunch, attendees had a "Kansas farmhouse" dinner of southern fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, and biscuits, with cake for dessert.

The club made the programs with a picture of the GFWC Illinois emblem and the logo of the state president "There is no place like GFWC" along with a picture of Dorothy, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion, and Tin Man skipping down the yellow brick road on the front cover. The club also presented each attendee with a gift bag.

Several of the items that the members made were taken to the GFWC Illinois State Convention and were entered in the Arts & Crafts Contest. All of the entries won a ribbon.

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023

UPCYCLED ART CONTEST

Karel Volpert, Arts & Culture Chairman & Mary Lee Howard, Environment Chairman

CATEGORY WINNERS

Home Décor | Teresa Sanford-Shipplett | GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15
Book Stand

Jewelry | Chris Metz | GFWC Illinois Fairbury Woman's Club of Fairbury | District 17
Christmas Tree Picture made from Silver Jewelry

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBER WRITING CONTEST AWARDS 2023
ARTS & CULTURE

Rachel Albers | Fairmount Woman's Club | District 18 | Poetry Winner | "I'm Not Broken"

I'm Not Broken

Broken heart and broken trust
Crushing down, surrounds me
Making it hard to see what could be
Knowing I need something more

Feeling lost and overwhelmed
Numb and dark where demons crawl
Beat down and thrown around
The walls have been built thick

As tears fill my eyes and look to the sky
I see a breakthrough the clouds
A beam of light that shines on me
I feel like it's meant for me

My body feels warm
Tingles on my skin
It feels like a jolt inside
As I hear a loud voice say

"With your heart in her hands
She will keep it safe
Through the twist and turns in life
There's uncertainty
Just give it time you will see
You are meant for love
Because you really aren't broken

GFWC ILLINOIS MEMBER WRITING CONTEST AWARDS 2023

ARTS & CULTURE

Sherrill Gramse | The Herrin Woman's Club | District 25 | Short Story Winner | "Dress Memories"

Dress Memories

Jane settled down in her recliner with the fireplace glowing, ready to pick up her crocheting. It was late afternoon, but it was still chilly outside, and the warmth from the fire felt good. Sipping her cup of licorice tea, she began a new corner-to-corner blanket for the newest baby in her church. Just as she was starting, her phone pinged with a message from her sister, Jean.

The message had no words, only a picture of two girls in a photo. Her sister had been going through old pictures from their mother's house and evidently thought it would be a chuckle to send it. She was the brunette, aged seven, and the other was her sister, Jean, a blonde five-year old. Both wore matching red and white checked, sleeveless dresses trimmed in lace. Jane smiled as she remembered her mother carefully sewing on her Singer treadle sewing machine the matching dresses for Easter. Mom put up their hair the night before with metal curlers rolled up with rubberized bands. And they had matching aqua felt coats with big pearl buttons. How is it that we can remember the clothes that we wore so many years ago? Now at age eighty, Jane's mind began to wander as she recalled with a smile all that her mother had done for them growing up. Mom even made clothes for their Barbie dolls, which neither daughter fully appreciated. By the time the girls were in Middle School, their mother and father gave up and made sure Santa gave them toy guns, Lincoln Logs, art supplies and chemistry sets for Christmas.

Jane did remember another picture taken in about the second or third grade. She wore her favorite orange, brown and white plaid dress. It had a white bib on the front with a black velvet bow. She smiled as she remembered how special she felt on the days she got to wear that dress!

When Jane was ten years old, her mother enrolled her in the local 4-H club, the Bluebirds. Mrs. Benson, the leader, was a wonderful, patient, jolly lady who encouraged all the girls to participate in the sewing and baking contests held at the end of the year at the county fair. As a ten-year old, the girls were to make a simple, gathered skirt with an elastic waistband and a matching scarf. Jane choose a pretty cotton print with a white background and tiny green leprechauns. With Mrs. Benson's and her mother's help, she finished the skirt. The scarf was nothing more than a two-foot by two-foot piece of cloth with straight stitching 5/8 inch around the edges, then pulling the threads to make a fringed border. Later that year her Mom came home with a used, Montgomery Ward Electric Sewing Machine and they couldn't wait to start the sewing projects next year.

How exciting the next year in 4-H was when each girl got to choose a pattern to make her first dress. It was recommended to start with a Simplicity Pattern for beginners. Jane carefully laid out the tissue paper pieces on her cloth, another cotton print, this time a white background with tiny red roses. Then Jane proceeded to cut out the pieces on the solid black lines being careful not to stick herself with the straight pins. When she finished however, she realized she had cut on the line that was clearly marked PLACE ON A FOLD - DO NOT CUT. Needless to say, her dress that year had a seam down the front of the bodice. Jane was given a red ribbon, second place for her sewing. Fortunately, she fared better in the baking category, getting a blue ribbon, first place for her banana bread. And there is always next year!

The next year, another Simplicity Pattern, another short sleeved, cotton print dress, and lo and behold, another dress with a seam down the center of the bodice! Another second place, red ribbon! Jane just wasn't cut out to be a seamstress, despite the efforts of her mother and Mrs. Benson.

Jane began giggling as she thought about all the years she competed in the baking and cooking categories and gave up sewing competitions. Her husband of sixty years always said, "I gained weight after I married a 4-H cook!"

Fast forward to high school. Jane remembers sewing a lined skirt, pink and gray plaid. No contests, she made it just for herself. She wore it with a ribbed pink sweater and felt like a million bucks. High school in those days required girls to wear dresses and skirts, no jeans or not even slacks. Another attempt at a fashion statement was making a red and black plaid jumper, the school colors, that slipped easily over her head - no zippers or buttons to sew.

Jane next remembered her junior year prom and being asked to attend by "the friend of a friend's brother". Her mother had taken her shopping and they chose a beautiful, yellow chiffon, floor length formal with a pair of long, white gloves and

SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER – CONTINUED

white heels. Mom had even taken her to a beauty parlor to get her hair done. Sadly, her hair was so teased and stiff with hair spray, she cried all the way home. Mother gently helped her restore her hair to her natural flip to attend the dance. When Jane and her date got to the prom, she saw that there were dozens of dresses just like hers, some in different shades, but all the same style. That led to her decision the next year to make her own dress if she was asked to the prom.

Henry, a boy she met in her last semester of her senior year of high school, asked her to the prom. The piece de resistance was making her own prom dress in her senior year! Jane promptly went to Jo-Ann Fabrics to buy a luscious, pale aqua floral chiffon to cover a white lined, sheath dress with spaghetti straps. A teal velvet trim enhanced the bodice. Same white gloves and shoes, but now her accessory was a turquoise, feathery boa! Henry was handsome and she was beautiful in their prom picture, not knowing that someday she and Henry would be husband and wife.

Just a few years later, Henry did propose. She remembered thinking, “I’ll make my own wedding dress to save money!” She and Henry were both in college, working full-time, too. She bought a McCall’s Pattern: a short skirted, peasant dress with long sleeves. Of course, she bought white, satin-like polyester material and proceeded to start the dress in her spare time. But her progress didn’t match her mother’s perceived schedule, who then offered to help finish the dress. Jane was in La-La Land, head over heels in love, and wasn’t really into sewing. Fortunately, her mom not only finished her wedding dress, but also Jean’s maid of honor, royal blue dress. Grandma Sadie offered to make both of them bows for their hair instead of Jane wearing a bridal veil. Jane and her sister still laugh over those silly bows, but they loved them just because Grandma made them.

The first time Jane was pregnant, her good friend, Debbie, made her a maternity dress. Lime green print, short sleeved, and plenty big. It was wonderful! There were so few maternity fashions back then. Debbie even made Jane a second dress when she was pregnant with her second child.

After Mike was born, Jane tried her hand at sewing again and made herself a pretty, sunshiny, yellow dress with white butterflies. It had short puffed sleeves and just a bell-shaped shift. She remembered seeing herself in that dress in a picture and thought “how young we were!”. Then after Julie was born, she stared sewing the kids matching pajamas to wear on Christmas Eve – green and red flannel; a nightgown for Julie and a top and pants for Mike. She’d wrap them in tissue paper and hide them under the kid’s pillows, and then would tell them, “go get ready for bed” and the kids would yell and scream at finding their new PJ’s.

Sipping her tea, she remembered being a young mom and window-shopping at the mall. There was a summer dress, floor length with a halter top, made of green plaid rayon. She even tried it on and was very tempted to buy it, but she reasoned that she didn’t have anywhere to wear it and she shouldn’t spend the money on a dress that she wouldn’t be wearing often. She had often thought about that dress and wondered if she should have bought it.

When Jane started working as a nurse, she had high hopes of sewing her own uniforms. Nurses had to wear white dresses, white stockings and white shoes back then. No scrubs were allowed except to work in surgery. She purchased a simple dress pattern and white polyester material. She dutifully cut out the pieces and put them away in a Rubbermaid until she could finish the job. Twenty-five years later when moving, she found the Rubbermaid with the unsewn dress still waiting!

In the later years working as a nurse, Jane was between jobs and working as a graduate assistant while working on her master’s degree. She was shopping at J. C. Penney’s and found a three-piece suit, dark olive-green gabardine, with a skirt, slacks and jacket. It fit beautifully, but even being half-price, it was still more than the budget could bear at the time. She bought it anyway, but started to have buyer’s remorse on the way home. When she got home, she showed her outfit to Henry, saying, “I’m going to take it back, we can’t afford it” to which Henry replied, “keep it, you’ll need it someday” and she did. After graduating, she interviewed wearing that suit and was hired for the highest paying job she had up until that time.

Starting to doze off, Jane smiled thinking about the peach colored, rayon, summer frock she had ordered from a catalog last year. It is the only dress she has in her closet today. Nowadays she mostly wears pull on pants or jeans with elastic waists, wash-and-wear tops, and undershirts rather than bras! Henry has been gone now over a year and there aren’t many opportunities to “dress up”. Her parents had passed many years ago, but Jane’s children lived nearby and were always visiting her. She felt blessed with so many wonderful memories. But thank goodness the ‘fashionista genes’ her mother had were passed on to Julie, for it certainly skipped her generation! As Jane relaxed, she figured she’d just take a little snooze before starting that baby blanket.

