**NEW JEREY STATE FEDERATIONOF WOMEN’S CLUBS**

**Advocates For Children**

**Top 10 Projects 2021**

**SOCKTOBER: MOST CREATIVE PROJECT**

The WOMAN’S LEAGUE OF MOUNT HOLLY put up an old-fashioned clothes tree with clothes pins and 3 bins marked Children, Women, and Men at the County Library for the month of October, including Advocates for Children Week. Due to publicity on Facebook, they got other partners including 2 Realtors’ offices, the VFW and the Girl Scouts. The scouts collected and sorted the items and gave a zoom presentation with the totals at a Club meeting. They collected 1591 pairs of socks (one third were for children). The socks were distributed to several sites including the Pinelands Family Success Center, Generations Resource Center, the First Presbyterian Church, and the Fort Dix McGuire Village for Afghan Refugees. The publicity from this project brought in 2 new members.

BIG RED SANTA MAILBOX

THE WOMAN’S CLUB OF WOODSTOWN (Garden District). arranged for Red mailboxes to be placed on 2 corners down town. The Children placed their letters in the boxes and every 4 days the Chairman collected the letters. Packets of 10 letters, red peds Christmas paper and envelopes with suggestions on how to answer the letters were delivered to club members, to write a special letter to each child. They received 227 letters. Ten members including 2 new members wrote the letters. One challenge was answering sibling letters. The Chairman delivered the letters to the Postmaster in Woodstown- no postage was charged, for those within Woodstown. They also supplied the return address labels of Elf Road, North Pole. The Chairman notified the town when the boxes needed to be removed.

NURSES/COMMUNITY CLOSETS

At least 3 clubs including the JUNIOR WOMAN’S CLUB OF BELLEVILLE, (Liberty) THE JUNIOR WOMAN’S CLUB OF VERONA, (Liberty) AND THE WOMAN’S CLUB OF VINELAND (Southern) contributed to Nurses’ closets at their local schools. Items donated to the Closets included basic food items, water, snack foods, hygiene products, school uniforms, cold weather accessories, clothing for job interviews and more.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD/SAMARITAN’S PURSE

Members of the JUNIOR WOMAN’S CLUB OF JEFFERSON (Highlands), were asked to bring items including washcloths, toiletries, crayons, pencils, soccer balls and pumps to a club meeting. The items were packed in plastic shoe boxes and dropped at an official Samaritan’s Purse drop off location. They provided shipping for the boxes and were able track their shoeboxes to Children in the Dominican Republic.

BUBBLE BAGS

Members of the GFWC CENTRAL VALLEY CONTEMPORARY CLUB (College) decorated white gift bags and filled them with a bottle of bubbles, stickers, crayons, a small toy, and a small bag of gummies. They attached a label that said: Bubbles, Bubbles, in the air, Swirling, Twirling everywhere, Some are big, Some are small, See if you can pop them all! They were delivered to a Care Management Association that works with special needs children.

SUPPORT OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

The WOMAN’S CLUB OF WEST DEPTFORD (Garden) supports Ronald McDonald House (RMH)throughout the year. From Valentines in February to plants for Mother’s Day accompanied by a supportive poem, to collecting soda tabs, their assistance goes year-round. They participated in the RMH “Show Us Your Striped Socks” campaign in March. Members purchased Striped Socks for $10 a pair and posted photos on their social media pages wearing the socks. An ongoing monthly wish list is shared, and members make pillowcases and baby blankets.

VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER

The WOMAN’S CLUB OF ARLINGTON (Liberty) held its annual Baby Shower for the Kearny Corps of the Salvation Army’ Baby Closet, virtually this year. Over a period of a few weeks, members dropped off baby and toddler items in a bin on the front porch of the President’s house. On the day of the “shower” the items valued at $1800 were displayed around the President’s living room during the Zoom Club meeting. The Salvation Army Captain joined the meeting to virtually accept the gifts which were later delivered to the Salvation Army Headquarters.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The VERNON TOWNSHIP (Highlands) worked together to make 150 pads and liners for Days for Girls. Days for Girls supplies villages, many remote with menstrual education and products that enable girls to continue their education without interruption. Some members cut the fabric, and others sewed. Covid 19 caused the items to be exchanged in the library parking lot.

BACKPACKS

Several Clubs had Backpack projects during the back-to-school season. The WOMAN’S CLUB OF BOONTOON (Highlands) Received a grant of $250.00 from Thrivent, that they used to purchase 40 backpacks at Five Below. The manager noticed the large purchase and when she learned what they were for, she gave them a major discount. The filled backpacks were delivered to the local Social Services Coordinator, to be delivered to students in need.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Many clubs are involved in their community supporting Children through Holiday Giving Events. The names are different (Giving Tree, Wish Tree, Operation Santa, etc.) The PRINCETON AREA JUNIOR WOMAN’S CLUB (College) Worked with the Division of Children and Families (DCF) on a Wish Tree and was able to provide gifts for 931 children. Covid 19 and Supply Chain issues complicated this. A large donation from a local family, and tools like Sign up Genius, Amazon Wish Lists, and ROONGA.com, as well as traditional tree locations, were used for this project. Members did some of the shopping for gifts with the donated funds. Harris Moving and Storage stopped at 4 “safe” locations and moved the gifts to DCF in Trenton.