

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD SUPPLEMENT – 2020-2022

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THE GFWC COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD OFFERS GFWC CLUBS FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS DESIGNED TO MEET COMMUNITIES' SPECIFIC NEEDS.

This program was introduced in 1949 as a “Build a Better Community Contest” and is GFWC’s longest standing project. This program provides a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of our communities.

The new name for this program is – Community Impact Program. The goals remain the same: finding ways to enhance your community as well as benefit its residents. This program can be beneficial to your club offering membership opportunities, creating public awareness of your club and GFWC activities. This Program is designed to meet the individual community’s needs and providing ways to enhance relationships of your club with your community, by making it a better place to live.

Revitalizing distressed communities and improving living conditions are recognized projects that are eligible for national recognition and awards. Often the smallest project can result in a large impact for your neighborhood.

IDEAS

Here is an example of how a club can design multiple projects to target a single goal:

Brainstorm and Research: After convening a club brainstorming session to consider various community issues, club members focus on a remark made by a teacher, who noted that many of her young students come to school hungry, especially on Mondays. Research then reveals that roughly 40% of the children in the community are nutritionally underserved. Your club then decides to plan projects that offer education and provide resources to make an impact on this local problem.

Resulting Projects: The club creates a “doable” three-prong plan. Projects include:

- Providing a fun booth at a school event that distributes information on nutritious, budget-conscious, and easy-to-make meals, along with taste testing and take-home recipes.
- Launching an awareness campaign, “Every Vegetable Counts,” highlighting the local issue and urging home gardeners and others to donate excess produce to the local Food Pantry.
- Partnering with the PTA to sponsor and manage a weekend brown-bag program for underserved students.

When considering ways to impact the community, take time to discover and carefully consider community needs and then select and connect a need with your GFWC volunteer projects. Consider implementing partnerships within your community to address the issue and assist with project development, which can raise the profile of your club and GFWC at the grassroots level.

GFWC's scope of work, as outlined in the two Special Programs and five Community Service Programs, can stimulate project ideas. Look to GFWC's Advancement Programs for guidance on leadership, fundraising, communication, and other project essentials.

Award Period:

- January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021.

Contest Description:

- Each entry can feature one to three local projects undertaken by a club, all accomplished during the Award Period.
- Each entry should include one page of information on each project (maximum 500 words) to highlight:
 - ø Project selection process
 - ø Project goal(s)
 - ø Plan of action, including timeline
 - ø Engagement of members, including total hours
 - ø Financial/funding details, including total contributed ø Collaborating partners or individuals
 - ø Media coverage
 - ø Measurable impact(s)
 - ø Any other key information
- Each entry can contain one page of photographs for each project (maximum of 4 photographs per page).
- Each entry can contain one page of publicity highlights for each project (maximum of 4 highlights per page).
- Total entry cannot exceed 10 pages: A Community Impact Program Award Cover Form plus three additional pages for each project (info page, photo page, publicity page).

Entry Process:

- Club entries are to be sent to the State Chairman by February 15th, 2022.
- State Chairman -will forward the winning entry and the club name of the second place winner to the GFWC Community Impact Program Award Chairman by March 20, 2022.
- Contest entries will be judged by State Categories, with one winner per category.
- National and International Community Impact Program Awards will be presented at the GFWC Annual Convention in New Orleans, LA, in June 2022.

Other Guidelines:

- Clubs that have previously won this award must submit entirely new projects for consideration. Expanded projects will not be considered.

- International Affiliates may submit an Award Entry to be judged in conjunction with other International Affiliates.
- All deadlines and other rules must be followed.
- Joint entries of clubs are not allowed.
- All monetary awards must be used to further the community impact initiative.
- Award entries of national winners will be kept in the GFWC Women’s History and Resource Center.

Use the official GFWC Entry Form/Cover Sheet found in the GFWC Club Manual – under GFWC Awards, Contest, and Grants. “Community Impact Program Award” Section.

PROJECT HOURS, MONIES AND SERVICES SHOULD BE REPORTED ON THE GFWC/NJSFWC YEARLY REPORT FORMS UNDER THE APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (i.e. work performed at schools and libraries would be reported under the EDUCATION REPORT.)

JUDGING CRITERIA

Project Selections – 25 Points

- Procedures, plan of action, and input in choosing projects

Project Development – 25 Points

- Plan details, execution, and effort • Community collaboration with other groups and/or individuals

Project Evaluation – 50 Points

- Increase in community awareness
- Degree of success of projects and their measurable impacts
- Viability of long-term efforts

AWARDS:

Clubs that have reported by February 15th, 2022 will receive a participation certificate at Spring Conference of 2022.

GFWC State Awards: First Place-\$50.00
 Second Place- \$35.00

GFWC Award:
 First Place- \$2500