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Gerri Eck, Chairman & Michelle Schultz, Junior Chairman

GFWC Manhattan Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 23 members | **Vietnam Wall** | The club promoted and participated in the Vietnam Wall visit in their village. The American Legion and the Village of Manhattan brought the Vietnam Wall to Manhattan from June 30th through July 5th. Members volunteered to help man the facility and to donate water and snack items for the volunteers. It was promoted from January through June – encouraging members to sign up to volunteer. (15 hours)

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | 36 members | **Formula Drive** | In response to the GFWC National Day of Service in September, members set up four collection points around Lombard and encouraged donations of infant formula. They collected 200+ lbs. of formula. They look forward to doing this project again! The formula went to Outreach House, which provides essential services for families and all those in need. They also donated \$1,000 to them. (30 hours | \$1,000 donated | \$580.36 in-kind)

Mascoutah Tuesday Woman's Club | District 22 | 61 members | **MOMS** | The members made and donated 176 hats, 52 scarves, 4 afghans, 45 soap sacks, 1 ear warmer, 5 pairs of gloves and 50 Homeless Care kits to MOMS on a Mission. MOMS is a non-profit public charity that supports needy families, the homeless, veterans, and victims of natural disasters. This organization also received leftover items from both club rummage sales. (745 hours | \$1,551.40 in-kind)

Highland Woman's Club | District 22 | 22 members | **National Day of Service** | The club coordinated an event to educate their community about food insecurity. Stations were set up providing information on the health and societal risks of food insecurity. The club also provided a site for donations to the Thanksgiving food drive at their local pantry. Representatives from Meals on Wheels, the Lunch Bunch, SOS Soup Kitchen, and high school FFA students were onsite, and supplies were readily available for individuals to write government officials in support of funding for programs that address food insecurity. The club held two raffles: one for Williams Sonoma Spatulas (a GFWC suggestion) and the other for a set of children's books addressing poverty and food insecurity. Donations to the food drive totaled 2,000 lbs. (80 hours | \$235 in-kind)

Darien Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 96 members | **Soap Collection** | The club held a Holiday Soap Collection from the day after Thanksgiving to December 20th. Bins were placed at the Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien Park District, three local schools, and a local church. Over 880 soap and cleaning products (hand soap, body wash, shampoo, laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, etc.) were dropped off in the bins. All donated products were given to West Suburban Community Pantry, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Food Pantry, Our Lady of Peace Food Pantry, and the Women's Shelter. Members also donated. (72 hours | \$3,900 in-kind)

GFWC Zion Woman's Club | District 10 | 24 members | **Veterans** | Zion Woman's Club secured a table at the Zion Library and asked patrons coming into the library to write a message of thanks to our veterans for their service on cards they provided. Children colored patriotic pages that will be delivered to Veterans residing in their local nursing homes. They also set up the American White Table and described its meaning. The white table is a symbol of remembrance for service members who have fallen, gone missing, or were held captive in the line of duty. The table is round to signify the neverending burden of service members and concern for those who remain missing. The cloth is white to represent the purity of each service member's heart. A single red rose represents the loved ones of those missing, and a yellow ribbon tied around the vase conveys the hope that all service members will return home safely.

Naperville Woman's Club | District 5-6 | 60 members | **Families Helping Families** | Throughout the club year members donated quarters. The coins were donated to Families Helping Families for their clients to use in coin-operated washers and dryers. (6 hours | \$1,761 in-kind)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH – CONTINUED

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15 | 18 members | **Stuffed Socks for Kings Harvest Ministries** | At their February meeting, each member brought at least 5 pairs of socks (men’s, women’s, children’s) that were then stuffed with snacks, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and dental floss. The socks were tied together with ribbon and a card attached that said, “Cozy’s for your toesy’s, some snacks for you to eat, toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss so the dentist you won’t meet!” Eighty-seven pairs of socks were filled and delivered to the Kings Harvest Ministries shelter/meal site. (12 hours | \$344 in-kind)

GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 17 | 81 members | **Free Dinners to First Responders** | The club started this program last year in conjunction with their meal fundraisers. Community members and club members purchased 70–90 tickets for the fundraisers specifically designated to first responders, which include firefighters, law enforcement, emergency room staff and paramedics, weather station employees and sheltered veterans, as well as some group home residents and workers. These meals were delivered to various locations during the fundraiser events and were appreciated. (24 hours | \$500 in-kind)

Impact Makers of Palatine | District 7 | 24 members | **Thanksgiving Baskets** | The members stood in front of a grocery store to ask shoppers to purchase food or donate money towards Thanksgiving baskets that were distributed by Palatine Township. Each basket contained enough food for a full Thanksgiving meal. There was enough food collected for 24 baskets, but the club limited it to 15 baskets and donated the remaining food to the Palatine Township Food Pantry. (30 hours | \$900 in-kind)

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | Metamora Woman’s Club | District 17

Category 3 (11–20 members) | GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15

Category 2 (21–50 members) | Lombard Junior Women’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 1 (51+ members) | Darien Woman’s Club | District 5/6

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Princeton Junior Woman’s Club | District 16 | 11 members | **HITT Program**

In 2023, Princeton Junior Woman’s Club created the HITT program, which stands for **Helping Individuals during Tough Times**. Many families in their community are being impacted by unforeseen events, are struggling with health issues, or are just having a tough time. To help these families during these difficult times, PJWC is selecting one family in the community each month to give a \$100 gift card to a local gas station/convenience store.

Their hope is that the families will use this gift card to purchase gas, get groceries, or pick up a quick meal. In 2023, the club gave out \$300 worth of cards. One \$100 card was given to a single mother whose son was diagnosed with cancer, and she was making trips back and forth to the children’s hospital in Tennessee. Another card was given to a set of teenaged brothers who recently lost both parents. Another card was given to a family where the father was injured and could not work and one of their children was having serious health issues. The club is excited about this new program and the impact they can make in their community. (3 hours | \$300 donated)

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Jessica Evans, Chairman & Diane Addante, Junior Chairman

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | 10 members | **Bentley's Book Buddies** | Club members take Bentley (the reading dog) to school for a new reading incentive program. Bentley, an Australian/Bernese mix, met the children in first grade last spring. After the introduction of Bentley, the children selected books to read to Bentley one by one. After they finished their book, the children were able to select a book of their very own to take home. Bentley was in the classroom periodically in April, May, November and December. In December, Bentley was honored with his own birthday party complete with cards, balloons, hats, and treats for all who attended. Kindergarten, first, and second graders were thrilled and sang Happy Birthday to him. More classes have asked for time with Bentley. 75 gently used books were donated. (10 hours | \$225 in-kind donations)

Argo-Summit, Bedford Park Woman's Club | 27 members | **Pediatric Cancer Book Drive** | The Club learned of the need for children's books for the Pediatric Cancer Center. Members were asked to bring children's books to the meeting. The Club also posted the information about the Book Drive at the Bedford Park Community Building and Bedford Park Library – a box was placed at each location for the collection of books. The total collection of books was over 500 books. Book values averaged \$5.00 each. The organization was notified and they sent someone out twice to collect all the books. (10 hours | in-kind donations \$2,500)

Highland Woman's Club | 35 members | **Kindergarten Reading Curriculum: Creating a Strong 'Foundation'** | During June, the club president wrote a grant for this Literacy Project. After consultation with Highland Primary Assistant Principal, the club determined they would seek funding for one teacher's kit, priced at \$1,725. After product research, an interview with district administration, and guidance from the kindergarten teachers who had piloted the program – the completed grant was submitted July 1. The grant was awarded and at the September meeting, club members were informed and briefed of the teaching principles that would guide instruction using the kit. (21 hours)

GFWC Joliet Junior Woman's Club | 29 members | **Show A Classroom Love** | With several club members being educators familiar with the out-of-pocket costs today's educators absorb annually, especially, new elementary school teachers setting up his/her classroom, the club reached out to the school district to identify a young teacher they could adopt to "Show her Classroom Love." The club adopted a first-year teacher and purchased all of the items on her Amazon wish list. Members met with the teacher a few weeks before school started to deliver her classroom supplies and assist her in setting up her classroom. (2 hours | \$400 spent)

Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | 93 members | **Mental Health Symposium** | Former LJWC presidents put together a 3-hour Mental Health Symposium to educate the community on mental well-being, and how it affects how we think, feel, and act. The event was hosted by Old Quarry Middle School. Over 100 people attended. The keynote address explained why mental wellness is important for functioning children and adults. Different topics were presented after Keynote Speaker's closing. Participants had a choice of learning CPR overview or attending workshops, including domestic violence, grief and loss nutrition, addition, social media and internet safety. Afterward, attendees attended a walkthrough with booths where they could obtain information from local organizations and get pamphlets and handouts. (160 hours | \$700 spent)

Lisle Woman's Club | 62 members | **Books 2 Prisons Initiative** | This initiative began as a project to collect and deliver books to those incarcerated in Illinois prisons. When the club did research, they found Books 2 Prisons, a Champaign, Illinois-based clearinghouse. Books 2 Prisons supplies books to 26 prisons and two half-way facilities. The club was told that prisoners wanted books that could help them prepare for re-entry into society. They received a list of specific books and general titles on finance, computers, and books on trades. The club contacted libraries, attorney offices, and local colleges. Books 2 Prisons encouraged them with a letter written by an inmate, Rachel. She emailed a single sentence of thanks, "Tell your club you're an answer to prayer, a divine blessing to those who struggle to hang onto hope for themselves and their families." The club sent 191 books to Champaign. (214 hours | \$150 in-kind donation)

Lockport Woman's Club | 77 members | **Vocational Sewing Initiative** | Eight members established a sewing program to benefit special needs young adults participating in a life skills and vocational training program. The program, Career Community Connections (CCC), serves individuals ages 18–22 and is sponsored by the local high school. In the summer months, club members developed general lesson plans and identified suitable projects.

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES – CONTINUED

One member obtained 20 surplus sewing machines from the high school and paid for them to be refurbished at a cost of approximately \$1,000. Several members donated fabric, notions, and supplies. Beginning in September, members worked with students two days a week for 2.5-hour sessions, alongside one staff member. Members provided one lesson for the entire class of approximately 18 students on the life skill of sewing a button. A core group of four students with the ability and interest to develop sewing skills received individual instruction. Lessons included an introduction to textiles, familiarization with sewing tools, hand stitching, ironing, cutting, pinning, threading, and operating a sewing machine. The Lockport Woman's Club hosts two large craft fairs each year. The participants of this initiative are developing skills to enable them to create popular craft show items. The craft fairs will offer these young people a soft entry into new possibilities. (89 hours | \$400 in-kind donations)

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | 36 members | **STEM Day** | The club planned and hosted STEM Day for 150 day camp kids at the Tri Town YMCA. Volunteers lead the campers through activities such as conducting science experiments, playing math games and building structures. This was the second year for this sustainable event, and the kids were so excited to have them again. Many campers said they hope they can come again next year. The club donated all the games and supplies. (25.5 hours | \$300 spent)

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman's Club | 45 members | **Scarecrow Contest** | The club sponsors a Corn Festival event, with a Scarecrow Stroll. The Education & Libraries committee added a Literary Scarecrow for schools to the event. K-12 educators were invited to decorate a scarecrow with the theme or a character from a book the class read. The club builds and provides scarecrow frames. Anyone visiting the Corn Festival could vote for their favorite literary scarecrow, and winning classrooms received \$50 to add books to their classroom library. Last year, there were three entries but this year there were 17! (30 hours | \$150 donated)

GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman's Club | 36 members | How much money did you save by using your library? A petition signed by club members was sent to the local library concerning adding a "value added line" to check out receipts. The idea was approved by the library board. Along with the usual date due, the book receipt now includes a line that shows how much money the library patron saved by using the library instead of buying the library items. (18 hours)

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

Category 3 (11–20 members) | GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Cullom | District 17

Category 2 (21–50 members) | GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman's Club | District 5/6

Category 1 (51+ members) | Lockport Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Lockport Woman's Club | District 11/12 | 77 members | **Vocational Sewing Initiative** | Eight members established a sewing program to benefit special needs young adults participating in a life skills and vocational training program. The program, Career Community Connections (CCC), serves individuals ages 18–22 and is sponsored by the local high school. In the summer months, club members developed general lesson plans and identified suitable projects. One member obtained 20 surplus sewing machines from the high school and paid for them to be refurbished at a cost of approximately \$1,000. Several members donated fabric, notions, and supplies. Beginning in September, members worked with students two days a week for 2.5-hour sessions, alongside one staff member. Members provided one lesson for the entire class of approximately 18 students on the life skill of sewing a button. A core group of four students with the ability and interest to develop sewing skills received individual instruction. Lessons included an introduction to textiles, familiarization with sewing tools, hand stitching, ironing, cutting, pinning, threading, and operating a sewing machine. The Lockport Woman's Club hosts two large craft fairs each year. The participants of this initiative are developing skills to enable them to create popular craft show items. The craft fairs will offer these young people a soft entry into new possibilities. (89 hours | \$400 in-kind donations)

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

ENVIRONMENT

Mary Lee Howard, Chairman, Marie Mueller, Junior Chairman & Julie Stiles

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | A member, supported by her club, provides environmental educational programs on a variety of subjects to schools and other community organizations. This year she gave three presentations to children's groups, plus an additional three to a high school, which included a Juniorette Club and members of the Woman's Club, a Home Extension group and a Senior Center. Three were on the Monarch Butterfly and three were on bees. These included 1,405 students and 63 adults.

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | A school butterfly garden, which they had established and maintained for years, was cleaned up. Then, for some inexplicable reason, it was demolished by the school. Upon learning of this, the club advocated with the administration and school board for the replacement of the garden or another means of outdoor environmental education for the students. As a result, they have been promised an outdoor science/nature-friendly center to be built at the school with club input.

The Antioch Junior Woman's Club | An ad hoc committee called "Forever Young" was formed to raise awareness, resources and recruit volunteer time for the care, foster and adoption of dogs and cats at animal shelters and rescue organizations. They volunteered at a no-kill animal shelter by assisting with their fundraisers both in person and online. They also supported them through purchases. Ornaments were made for sale and a "Save a Pet" Christmas tree was decorated for a Chamber event to raise awareness of their cause and bring in funding. Food was donated as well.

GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today | Two members traveled to meet with a forester from Shawnee National Forest to discuss plans for replacement of the original Rim Rock Trail Marker, which had been placed by Illinois clubwomen. They visited a monument business to select an appropriate monument. Plans were presented to the state executive committee for approval. A dedication was held that was open to the public.

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | Four large raised beds were planted with tomatoes and herbs at a senior living facility, with the assistance of some of the residents. Two large planters were planted with a large variety of flowers and greenery. Their work included supplementing the potting soil and fertilizing the beds. The residents were delighted.

Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | The club, in conjunction with Lemont Township, used a scarecrow trail (plus snacks, crafts, hayrides and vendors) to lure families to walk in and learn about prairies, woodlands and savannahs. This was a free event where families were invited to take a nature walk through the different habitats, learn about their differences and about prairie and woodland conservation.

GFWC Lincoln Woman's Club, Inc. | Detergent sheets were introduced to the club as a means of demonstrating a way to reduce the amount of large plastic containers in landfills. Detergent sheets, which come in a small cardboard box, were purchased and divided among members to try. Some were also given as prizes for their monthly raffles. Some members had never heard of the sheets and others had never tried them. Outcome: some members felt they worked as well as their regular detergents, others were concerned with the low suds produced.

GFWC Macomb Woman's Club | These ladies continued their campaign to find a way to increase availability for rural recycling and recycling for businesses in their county. They have made some progress with Ripple Glass for a collection site in Macomb. They are continuing to explore grant opportunities and management to enable a successful solution. A PowerPoint program explaining potential impact and cost to households in the township was prepared to assist their cause. The committee, which includes representatives from the Club, University of Illinois Extension, Western Illinois Regional Council, Western Illinois University Facilities Management, McDonough County Health Department and a McDonough County Board member, meet monthly. They have also met with city officials, the county board and the Community Development Director to request help and feedback.

ENVIRONMENT – CONTINUED

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club | Members who garden were asked to plant an extra row of one or more vegetables with a goal of providing fresh produce to low-income individuals. Four members shared their produce and a fifth collected it all, distributing it to two low-income housing units and a 501(c)(3) that provides food to low-income patrons. Another member grew 100+ lbs. of vegetables that were donated to St. Vincent’s Table, where they were used to prepare meals for needy families.

GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman’s Club | Eating less meat reduces pressure on forests and land used to grow animal feed, which in turn protects biodiversity and the earth’s ecosystems. Members were asked to reduce their carbon footprint by not eating meat. After three months, the members reported how many days they went without meat. Ten members went without meat for a total of 34 days. This produced over 7,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15

Category 3 (11–20 members) | GFWC Illinois Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15

Category 2 (21–50 members) | GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 1 (51+ members) | Lisle Woman’s Club | District 5/6

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 ENVIRONMENT

The Antioch Junior Woman’s Club | 12 members | **“Furever Love”**

The club is so dedicated to improving the plight of stray, unwanted and mistreated dogs and cats that they formed an ad hoc committee called “Furever Love” to raise awareness, resources, and volunteer time for the care, foster and adoption of dogs and cats at animal shelters and rescue organizations. They spent 104.5 hours volunteering at Save-A-Pet (SAP), a no-kill animal shelter. They itemized auction baskets for the shelter’s online virtual auction, helped at several of their in-person fundraising events, and painted 34 large ornaments for sale at the shelter’s Holiday Open House. They even went so far as to decorate a Christmas tree for the Antioch Chamber’s Kringle’s Village to make others aware of their organization’s cause. It was titled “Save-A-Pet” – a very clear message!

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Ruby D. Feeley, Chairman and Lisa Flanigan, Junior Chairman

THE GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF AURORA | District 11-12 | 90 members

The club partnered with the Aurora Police Department in **The Caring Room**. The Caring Room is a safe place for children to go at the police station when their parents or guardians are being questioned/processed. During their January meeting, members received a "Get Out of Jail Free" card (list of needs) and were given a presentation regarding this program. Members donated baby items and toys for children of all ages that were donated to the police stations for this program.

LISLE WOMAN'S CLUB | District 5/6 | 62 members

The **Peyton Hearts Project** helps raise global awareness of suicide and bullying and helps end the stigma of mental health issues. The Peyton Hearts Project was inspired by several stories including that of a 13-year-old boy named Peyton James who died by suicide in 2014. During Peyton's young life, he had experienced a tremendous amount of bullying by his peers. The club crocheted throughout the year and sent over 6,000 hearts. The hearts are distributed to other groups that have asked for them around the world. There is a message attached to each heart such as "You are truly beautiful" or "Your journey will be worth it," to name a couple. Postage to send the hearts to Peyton Hearts was funded by the employer of a member. Each time Peyton Hearts received a box of hearts they posted a "Thank You" to the club on their Facebook page.

NAPERVILLE WOMAN'S CLUB | District 5/6 | 60 members

Self-Worth and Wholeness Workshop – NWC hosted a self-worth and wellness workshop presented by Jenny Krumdick, Self-Worth Strategist and Confidence Coach. The workshop focused on being fully alive and growing in your journey, while living life abundantly. Hands-on exercises had members focusing on each area of their life – family, friendship, wealth, self-image, health, and contributions.

GFWC ILLINOIS PLAINFIELD JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB | District 11-12 | 50 members

To inspire members to get active, the committee created a **Fitness Challenge** in October. A calendar was provided that had activities and exercises to be completed each day of the month. The event was virtual, so participating members were able to post and share their progress. This encouraged other club members to join, and a few members met at local parks and gyms to work out and attend classes together. This was so successful in October that the project continued in November. Members were awarded a service hour after participating in the program. These challenges provided members the opportunity to focus on their health in a fun and supportive way while also increasing accountability.

GFWC ILLINOIS MORRIS WOMAN'S CLUB | District 11-12 | 45 members

Paint the Town Pink – Members put pink ribbons on trees and posts throughout the business district. The chairman had developed maps for each section, and they are put into baggies along with the correct number of ribbons to cover the area. They are put up on October 1st and picked up and returned with the map in the baggie to the chairman. The ribbons are then washed and ironed in preparation for the next year. This is done to raise awareness of breast cancer.

GFWC NORTHWEST SUBURBAN WOMAN'S CLUB | District 5/6 | 36 members

"Pink Pumpkins" to Promote Breast Cancer Awareness was a club project to promote Breast Cancer Awareness in October. Members decorated 21 pink pumpkins. These pumpkins were delivered to local health and womens' service agencies along with an explanation as to what the "pink pumpkin" represented.

LOMBARD JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB, INC. | District 5/6 | 36 members

Annually, the club holds their **TLC Camp** for children with cancer and a sibling. The Camp runs for one week in June. This year the club celebrated the Camp's 40th Anniversary. There are various activities both on site at the camp and in the surrounding communities. TLC Camp is 100% funded by various fundraising efforts. Extra support this year came from a group called the Hamilton Collection. The club advertised various needs via an Amazon wish list and received many generous donations through this source.

HEALTH & WELLNESS – CONTINUED

THE MAHOMET TOWN AND COUNTRY WOMEN’S CLUB | District 19 | 27 members

WRAPPS – This program was explained at a club meeting by a member of Rotary who chairs the program. It consists of making reusable cloth feminine hygiene pads that get distributed to girls in Africa in areas of need. In these areas, families can’t afford to buy disposable hygiene products, so girls are forced to miss school while having their menstrual periods. When they miss school so frequently they are forced to drop out and they turn to prostitution. The WRAPPS program gets donated fabrics, then volunteers construct the cloth pads. They are then taken by volunteers to Africa. The club has gotten involved in this by donating fabric and participating in making the pads. The members meet two times a year to complete this project.

FITHIAN WOMAN’S CLUB | District 18 | 14 members

The **Bags of Hope** project is run by the Oakwood Area Food Pantry that recognizes the need to alleviate food insecurity of children within the local school district. Almost half of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch assistance. The Bags of Hope is a program where backpacks are filled with food and sent home with students on Friday to supplement their needs over the weekend. The club partnered with Oakwood to provide 909 food items including vegetable cups, fruit cups, soup cups, pudding, peanut butter/cheese crackers and tuna/chicken salad kits for this program.

GFWC ILLINOIS MCLEAN COUNTY WOMAN’S CLUB | District 17 | 7 members

The club participated in the **Homes of Hope** project. Homes of Hope had six homes for 24 developmentally disabled adults that the club supplies cake mixes, cake pans, frosting, plates, napkins, and cups all donated by club members for their birthdays. The bags are presented to the birthday celebrant on their birthday so they can bake the cake, along with their house parent, and serve it to the residents for their own birthday party. Each resident also gets from the club a special card with \$5 in it.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois McLean County Woman’s Club | District 17

Category 3 (11–20 members) | Fithian Woman’s Club | District 18

Category 2 (21–50 members) | GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 1 (51+ members) | The GFWC Woman’s Club of Aurora | District 11-12

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 HEALTH & WELLNESS

GFWC ILLINOIS PLAINFIELD JUNIOR WOMAN’S CLUB | District 11-12 | 50 members

To inspire members to get active, the committee created a **Fitness Challenge** in October. A calendar was provided that had activities and exercises to be completed each day of the month. The event was virtual, so participating members were able to post and share their progress. This encouraged other club members to join, and a few members met at local parks and gyms to work out and attend classes together. This was so successful in October that the project continued in November. Members were awarded a service hour after participating in the program. These challenges provided members the opportunity to focus on their health in a fun and supportive way while also increasing accountability.

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ashley Wilhelm, Chairman & Jenna Mitchell, Junior Chairman

Clarendon Hills Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 27 members | 5 hours

70th Anniversary Celebration – Newsletter Editor Carol Haughey contacted the *Clarendon Hills Courier* newspaper editor and publisher, Mike Ellis, to request acknowledgment of the 70th Anniversary Tea held December 11, 2023. Carol wrote the article, mailed, and emailed it, and requested that a photographer attend the event. Mike did so and published the article along with three photos – one on the front page of the December 28th issue of the *Courier*.

Darien Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 96 members | 200 hours

Public Relations – Darien Woman's Club uses Facebook, nextdoor, Darien Patch, Instagram, SignUpGenius, and Eventbrite to communicate with members and prospective members about upcoming events/meetings for their club and GFWC Illinois. The club is also listed on local community organizations' websites with a link to the DWC website. Their Facebook page currently has 385 followers, and they also have a private Facebook group with 74 members, allowing members to share things with members only. Media plans to keep social media and other platforms consistent with branding for recognition. Viewers can briefly see what they are currently doing, what has been accomplished, and what they can anticipate for the next year.

The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | 145 members | 14 hours

Meeting QR Code – For each meeting, informational flyers are created and displayed at each table. The flyers include important announcements, attendance check-ins, and volunteer, fundraiser and social signups using QR codes. This allows members to instantly sign up for events during the meetings using their smartphones. The flyers have boosted signups, engagement, and participation significantly by providing an instant call-to-action during meetings.

GFWC Illinois Fairbury Woman's Club of Fairbury | District 17 | 9 members | 7 hours

Each year the club asks the community to nominate a member for the **Citizen of the Year Award**, based on volunteer work. No one was nominated this year so they voted to ask all past Citizens of the Year if they would like to ride on the float for the Christmas Parade. Out of a total of 13 past Citizens, they ended up with nine Citizens riding, and they loved being asked. They were given blankets as a "Thank You" and to cover up with as the weather was cold and damp. The club borrowed a people mover donation of a \$50.00 gift card to the owner. Reusable signs were made at a cost of \$32.17 and decorating the float took 4.5 hours.

GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today | District 23 | 9 members | 4 hours

Membership Brochure – The brochure is used to recruit new members and is made available to guests and speakers at their meetings and events. Copies of the brochure are placed in the Chamber of Commerce newcomer packets and brochure rack. Two members volunteer to do the copy work and packets in exchange for their volunteer hours, thus incurring no expenses and ensuring a wide distribution of the brochure. In addition, copies of the brochure are included with in-kind donations. Our members update the brochure annually and provide copies for the members to distribute.

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15 | 18 members | 2 hours

Sock and Door Hanger Tags – The club had two projects where items were donated to two different facilities. The first were socks stuffed with treats and dental supplies and then tied together, donated to Kings Harvest Ministries. The second were Christmas-wrapped package door hangers filled with items suitable for adults in a nursing home. All of the items donated were completed with a tag that said, "Donated with love by the GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club." The GFWC emblem was also on the tags. Materials for the tags were donated by club members.

Lemont Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 93 members | 127 hours

LJWC Website Redesign – The LJWC website was last redesigned in 2016 and was in desperate need of an update. The new website is much more user-friendly, has a membership database, and upcoming club ticketed events were also created in the compatible online ticketing platform, ticket tailor, and website calendar. The club also benefits from website management support, which was non-existent before the change. The website went live in September 2023 and overall has been one of the largest accomplishments for the 2023–24 board.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS – CONTINUED

Mascoutah Tuesday Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 22 | 61 members | 38.5 hours

Summer Parade – This year’s entry into the annual Mascoutah homecoming parade was a golf cart with Mardi Gras decorations to follow the theme. Members walked the route wearing purple aprons (sewn by a member) and Mardi Gras masks/beads while distributing bracelets to the crowd of spectators.

Naperville Woman’s Club | District 5/6 | 60 members | 3 hours

Naperville Community Television (NCTV17) Club History – NCTV17 interviewed the Naperville Woman’s Club President and Parliamentarian at the TV station, which aired on May 17, 2023. The interview covered the club’s mission, history, and structure of the organization. In addition, events and fundraisers scheduled for the year were discussed during the interview. This video can still be found on YouTube

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club | District 11-12 | 45 members | 6 hours

The City of Morris has a **website, Facebook page, and marquee**, and, while they have allowed the club to use the marquee in the past, this year they were willing to promote our projects through their calendar. They also promote projects that align with their goals and ideals for the community through Facebook and website posts. The club advised them of larger projects and events, and they promoted them.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1-10 members) | GFWC Illinois Fairbury Woman’s Club of Fairbury | District 17

Category 3 (11-20 members) | GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15

Category 2 (21-50 members) | GFWC Illinois Morris Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 1 (51+ members) | Naperville Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Naperville Woman’s Club | District 5/6 | 60 members | 3 hours

Naperville Community Television (NCTV17) Club History – NCTV17 interviewed the Naperville Woman’s Club President and Parliamentarian at the TV station, which aired on May 17, 2023. The interview covered the club’s mission, history, and structure of the organization. In addition, events and fundraisers scheduled for the year were discussed during the interview. This video can still be found on YouTube.

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

LEADERSHIP

Karyn Charvat, Chairman & Kim Kalafut, Junior Chairman

Highland Woman's Club | "Leadership Survey" | The club's Leadership Chair developed a survey to assess the state of volunteerism within the club. She used the following definition to express the inherent connection between Volunteerism and Leadership: "Volunteering means stepping forward in a leadership capacity by filling a need for a vulnerable group." On the survey, each club member was asked to list the various ways she volunteers and which projects she feels most passionate about. Members were also asked about their areas of expertise. Surveys were compiled and results shared to assist the members in planning future club activities.

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | "Member at Large" | Due to an open position on the Executive Board, a "Member at Large" position was created to give members the opportunity to attend Executive Board meetings, without being given official responsibilities. They were encouraged to take the opportunity to see how the board worked, what the duties of each officer were, and what the additional time commitment would be for being an officer. Board meetings were posted on the club's MeetUp page, so members would know when and where the board would be meeting. One of the Art chairmen took advantage of attending a few EC meetings, and it is hoped she will continue her HGJWC journey as one of the club's leaders.

GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman's Club | "Chairs/Co-Chairs" | Every year members choose what committee they wish to join and Chairs/Co-Chairs are elected. Many times, these Chairs/Co-Chairs have had no experience leading a group. A program was put together by a member who wanted to share her experience managing a committee. She put together a tip sheet that included using the State/National Top Ten projects for ideas. Not only did new Chairs/Co-Chairs attend, but past Chairs and Board members came to answer questions and lend their support.

Morton Grove Woman's Club | "Fundraising Tour" | This club visited three other clubs in their district and participated in their fundraisers so that they could help support and learn at the same time!

GFWC Illinois McLean County Woman's Club | "Project Cards" | At each meeting, members fill out a card with projects worked on during the month, hours donated, monies spent. All members participated. This is a good way to keep track of the time and money spent by the members. Reports are written with the help of these cards by a member and reviewed and edited by other members of the club.

GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club | "Pool Party" | The Executive Board and committee chairs met to plan for the year. Each committee chair provided a high-level overview of their plans for any drives and events for their respective committee throughout the year. This allowed for a calendar of events to be created and deployed to all members during the first meeting. The meeting took place prior to a pool party for the general membership. The party was to get everyone together over the summer and celebrate the kickoff of the new club year.

Palos Park Woman's Club | "SWOT Planning" | As a result of growth in the Club, it was determined that a strategic plan should be developed for the club. The Chairperson of the Junior Initiative and the President developed a questionnaire to be sent to all members to determine their ideas about projects the club should focus on both short term and longer term. Questions also addressed strengths and weaknesses of the club and their suggestions for change and improvement. The questionnaire was sent to a test group to ensure it was understandable and easy to complete. It was then sent to the entire membership. Results have been reviewed and summarized. A strategic planning committee will be selected to include the new President for the YR24-26 term. When finished, this document should help the club accomplish more longer-term projects with greater impact in the community.

Mascoutah Tuesday Woman's Club, Inc. | "Tech Secretary" | This club created a new position, Technology Secretary." This position organizes, updates and maintains the club's Google Drive so that all members stay informed.

LEADERSHIP – CONTINUED

GFWC Illinois Federated Women’s Club of Greater Belleville | “Hershey Award/Birthday Bag” | With just 11 members, the leadership of the Federated Women’s Club of Greater Belleville is truly something special! Each meeting, members are recognized and given a small bag of Hershey Kisses: I Hear She Did a Great Job! Additionally, members’ birthdays are recognized with a birthday bag containing a box of cake mix, icing, candles, napkins and a birthday card.

The GFWC Woman’s Club of Aurora | “Leadership Lending Library” | Leadership Lending Library was created to provide hands-on leadership resources for all members. It is a rolling crate that includes all things “leadership” from GFWC and GFWC Illinois. It also includes books by prominent authors in leadership that members can check out, notebooks filled with tips on protocol and policy procedures, *Robert’s Rules of Order*, TED Talks, and podcasts. Members are then invited to add new information in the notebooks and rotate information to keep it fresh! The items found in the LLL are available to all members to use as they need.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Federated Woman’s Club of Greater Belleville | District 22

Category 3 (11–20 members) | Lombard Service League, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2 (21–50 members) | Highland Women’s Club | District 22

Category 1 (51+ members) | Palos Park Woman’s Club | District 3

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 LEADERSHIP

Homer Glen Junior Woman’s Club | “Member at Large”

One of the biggest threats our clubs are facing are members who are not inspired or motivated to lead their clubs and lack of leadership succession planning. Too many times we hear of clubs in trouble because no one will “step up” and serve as President (for the fifth year in a row) or as Treasurer, etc. But the Homer Glen Juniors came up with a very creative way to bring members into the fold and help prepare more for leadership roles.

Due to an open position on the Executive Board, they created a “Member at Large” position to give general members the opportunity to attend Executive Board meetings, without being given official responsibilities.

They were encouraged to take the opportunity to see how the board worked, what the duties of each officer were, and what the additional time commitment would be for being an officer. Board meetings were posted on their MeetUp page, so members would know when and where the board would be meeting.

Outcome: One of the Art chairmen took advantage of attending a few EC meetings, and the club is hoping she will indeed continue her HGJWC journey as one of their future club leaders. They also plan to continue this program!

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY

Gerri Eck, Chairman & Lucia Rossi-Nichols, Junior Chairman

GFWC Illinois Coal Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 10 members | 5 hours | **Legislative Action Alerts**

A GFWC Illinois state board meeting was attended by several Juniors where the Legislation & Public Policy Chairman spoke about the importance of signing up for the Legislative Action Center. At the meeting, members learned that one of the advantages of signing up with the Legislative Action Center is to have a voice in legislation dealing with the problems affecting women and children, as well as other bills that coincide with our resolutions. The information was then presented at their club meeting. Five members have signed up for this.

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15 | 10 members | 2.5 hours

One of the areas the club members all agree on is the issue of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence. Information was shared on internet safety, especially for youth in their community. They have discussed these issues and have taken steps to make others aware of the importance to everyone. If you just look around, you will see where we can make a difference.

GFWC Illinois Federated Woman's Club of Greater Belleville | District 22 | 3 members | 10 hours

Club members received nine newspapers during the club year. Some of the information learned from the newspapers included Senator Harris on a bill to prevent children from accessing explicit online content; new ethics reform; gun ban law; veterans service; Pritzker signed bill aimed at ending homelessness, just to name a few. Members received information on impactful laws of Illinois. There were 327 new laws going into effect. Members received GFWC legislative alerts on food insecurity, Shot@Life, violence against women, and kids' online safety.

GFWC Macomb Woman's Club | District 14/15 | 113 members | 2 hours

Reports were given to the Board providing current information on legislation that has been endorsed by the national committee. The information contained the bill #s, summary of the bill, reason the legislation was selected, and its present progress. Information was provided on how to sign up for the GFWC Legislation Action Alerts to provide you with GFWC's Public Issues and Advocacy efforts. Track bills, contact your local representative and take action on issues pertinent to GFWC Resolutions.

GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Bismarck | District 18 | 22 members | 3.2 hours | **Civic Lesson**

In January, the club chairman gave members a quiz on our State Senators and Representatives. Members of the club live in two different legislative districts, so information was given for those living in Bismarck and those in Danville.

The GFWC Woman's Club of Aurora | District 11-12 | 90 members

Prepared and presented communication with Board informing members of GFWC 2023 legislation priorities. Asked for support in promoting awareness of LAC. Prepared handout for board members. Handout included details on: Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention; Juniors Special Program – Advocacy for Children; Civic Engagement and Outreach: Remove deadline for ratification for the ERA; Arts & Culture Priorities: Increase funding for National Endowment for the Arts; Education & Libraries: STEAM-support federal funding for STEAM programs; Health and Wellness Priorities: Global Vaccinations, Veteran's and Caregivers, Paid Family and Medical Leave, and Nutrition.

Highland Woman's Club | District 22 | 40 members | 2 hours | \$5 in-kind donation

At the National Day of Service Program, "How the Farm Bill Can Help End Hunger, Boost Nutrition, and Equally Aid Farmers, Ranchers, and Consumers," a blog post by Joel Berg from "Hunger Free America" was distributed to attendees.

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 45 Members | 3 hours | **Legislative Action Center**

An article was written and included in the June newsletter to introduce the newer members to the work of the Legislative Committee. It included the advantages of signing up with the Legislative Action Center in order to have a voice in legislation dealing with the problems affecting women and children and other bills that coincide with our resolutions. Then it was gone over at a meeting as well.

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY – CONTINUED

Lombard Service League, Inc. | District 5/6 | 19 members | 2.5 hours | **Legislative Action Center**

Five members participate in the GFWC Legislative Action Center. They regularly respond to alerts and receive responses from their Congresswoman and Senators on issues of importance to our members and to GFWC.

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 42 members | 5.5 hours | **GFWC Legislation Presentation**

The club president gave a presentation about the legislation GFWC has helped and supported. She talked about how GFWC focuses on sponsoring legislation covering violence against women, gender equality, children issues and online safety. She also talked about how GFWC was represented at the conference to form the United Nations, and still has a close relationship with the UN, along with affiliate organizations like Shot@Life and PCA Illinois. Our President then gave examples of how the GFWC International President is able to use the information gathered by clubs turning in their reports toward advocacy in Washington, D.C., and speaking with the voice of 60,000 women in our advocacy efforts. To finish her presentation, she showed members the Legislative Action Center on the GFWC website, how to navigate it, which current pieces of legislation GFWC supports, and how to sign up for alerts.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1-10 members) | GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

Category 3 (11-20 members) | GFWC Decatur Woman's Club | District 19

Category 2 (21-50 members) | Highland Woman's Club | District 22

Category 1 (51+ members) | GFWC Lincoln Woman's Club, Inc. | District 17

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY

Highland Woman's Club | District 22 | 40 members | 3 hours | **Bill of Rights Day Presentation**

Since Bill of Rights Day is December 15th, Chairman Carolyn presented a program on the first ten amendments. The membership was reminded of the history of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and the objections raised by many that this document under consideration stated what the Federal government could do, but it did not state what the Federal government could not do. James Madison and George Mason drafted a list of checks on Federal power that would ensure the full exercise of individual liberty. That list became known as the Bill of Rights, and these amendments to the Constitution led to ratification by the states in 1791.

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

MEMBERSHIP

Sandy Christofanelli & Gina Fritz, Chairmen & Maria Uribe, Junior Chairman

GFWC Illinois Fairbury Woman's Club of Fairbury | District 17 | **Perfect Attendance**

Perfect attendance awards are given to members at the club's June Closing Banquet. There were 3 members recognized. It is a nice way to let the members know that the club acknowledges their dedication and commitment to GFWC. (9 members | 4 hours | \$15 dollars spent)

Fithian Woman's Club | District 18 | **Club Collect**

FWC Membership Chairperson researched and presented information to the club on the meaning of the beginning of the Club Collect. She will continue to explain the meaning of the entire Collect over the upcoming months. (11 members | 2.75 hours)

Glendale Heights Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6 | **Sharing Memories of our Fathers**

In honor of Father's Day, an article was placed in the club's newsletter about the editor's dad and her memories of him. Members were then asked to write down a memory they have of their dad that brings a lump to their throat and a smile to their face. Then at the end of the June General Meeting, everyone shared those memories. What a wonderful way to get to know the heart of our members and honor their fathers. (10 members | 5 hours)

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | **Old Oak Recruitment Event**

In August, the club had their biggest recruitment event in several years. Promoted over Facebook, via flyers, and word of mouth, they held a meet & greet in the outdoor tent at a local golf course, serving pizza, chips, and guacamole. The club president welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the club's history and GFWC. Eight potentially interested women were seated at various tables together. The members enjoyed interacting and answering any questions from those interested in joining. By the end of the night, four new members joined the club, with several others attending a September kick-off meeting and joining hereafter. (15 members | 48 hours | \$130 spent)

Joliet Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | **Pickleball Membership Event**

As a fun membership event, club members headed to the indoor pickleball courts. Eight members participated, but three members with experience taught the rest of the group the rules of the game. From there the fun began! They rented the court for 2 hours and each person contributed to the rental fee. Everyone had a lot of fun and cannot wait to play again. (13 members | 18 hours)

Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | **Members Night**

Members attended a mixology class given by Pollyanna Social Brewing & Distilling's at That Girl & Co., which is a lifestyle studio that provides hands-on workshops rooted in project-based learning while giving back to the female community. Club members enjoyed four signature cocktails while learning the basics of mixology, including taste, flavor pairings, dilution, mixing, and serving. (15 members | 30 hours)

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | **Bling Ring Award**

Before a well-loved member passed away, she handed down her favorite piece of jewelry that she always wore to a GFWC event/meeting. In honor of that member, the club decided to create the "Bling Ring Award." It's a pin in the shape of a ring with a diamond on top. At each monthly club meeting, the very blingy ring is awarded to a member who goes above and beyond. The member may keep the pin/blingy ring for a month and wear it as she pleases. Members have pinned it onto their clothing or sometimes worn it as a necklace. Many members do so much in a given month that it's hard to choose just one person. It's a nice tradition that recognizes club members. (8 members | 10 hours)

Naperville Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | **Book Club**

The Naperville Junior Woman's Club has a Book Club that all members can participate in, should they choose to, throughout the year. In 2023, there were a total of 34 members who chose to be a part of the NJWC Book Club. The Book Club is held monthly on the first Monday of each month unless it is a holiday, at which point it is moved to the second Monday. Members who volunteer to host the Book Club at their house also pick the book for that month. Some members host at restaurants and wine bars. Throughout the night, members enjoy socializing, food/drinks, as well as answering questions and having in-depth conversations about the book that was read. (34 members | 24 hours)

MEMBERSHIP – CONTINUED

Palos Heights Woman’s Club | District 3 | Membership Drive/85th Anniversary Kick-Off

As part of their continuing celebration of their anniversary, the membership drive theme focused on the history of the PHWC. It was promoted in their newsletter, the local newspaper, and on their website and Facebook page. On July 22, 2023, the Membership Drive/85th Anniversary was held at the Palos Heights Recreation Center. The program consisted of Past Presidents who were called upon to relay the history of the club through the decades starting with 1938–1948, the year the club was formed. A box lunch was provided. Each table had a framed photo of the style of the decades from 1938 through 2023, and the centerpiece was the club’s flower, petunias. They were given away as door prizes. Each prospective new member was sent a personalized invitation that included a short blurb about the club. The attendee received a party favor of a mini glass honey jar filled with candy. Each prospective new member was introduced and welcomed. They received a folder containing a copy of a recent newsletter, a membership brochure containing an outline of the history of club, the annual fundraising and community events held, meeting information, mission statement, membership application and GFWC affiliations, a “Things to Note” information sheet setting out club meetings, times, and other pertinent club information, a personalized letter to the prospective members thanking them for their consideration, and a GFWC “Living the Volunteer Spirit” pamphlet. After the event, a handwritten thank you letter was sent to each new member that signed up acknowledging their membership and welcoming them to the club. A follow up note was also sent to those who attended but did not immediately sign up. (41 members | 225 hours | \$423.74 spent)

Palos Park Woman’s Club | District 3 | Village of Palos Park’s Christmas Tree

The PPWC participates in the Village’s Christmas Tree Contest. This year the president’s theme was “Peace.” The president’s husband made a wooden peace sign as a tree topper. All members were asked to purchase a white ornament and go visit the tree. They were encouraged to go along with another member and trim the tree with their ornaments. The best part: Members took photos of their daily trimming, and all photos were posted on the club’s Facebook page in consecutive order as the tree progressed. It was good holiday fun! (42 members | 25 hours | \$125 spent)

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | Glendale Heights Junior Woman’s Club | District 5/6

Category 3 (11–20 members) | Wheaton Junior Woman’s Club | District 5/6

Category 2 (21–50 members) | Naperville Junior Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 1 (51+ members) | GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 17

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023

MEMBERSHIP

The Mahomet Town and Country Women's Club | District 19 | Stitch

The Mahomet Town and Country Women's Club of District 19 has a group of ladies who are not always able to attend the evening meetings. To accommodate this fluctuating group of ladies, a group was created to meet at midday at a member's home or a restaurant.

This faction of the club are members who may or may not come to Tuesday evening club meetings, so this is another way to get club information to them, discuss club issues and take votes. In addition to socializing, the women tend to work on the occasional sewing project – hence the name Stitch.

During this informal meeting, members share what is going on in their lives, ask advice, share pictures, etc. This is a good way to keep up on each other's lives in a safe group setting and maintain their sense of community. It's an added bonus when club members all get to laughing and are "in stitches" over comical shared stories.

One member is chairing Stitch. She sets the schedule of where they will meet, makes the reservations when going to a restaurant, and disseminates the updated information from the most current month's evening meeting.

There are 18 members who participate at one time or another, with 8 being the average for any given afternoon meeting.

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023 FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

Margie Nilson, Chairman & Candyce Jordan, Junior Chairman

GFWC Illinois CRF Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 20 members | 125 hours | \$3,500 net income

NEW! In July, the club held a **Movie Event**, showing "The Wizard of Oz" at the Hollywood Palms in Naperville. They had wonderful raffle baskets, opportunities to win gift cards, and brick sponsorships, in addition to the ticket sales. Approximately 50 tickets to the event were sold at \$50 adult/\$25 kids. The ticket price included popcorn and a beverage. With generous sponsorships from club members, other GFWC Illinois clubwomen, friends and family, they were able to raise over \$3,500. Members of the Naperville Woman's Club came and helped set up!

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15 | 18 members/9 participated | 357 hours | \$4,101.93 raised | **Crafting for a Purpose**

NEW! Christ Church in Moline donated the use of their facility the week before and during the event. Tables and chairs, power strips, extension cords, and bins for each crafter's scraps were donated. Glazed Donuts and Coffee provided donuts and bagels. Sandwiches, chips, and cookies were provided by Subway, and pizzas by Bad Boyz Pizza. In addition, members made desserts and sweets. The event was advertised with flyers around town and as a Facebook event. Each attendee paid \$45 for table space; electricity, Wi-Fi; all day snacks; coffee; and three meals. In addition, there were 16 vendors who sold their wares. Vendors "paid" for the spots with a donated \$45.00 raffle basket. There were basket raffles, door prizes, swap tables of items crafters no longer wanted, make & take cards, and a 50/50 raffle. Crafters came in for a full 12 hours of dedicated time to work on their projects. This not only allowed crafters uninterrupted time to work on their project, but also the opportunity to share and collaborate with other crafters. Sponsors were acknowledged at the event and on the club's Facebook page.

The Herrin Woman's Club | District 25 | 34 members/13 participated | 399 hours | \$7,167.86 in-kind | \$3,950 donations | \$5,731.91 spent | \$6,508.10 raised | **Mystery Dinner – Dinner Detectives**

Members met to choose the acting company to hire for the Mystery Dinner. They created the theme "Mystery in a Small Town" and an image to advertise it. Committee met with area caterers for food and service quotes. The Herrin Civic Center was chosen to present the event. The decorating committee developed a plan and music to fit the theme. Eventbrite was used to purchase tickets and track monies. They decided to pursue sponsors/local businesses to help with the expense. They bartered with Swinford Media for newspaper advertising and asked new businesses to donate the use of their digital marquee advertising and Facebook posting.

Highland Woman's Club | District 22 | 35 members | 1 hour | \$56.29 | **Trick or Treat for UNICEF**

NEW! Who wouldn't give a club president dressed as a witch, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies from the bottom of their purse for UNICEF??? This fun fundraiser took us back to our childhoods.

Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | 93 members | 190 hours | \$15,469 net profit

NEW! Casino Night Fundraiser Event 1/27/23 - The Casino Night event was hosted at Ruffled Feathers Golf Course where attendees enjoyed a buffet, 3 hour open bar and various casino games. We also had a \$20 and \$40 punch a bunch game, silent auction items, 50/50 raffle and the chance to win a pair of .5 carat diamond earrings by purchasing a glass of champagne. DJ provided music and announcement throughout the evening.

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | 36 members/20 participated | 250 hours | \$5,116.88

The club undertook a significant one-day event in July called Brewfest. They acquired insurance, a liquor license, and solicited breweries and food trucks to participate. A total of 40 breweries participated! T-shirts and hats were sold. All the "behind the scenes" effort to pull off an event like this with just a few months' notice is hard to imagine. Power sources are needed, garbage pick-up, restrooms, etc. A member does events for Morton Arboretum and had the right know-how and connections to accomplish this. They hope to continue this and want to add a music component down the road. Outside help was recruited to staff the event, as many members had other obligations as will happen in the summer.

Lombard Service League, Inc. | District 5/6 | 19 members | 35 hours | \$188 raised | **Got Sneakers**

NEW! A new fundraiser this year is Got Sneakers. A large collection box was put in one of the park district buildings to collect used sneakers. Members emptied the boxes as they filled up and put the sneakers into large plastic bags to send to Nike to reuse or recycle. It was a great project and helped keep shoes out of landfills.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT – CONTINUED

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 45 members/15 participating | 39.5 hours | \$514 raised | **Gift Wrapping Event**

What to do when a member is gifted bundles of holiday wrapping paper? You hold a last-minute gift-wrapping event! Very quickly a schedule was set up, members recruited, bows and tape purchased and a venue secured. It was promoted on Facebook and other community sites. Two days were set aside from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. A total of 72 packages were wrapped.

Plainfield Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 58 members/37 participated | 622 hours | \$27,299.31 donated | \$36,150.75 raised | **Spring Fundraiser – Clues for a Cause Scavenger Hunt**

The club hosted its 15th annual Spring Fundraiser event The inaugural “Clues for a Cause Scavenger Hunt” was a quick hit and captured the attention of the community and both local small businesses and large corporations with a local presence. This event is centered around partnering with these businesses to secure sponsorships that were then used to create clues for teams to complete. The teams consisted of 2–4 players each and participants used GooseChase, an app, to receive the clues to then go execute in order to compete. These were done at the participants' convenience over a three-week period. The clues were created by the mission team in collaboration with the businesses to create a mission that aligned with their business and ultimately provided exposure. These could be a visit to their website or social media share or an actual on-site checkin. For example, a local restaurant wanted teams to stop in and take a picture with the menu. Twenty-four teams competed in 105 missions throughout the scavenger hunt. The hunt concluded with a large celebration including dinner, drinks, games, raffles, an auction, a DJ, and was emceed by a podcast host. The five charity recipients were honored at the event. Sponsors were invited and encouraged to attend as well, many having tickets within their sponsorship level.

The GFWC Wauconda Woman's Club | District 10 | 34 members/15 participated | 84 hours | \$4,320 raised | **Veterans Fundraiser**

NEW! The GFWC Wauconda Woman's Club held a targeted fundraiser on Veteran's Day to benefit Wauconda's American Legion Post 911 (“Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave” program) and to the Veteran's Path to Hope organizations. Tickets to the event were sold through American Legion Post 911, a local Wauconda business, and club members. The fundraiser included a pulled pork dinner (served by Future Business Leaders of American from the Wauconda high school), a wine pull (all bottles of wine were donated), a 50/50 raffle, and live music by a local music group. In addition to the monies generated by the event, the band donated back their fee, and the winner of the 50/50 raffle donated back the winnings.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today | District 23

Category 3 (11–20 members) | Lombard Service League, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2 (21–50 members) | Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 1 (51+ members) | GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today | District 23 | 9 members | Children's Playhouse

One club members' husband offered to build a custom child's playhouse to be raffled off. There was one very happy family who won! The proceeds went to their Education Scholarship Fund. (9 members | 35 hours | \$1,225 raised | \$335 spent)

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023

WOMEN'S HISTORY & RESOURCE CENTER (WHRC)

Barb Potter, Chairman

GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Bismarck – At club meetings, members enjoyed learning GFWC history, facts about the Headquarters and the repair cost for the Iron Works Projects. The club donated \$100 towards this project. The club also studied U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the forever stamp honoring her. The club also spent time learning about the American Quarters Program, which celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women in the United States. The club received a slide show titled “This Old House” to show to the club.

GFWC Illinois Federated Woman's Club of Greater Belleville – At each meeting, an historical topic was presented including the topics of notable clubwomen, federated colors, the organizing of the local libraries by GFWC clubs, the GFWC founder, the headquarters, and the history of GFWC during different time periods. Used a “Did You Know?” format to learn the Federation flower, color, and emblem.

Palos Heights Woman's Club – In honor of the club's 85th anniversary, the club participated in ten programs during the year. These included: 600 books donated to friends of the library, 125 gift bags donated to the Veterans, a bike ride in town, a display of the club's history in the library, holiday cards for the Veterans, mum sale, an historian report, “Mayor for the Day” contest, and an anniversary meal with media and newsletter coverage.

Highland Civic Woman's Club, Inc. – In honor of their 100th year, a centennial moment was presented at each meeting. These moments discussed historical events of their area as well as the history of the club and other civic organizations. Each month of the 100th year had special programs. Antiques, housewares, and crafts were displayed by Mr. Latzer who invented the process to stabilize milk and founded Pet Milk Company. Certificates of Merit from Highland CUSD 5 and Highland Area Christian Service Ministry were framed. Highland Historical Society members presented a program on the Homestead. Candy treats introduced in the early 1920's were placed in paper teapots as favors. The anniversary committee prepared high tea, 1920's style. The club was recognized by the local politicians. The club also studied the Gettysburg Address and the American Women's League.

The GFWC Woman's Club of Aurora – Members who had returned from the GFWC headquarters made a presentation to the club using pictures displayed on tri-fold boards with additional photos and exhibits. The presentation included the history of 1734 N. St. and the adjacent buildings. Another program presented recognized “Portraying Women's Strength.” During Women's History Month, table tents were placed at each table with pictures depicting such projects as the Woman's Crusade for Seatbelts. Records of the club are kept at the Aurora Historical Society. Happy 133rd anniversary GFWC International recognized 63 woman's clubs gathered in New York City in 1901. The club toured the Grand Army of the Republic Museum. The club also studied the History of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club – The club president ends each meeting with “Trivia Time,” a fun way of sharing the history and value of being members of GFWC, GFWC Illinois, District 11-12, and Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club. Topics have included club and GFWC colors, information about the 2024 International Convention, Past Club Presidents, our charter year, and PCA Illinois. The club also learned of the legislation that GFWC supported through the years.

GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club – In March, the club celebrated Women's History Month with a guest speaker, Karyn Charvat, Past GFWC Illinois Director of Junior Clubs. She gave an overview of how GFWC got its start and how most of the club's history can be found in the WHRC. She also went on to share her tips and tricks for public speaking, how to recognize good leaders, how to retain club members and learn to pivot.

Fithian Woman's Club – The club implemented a series entitled “Women of Accomplishment.” At each FWC meeting the WHRC chairperson provides a brief presentation on different women who have made notable and important contributions to society. Examples include: Ann Tsukamot, Lyda Newman, Josephine Cochran, and Sara Goode.

WHRC – CONTINUED

Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc. – The WHRC Chairman took the initiative to interview their oldest living member, who had served as the club president for an impressive six years. With her wealth of experience and knowledge, she provided a unique perspective on the club’s development and growth over the years. The club was able to gather and incorporate important information about the club, ensuring that these memories will not be lost with time. Preserving the club’s history not only honors the contributions of past presidents, but also provides a valuable resource for future members to understand and appreciate the legacy of the club. To encourage and promote attendance at the GFWC Convention in 2024, a member of the club developed an informative presentation. This presentation was delivered at the state convention and two club conventions. The member also researched the four GFWC Presidents who were Illinois clubwomen. To enhance the presentation’s impact, the members collaborated with the WHRC Historian. The club also visited the Heritage in Flight Museum at the Logan County Airport.

Lockport Woman’s Club – Five members successfully compiled and published the history of the Lockport Woman’s Club, an account of the Club’s activities and accomplishments from 1902 to 2022. For background, in the 1990s, the documents and memorabilia accumulated and preserved by members over the years were consolidated and moved to a building owned by Lewis University. The Club History Committee sought to write a 120-year history of the club. The last history was written to commemorate the club’s 100th anniversary. Committee members spent over 4,200 total hours researching and writing over three years. The total cost of production was \$2,411. Complimentary copies were distributed to the local public libraries, the high school, and other community organizations and officials. Copies were also sold, raising a total of \$1,220.

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1–10 members) | GFWC Illinois Federated Woman’s Club of Greater Belleville | District 22

Category 3 (11–20 members) | Fithian Woman’s Club | District 18

Category 2 (21–50 members) | Highland Woman’s Club | District 22

Category 1 (51+ members) | GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 17

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 WOMEN’S HISTORY & RESOURCE CENTER

Lockport Woman’s Club | District 11-12 | Five members successfully compiled and published the history of the Lockport Woman’s Club, an account of the Club’s activities and accomplishments from 1902 to 2022. For background, in the 1990s, the documents and memorabilia accumulated and preserved by members over the years were consolidated and moved to a building owned by Lewis University. The Club History Committee sought to write a 120-year history of the club. The last history was written to commemorate the club’s 100th anniversary. Committee members spent over 4,200 total hours researching and writing over three years. The total cost of production was \$2,411. Complimentary copies were distributed to the local public libraries, the high school, and other community organizations and officials. Copies were also sold, raising a total of \$1,220.

GFWC ILLINOIS TOP TEN PROJECTS 2023 EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)

Judy Rader, Chairman

GFWC Lincoln Woman's Club, Inc. | District 17 | 81 members

This club's inventive ESO chairman entices new members to join the group by twice a year inviting all members to an English tea hosted by the 10 current ESO readers. Members enjoy refreshments, information about joining ESO is shared, and the ladies stay throughout the afternoon discussing and sharing books. One tea this year was dubbed a "Doll Tea" where the club ESO chair shared a display of antique English dolls and served true "tea and crumpets" during the book discussion. The club currently has the most readers of any club in the state and even maintains a book cart at the club building where all members are free to borrow or exchange books at every club meeting. (25 members, 6 projects, 2,573 hours, \$170 in-kind)

The Herrin Woman's Club | District 25 | 37 members

In 2023, The Herrin Woman's Club rose to the challenge to be more active in the ESO program. The club established a monthly book club and chose books that were suggested by members to discuss each of the following 12 months. The member suggesting the book led the discussion each month. On two occasions they were privileged to have the actual authors join in the discussions. The last part of the meeting was dedicated to encouraging and assisting their members to enroll in ESO. Veteran readers gave instructions on filling out the ESO reports and described how to send their book reports to the state ESO chair. One quarter of this club's membership joined the ESO program in 2023. (6 members, 6 projects, 1,277 hours)

GFWC Decatur Woman's Club | District 19 | 20 members

Each month at the club meeting, the club president and vice president bring a selection of books. Attendees are encouraged to look through the books, take some home, then read and complete an ESO report. The club ESO chair keeps copies of all the reports written. Three oral book reports are given during the year by the club president to encourage members to read and report. (8 members, 3 projects, 118 hours)

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15 | 10 members

This small club has organized an ESO book club. One third of the membership is part of the book club and the membership is growing. (4 members, 2 projects, 614 hours)

OVERALL CATEGORY WINNERS

Category 4 (1-10 members) | GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

Category 3 (11-20 members) | GFWC Decatur Woman's Club | District 19

Category 2 (21-50 members) | The Herrin Woman's Club | District 25

Category 1 (51+ members) | GFWC Lincoln Woman's Club, Inc. | District 17

GFWC ILLINOIS CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD 2023 EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)

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This club's inventive ESO chairman entices new members to join the group by twice a year inviting all members to an English tea hosted by the 10 current ESO readers. Members enjoy refreshments, information about joining ESO is shared, and the ladies stay throughout the afternoon discussing and sharing books. One tea this year was dubbed a "Doll Tea" where the club ESO chair shared a display of antique English dolls and served true "tea and crumpets" during the book discussion. The club currently has the most readers of any club in the state and even maintains a book cart at the club building where all members are free to borrow or exchange books at every club meeting. (25 members, 6 projects, 2,573 hours, \$170 in-kind)

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO) – CONTINUED

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON READERS WHO REACHED CENTURY LEVELS IN 2023

Name	Club	District	Total Books	2023 Award
Diane Addante	Lombard Junior Women’s Club, Inc.	5/6	1,145	11th Century
Nina Casey	Naperville Women’s Club	5/6	192	1st Century
Pamela Cieslak	Naperville Women’s Club	5/6	132	1st Century
Marilyn Barc	GFWC Indian Head Park Woman’s Club	5/6	209	2nd Century
Sharon Kalinoski	GFWC Indian Head Park Woman’s Club	5/6	413	4th Century
Cathy Marsoun	Junior Woman’s Club of Rock Island	14/15	136	1st Century
Mary Newcomb	Junior Woman’s Club of Rock Island	14/15	3,502	35th Century
Kathie Dietz	The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman’s Club	17	106	1st Century
Kathy Ruble	GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior WC	17	168	1st Century
Jill Murphy	The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman’s Club	17	320	3rd Century
Barb Potter	The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman’s Club	17	1,535	15th Century
Barb Uehle	The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman’s Club	17	112	1st Century
Carol Mills	GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc.	17	206	2nd Century
Laura Sandrolini	GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc.	17	108	1st Century
Lynn Spellman	GFWC Lincoln Woman’s Club, Inc.	17	508	5th Century
Patsy Sherrard	GFWC Illinois McLean County Woman’s Club	17	118	1st Century
Jenny Trimmell	Fithian Woman’s Club	18	100	1st Century
Ardena Hunter	GFWC Decatur Woman’s Club	19	302	3rd Century
Beverly Virobik	Centralia Junior Woman’s Club	23	1,410	14th Century
Sherry Gramse	The Herrin Woman’s Club	25	100	1st Century

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023

GFWC ILLINOIS UNITY AWARD

To support the Danville VA Medical Center's 125th anniversary (Civic Engagement) five clubs in District 18 collected items for presentation to the Coordinator for Voluntary Service at their March 2023 annual convention. GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Bismarck donated items for recreational therapy, Danville-Illiana Woman's Club donated healthcare items for homeless veterans, Fairmount Woman's Club donated non-perishable food items including Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), Fithian Woman's Club donated personal comfort items and Georgetown Ladies Community Club donated new home goods and home decorations for the Village Home Community Living Center. Value of items donated was \$779.

To support the Prairie Land Playground Restoration (Environment) three clubs in District 19 worked with their local park district to restore playground equipment. Tuscola Woman's Club, Tuscola Juniorette & Gentlemen Club and GFWC East Prairie Jets. Supplies were ordered and together the club members did minor maintenance and repainted the equipment. This united effort brought the grade school, high school and Woman's Club members closer together by enhancing the safety and attractiveness of the park!

To support the Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities (Health and Wellness) Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club and the Lockport Woman's Club held a fashion show to raise funds to support the Shady Oaks summer camp that provides recreational activities otherwise not available to those with disabilities of all ages. \$4,866 was donated to Shady Oaks, along with \$350 of paper products.

To support Food Insecurity the GFWC Illinois Junior Woman's Encore Club and GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman's Club in District 17/16, partnered with the Midwest Food Bank on the September 28, 2024 GFWC National Day of Service. Together they were educated about the organization's mission and the food collection and distribution process for Midwest Food Bank, then physically packaged and boxed 7,000 pounds of Cheez-its for transport! They finished the day by cleaning and washing the area in which they worked.

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 COVETED SHOE AWARD

Twenty-four GFWC Illinois clubs submitted the 2023 Coveted Shoe Award. The purpose of the award was to engage clubs with GFWC Illinois leadership through participation in activities open to all club members, as well as rewarding clubs to meet state deadlines for dues remittance, club officer information and award entry submission.

Five clubs earned 90 or more points, 12 clubs earned between 80-89 points; 4 clubs earned 70-79 points and 4 clubs earned less than 70 points!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIVE CLUBS WITH 90 POINTS OR MORE

The Woman's Club of Aurora | District 11-12 | 96 points

GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman's Club | District 5/6 | 96 points

GFWC Lincoln Woman's Club, Inc. | District 17 | 93 points

GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | 91 points

GFWC Zion Woman's Club | District 10 | 90 points

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REMAINING CLUBS WHO SUBMITTED ENTRIES

GFWC Illinois Eldorado Woman's Club | District 25

Elgin Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Fithian Woman's Club | District 18

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Naperville Woman's Club | District 5/6

Palos Heights Woman's Club | District 3

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Junior Woman's Encore Club | District 11-12

The GFWC Illinois Gilman Woman's Club | District 17

GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Bismarck | District 18

GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman's Club | District 17

Lisle Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Decatur Woman's Club | District 19

Lockport Woman's Club | District 11-12

Anna Jonesboro Woman's Club | District 25

Carol Stream Women's Club | District 5/6

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 FOOD INSECURITY AWARD

Twenty-five clubs submitted an entry describing their efforts during the 2022–2024 administration to educate themselves and help to ease food insecurity within their local, national or global communities.

68 clubs in GFWC Illinois participated in the GFWC National Day of Service on September 28, 2023, to address food insecurity and build brand awareness of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs.

OVERALL WINNER

Lisle Woman’s Club | District 5/6

For their ongoing efforts to support the Lisle Township Food Garden which was established seven years ago by a now current member of their club. The Lisle Woman’s Club continues as a volunteer and monetary benefactor of the garden. Club members work year-round to support the garden through education on how to sustain, plant and harvest a garden, and educate themselves on how the garden addresses food insecurity in their local community. Volunteers donate seeds and grow seedlings, utilize crop rotation concepts to maximize the harvest of the garden year-to-year. The club provides “manual labor” when needed and contributes monetarily to enhance the garden structure. Club members make donations of perishable foods to the Lisle Township Food pantry – in 2023 they donated 100 pounds of fresh meat and 25 boxes of grocery staples.

2ND PLACE

GFWC Illinois Junior Woman’s Encore Club | District 17

For the variety of projects and number of hours spent addressing food insecurity. In November & December of 2022 they collected non-perishable food items and paper products, using the GFWC Illinois Reverse Holiday Calendar as a guide. They partnered with the Midwest Food Bank of Bloomington for education and hands-on warehouse packing on the GFWC National Day of Service. The club donated personal care items to local nursing homes, and supported the Weekend Snack Pac program to provide students who are part of the Free Lunch program with breakfast and lunch items for the weekends. They volunteered to chair the Community Holiday Basket Drive (held annually) serving 100 local families. They discovered (and donated to) a “hygiene desert” at the Junior College GED program that provides hygiene and detergent items free to students.

3RD PLACE

The Woman’s Club of Aurora | District 11-12

For the diversity of their efforts in monetary and food stable donations to their local food pantries. For the GFWC National Day of Service Project – they collected the “Top 10 Most Wanted Food Items” for the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and Mutual Ground – a shelter for women and children survivors of domestic violence and abuse resulting in 200 lbs. of food, \$482 monetary donations and 160 empty egg cartons which are used to distribute the bulk egg donations received by the local food pantry. The club participated in a Food Pantry “Trunk or Treat” event for Halloween, by handing out candy in a “spider themed car and costumes” and donated candy to the Kendall County Food Pantry for Halloween treat bags.

The club participated in several Feed my Starving Children events and donated \$88 to the organization. They had two educational programs on food insecurity, helped to harvest 360 pounds of food from the Charity Blooms Garden for the food pantries, and at their annual plant sale, members purchased vegetables to donate to the Charity Bloom Garden. They donated to the summer food program and snack programs. In total the club donated \$5,583, and another \$1,204 in-kind donations.

4TH PLACE

Naperville Woman’s Club | District 5/6

At their annual Witches Night out, patrons are asked to bring canned goods which are donated to Loaves and Fishes. Total value of foods donated was \$2,640, with an additional cash donation of \$110. For the GFWC National Day of Service, the club hosted a panel discussion on food insecurity in their area and invited state leaders to attend. Members were educated about how the various organizations address food insecurity and the demographics they

FOOD INSECURITY AWARD – CONTINUED

serve. They had a raffle that evening and raised \$140 for Families Helping Families, one of the panel organizations. The club donated 67 reusable grocery cloth or plastic bags to Loaves and Fishes to reduce their costs and save the landfill areas. The club reminded members of the Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 13th and encouraged them to leave non-perishable food donations by their mailbox, packed meals at Feed my Starving Children and had an educational program on how food insecurity impacts the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, resulting in a donation of \$2,342. Overall monies donated by the club for various food-insecurity needs was \$13,950.

5TH PLACE

Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

For their support of the Birthday Bag donation program at the county level, food pantry donations at the county level, contributions to the Magi Baby Chest by providing baby supplies of baby formula, baby food and baby snacks, and the creation of the EXTRA Program for high school students in the lunch program which provides additional funds in student lunch accounts to purchase extra food or snacks. Princeton Junior started the HITT program (Helping Individuals during Tough Times) to assist families who are impacted by unforeseen events. This program started in October of 2023, and they selected one family per month to receive \$100 gift card to be used for groceries or gas.

HONORABLE MENTION

GFWC Wood River Woman's Club | District 22

For the number of projects and hours spent addressing Food Insecurity.

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

For the creativity of the Senior "Christmas Package Door Hanger" – wrapped Christmas packages for women (55) and men (45).

The Lincoln Woman's Club, Inc. | District 17

Coordinated with the library to educate preschool children (through the story time activity) about hunger and food insecurity. They built a castle out of cans, designed a coloring page and arranged for the library to order books to be read addressing the topic of hunger and food insecurity while they sat in the castle!

Oswego Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

For their Wig Crawl to raise money for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry and build awareness of their club.

REMAINING CLUBS THAT SUBMITTED ENTRIES

Fithian Woman's Club | District 18

The Mokena Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Morris Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today | District 23

GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Geneseo Woman's Club | District 14/15

Northwest Suburban Woman's Club GFWC | District 5/6

Palos Heights Woman's Club | District 3

Antioch Woman's Club | District 10

GFWC Illinois Eldorado Woman's Club | District 25

Elgin Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Bismarck | District 18

The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 | 25-YEAR MEMBERS

DISTRICT 3

Palos Heights Woman's Club

Bonnie Strack
Rose Zubik

DISTRICT 5/6

Darien Woman's Club

Doreen Muenzing



DISTRICT 10

Antioch Woman's Club

Carole Ann Becker

DISTRICT 11-12

Lockport Woman's Club

Carol Coverdill
Jean Gentry

DISTRICT 13

GFWC Franklin Grove Woman's Club

Kathy Yocum

DISTRICT 17/16

GFWC Illinois Junior Woman's Encore Club

Diane Wipfler

Lincoln Woman's Club

Irma Dumser
Barb Dahm

DISTRICT 23

GFWC Illinois Effingham Women of Today

Barb Tull
Donna Zarrusen

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 | 50-YEAR MEMBERS

DISTRICT 5/6

Darien Woman's Club

Mary Ann Bowden
Heidi Lingane
Lynn Dvorak

DISTRICT 7

GFWC Illinois Past Presidents & Officers of 7th District

Judi Riess

DISTRICT 10

The Wauconda Woman's Club, GFWC

Martha Sjorslev
Bernadette Stendebach

DISTRICT 11-12

Lockport Woman's Club

Barbara Dystrup

DISTRICT 13

GFWC Franklin Grove Woman's Club

Larena Floto

DISTRICT 14/15

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club

Teresa Sanford-Shipplett

DISTRICT 19

GFWC Cerro Gordo Woman's Club

Judy Sochor



Please Note: These names were reported to GFWC Illinois headquarters by the deadline for inclusion at the 2024 Convention.

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 CLUB MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Club /District Name	District	Organized	Celebrating
GFWC Illinois Morgan Park Woman's Club	3	1889	135 Years
GFWC Lacon Woman's Club	16	1889	135 Years
GFWC Illinois Waukegan Woman's Club	10	1894	130 Years
Tuscola Woman's Club	19	1894	130 Years
District 13	13	1899	125 Years
GFWC Illinois Chadwick Federated Woman's Club	13	1904	120 Years
District 12	12	1904	120 Years
District 22	22	1909	115 Years
GFWC Franklin Grove Woman's Club	13	1924	100 Years
The GFWC Wauconda Woman's Club	10	1929	95 Years
Elgin Junior Woman's Club	11-12	1934	90 Years
Junior Woman's Club of Rock Island	14/15	1939	85 Years
GFWC Illinois Past Presidents' Club of DuPage County	5/6	1944	80 Years
The Past Presidents' Club of GFWC Illinois 10th District	10	1944	80 Years
GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club	14/15	1949	75 Years
The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc.	5/6	1959	65 Years
District 5	5/6	1974	50 Years
Jackie's Bow Ties Club	11-12	1994	30 Years
GFWC Illinois Lemont Juniorette Club	5/6	1993	25 Years
GFWC Illinois McLean County Woman's Club	17	2004	20 Years
District 14/15	14/15	2014	10 Years
GFWC Northwest Suburban Woman's Club	5/6	2019	5 Years

GFWC ILLINOIS JENNIE AWARD

2024 GFWC JENNIE AWARD – ILLINOIS RECIPIENT

Wanda Burklow | GFWC Illinois Eldorado Woman's Club | District 25

GFWC ILLINOIS LEADS REPRESENTATIVES

2024 GFWC LEADS CANDIDATE

Renee Super | District 11-12

PAST LEADS REPRESENTATIVES

- 2002 | LeeAnn Conlon
- 2003 | Kathy Koran
- 2004 | Brenda Hatch
- 2005 | Marilyn DeMay
- 2006 | Carrie Lape
- 2007 | Peggy Masterson
- 2008 | Ameer Lee
- 2009 | Rhonda (Bunny) Dalton
- 2010 | Jeanette T. Wells
- 2011 | Cherie Sieger
- 2012 | Barbara Potter
- 2013 | Karyn Charvat
- 2014 | Carol Jablonski
- 2015 | Amy Vicioso
- 2016 | Loretta Revesz
- 2017 | Elena Lipinski
- 2018 | Maria Uribe
- 2019 | Megan Mitchell
- 2020 | Sue Haa
- 2021 | Sandy Christofanelli
- 2022 | Jodi Hanson
- 2023 | Teri Merrell

GFWC ILLINOIS 2023 | IN MEMORIAM

DISTRICT 3

Palos Heights Woman's Club

June Campbell
Virginia Jones
Dolores Justyn
Elizabeth Lough
Mary "Dee" Stuchly

DISTRICT 5/6

Darien Woman's Club

Lynn Dvorak

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc.

Jenny Miller

Lombard Service League, Inc./ Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc.

Sue Bielenda

DISTRICT 7

Mount Prospect Woman's Club GFWC

Rita Alessi
Janet M. Hanson

GFWC Illinois Past Presidents & Officers of 7th District

Marie Saeli

DISTRICT 10

Antioch Woman's Club

Jean Droegkamp
Angie Fasolo
Susan Knudson
Ann Radivoy
Betty M. Schneider
Dianne Suskin

The GFWC Wauconda Woman's Club

Elissa Farner

DISTRICT 11-12

GFWC Illinois Manhattan Woman's Club

Sereda J. Perosa

Plainfield Junior Woman's Club

Donna Vojensky

The GFWC Woman's Club of Aurora

Chris Glawe
Barbara Penner
Barbara Worthington

DISTRICT 13

Byron GFWC Woman's Club

Mary J. Allen

GFWC Franklin Grove Woman's Club

Nola Colwell

DISTRICT 16

Peoria Woman's Club

Kathleen Dallinger

DISTRICT 17

GFWC Illinois Junior Woman's Encore Club

Nancy Jones

GFWC Lincoln Woman's Club, Inc.

Sue Beaver
Evelyn Belcher
Carol Schwantz

Metamora Woman's Club

Jo Crow

Pontiac Woman's Club /GFWC Illinois Livingston County Presidents' Club

Lorraine Kammermann

DISTRICT 18

Fairmount Woman's Club

Vickie Miller

Fithian Woman's Club

Leah Sperry

Georgetown Ladies Community Club

Donna Oaks
Judy Sawyer

GFWC Illinois Woman's Club of Bismarck

Diane Thomason

DISTRICT 19

GFWC Cerro Gordo Woman's Club

Nancy Hadden
Don Horne

DISTRICT 22

Highland Woman's Club

Patricia Farabee
Elva Tucker
Joyce Zerban

DISTRICT 23

GFWC Illinois Marion Woman's Club

Ruth Blackburn
Elizabeth "Betty" Deaton
Louetta Butler
Marjorie Davidson
Mary Powell



Please Note: These names were reported to GFWC Illinois headquarters by the deadline for inclusion at the 2024 Convention.



GFWC ILLINOIS **JUNIOR AWARDS** 2023-2024



GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIORS 2023 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Shirley Hoffedtz | GFWC Illinois Newton Junior Woman's Club
Loretta Revesz | Elgin Junior Woman's Club
Nancy Rodier | GFWC Illinois Junior Woman's Encore Club

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Holly Allen Limbaugh | Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE LESS THAN 10 YEARS

Angel Whitefleet | GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club

OUTSTANDING SERVICE MORE THAN 10 YEARS

Cherie Sieger | GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club

SPARK PLUG AWARD

Mistie Brokaw | Princeton Junior Woman's Club

JUNIORETTE OF THE YEAR

Rianna Sullivan | GFWC Illinois Naperville Juniores

JUNIORETTE PROJECT OF THE YEAR

GFWC Illinois Lemont Juniores Club - Gingerbread Puppies
Honorable Mention - GFWC Illinois Oswego Juniores Club

JUNIORETTE ADVISORS OF THE YEAR

Francine Caliendo & Anne Twist | GFWC Illinois Plainfield Juniores Club

GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIORS 2023 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS (CSP)

ARTS & CULTURE

Karel Volpert, Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Homer Glen Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 11-12

GFWC Joliet Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Category 3

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman's Club | District 17

Antioch Junior Woman's Club | District 10

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

Junior Woman's Club of Rock Island | District 14/15

The Elgin Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

TOP 2 PROJECTS

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15 | Christmas Package Door Hanger

GFWC Joliet Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | StoryPoint Memory Care

JUNIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS – CONTINUED

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Michelle Schultz, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

The Downers Grove Junior Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Lemont Junior Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2

The Glenwood Junior Woman’s Club | District 3
The Joliet Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12
Lombard Junior Women’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Naperville Junior Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 3

GFWC Illinois Junior Woman’s Encore Club | District 17
Princeton Junior Woman’s Club | District 16
Wheaton Junior Woman’s Club | District 5/6

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15
GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12
Glendale Heights Junior Woman’s Club | District 5/6

TOP 2 PROJECTS

GFWC Illinois Junior Woman’s Encore Club | District 17 | The GED Department
GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15 | COZY’s for your Toesy’s

JUNIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS – CONTINUED

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Diane Addante, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

The Downers Grove Junior Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Lemont Junior Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2

Lombard Junior Women’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Homer Glen Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12
GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12

Category 3

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15
Wheaton Junior Woman’s Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Tie: The Antioch Junior Woman’s Club | District 10 and
GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman’s Club | District 17

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club | 14/15
GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman’s Club | District 11-12
Glendale Heights Junior Woman’s Club | District 5/6

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)

Judy Radar, Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Categories 1, 2 & 3

No Winners

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15

TOP PROJECT

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman’s Club | District 14/15 | ESO Book Club

JUNIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS – CONTINUED

ENVIRONMENT

Marie Mueller, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15
Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 3

GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman's Club | District 17
GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | 14/15
Centralia Junior Woman's Club | District 23
GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

TOP 2 PROJECTS

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6 | Pumpkin Smash
Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | Victorian Village Planting Project

JUNIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS – CONTINUED

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Lisa Flanigan, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 11-12

Category 2

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
The Glenwood Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 3
Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Category 3

GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman's Club | District 17
The Antioch Junior Woman's Club | District 10
Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

Category 4

Glendale Heights Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6
GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

TOP 2 PROJECTS

GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 11-12 | October/November Fitness Challenge
The Antioch Junior Woman's Club | District 10 | Pantry Advent Calendar Program

GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIORS 2023 **ADVANCEMENTS**

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jenna Mitchell, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
Naperville Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2

The Glenwood Junior Woman's Club | District 3
Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 3

GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15
Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15
GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
Glendale Heights Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6

JUNIOR ADVANCEMENTS – CONTINUED

FUNDRAISING

Candyce Jordan, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 11-12
Naperville Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
GFWC Joliet Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 3

GFWC Illinois CRF Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6
GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 14/15
Wheaton Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15
Lincoln-Way GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Illinois | District 11-12

JUNIOR ADVANCEMENTS – CONTINUED

LEADERSHIP

Kim Kalafut, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

Lemont Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 2

GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Category 3

Wheaton Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6

GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Bloomington-Normal Junior Woman's Club | District 17

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICY/RESOLUTIONS

Lucia Rossi-Nichols, Junior Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Category 2

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Category 3

Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

Category 4

No Winner

GFWC ILLINOIS JUNIORS 2023

SPECIAL PROJECTS

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Marsha Vaughn, Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

No Winner

Category 2

GFWC Joliet Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

GFWC Illinois Plainfield Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 11-12

Category 3

The Antioch Junior Woman's Club | District 10

GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

Category 4

GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12

GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15

TOP 2 PROJECTS

GFWC Illinois Fox Valley Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | Unveiling Domestic Violence

GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12 | Angel Shot

JUNIOR SPECIAL PROJECTS – CONTINUED

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CRF)

Connie Head, Chairman

TOP 3 CLUBS

Category 1

The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Inc. | District 5/6
GFWC Illinois CRF Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6

Category 2

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
GFWC Joliet Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
Lombard Junior Women's Club, Inc. | District 5/6

Category 3

Wheaton Woman's Encore Club | District 5/6
Princeton Junior Woman's Club | District 16

Category 4

Glendale Heights Junior Woman's Club | District 5/6
GFWC Illinois Coal City Junior Woman's Club | District 11-12
GFWC Illinois Abingdon Junior Woman's Club | District 14/15