NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN’S CLUBS

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

**Top 10 Club Projects**

**MOST CREATIVE PROJECT:**

The inaugural *National First Responders Day Poster Contest*, sponsored by the Marlton Woman’s Club, was held for children in grades K – 1 and 2 - 3. The 23 members publicized the event through social media, the club’s website, schools and churches. National First Responders Day honors the heroic men and women who run towards danger every day to help their fellow citizens. It recognizes firefighters, police officers, EMTs and all those who are first on the scene in stressful situations. Fifty-two entries were judged by club members and members of the local Elks organization during the town’s fall festival. The top three entries in each of the two categories, which were judged on theme, artistic ability and sincerity received a $25 gift card. The winning posters were presented to the Evesham Police Department, the Evesham EMT and Evesham Fire Station where they were displayed.

**2.** The GFWC Woman’s League of Mount Holly participated in Operation Gratitude. This “non-profit nationwide organization providing Americans with opportunities to honor our military, veterans and first responders through hands on volunteerism”. By conducting two workshops, 4 members made 15 Paracord “survival” bracelets which are worn by men and women who serve and it gets the name from parachute cord which can hold up to 550 lbs of weight. The bracelets provide 7.5 feet of cord in an emergency and can be used to secure camouflage nets to trees, tie up gear, hang game for drying, build a makeshift shelter, make a sling or splint among many other uses.

**3.** The Woman’s Club of Arlington (48 members) took over the sponsorship and organization of a toy and clothing drive for the children and their mothers in residence at Apostle House. This shelter for homeless mothers and children in Newark, NJ lost its leadership of the event this past year. Members of the Fire Squad (a group of high school students) helped with the shopping while members solicited funds and wrapped gifts. Due to COVID restrictions Santa could not attend the in house gathering so the gifts were delivered with well wishes. Fifteen children between the ages of 2 and 17 each received age-appropriate gifts and books donated through the Kearny Library. Their mothers also received a small gift along with hand made scarves and mittens.

**4.** Learning that the Madison Police Department was in need of a bicycle for the only female pedal officer, The 225 members of the Thursday Morning Club-Madison went into action. They secured the purchase of the approved bicycle, when supply was very limited, and delivered it in a timely manner to the Madison Police Department. This new mountain bicycle rounds out the fleet to five and offers higher visibility and interaction with the community to keep everyone safe.

**5.** “Free the Girls” provides a safe economic opportunity of the sex-trafficking trade by collecting new and gently used bras. The Pompton Lakes Woman’s Club created a flyer, established a drop-off point and posted the project on social media and with other organizations they partner with. The collection of 403 bras exceeded their goal! They contacted the Maidenform Outlet who agreed to ship all of the bras for free! The members have agreed to continue this project for 2022.

**6.** Navy Lieutenant Commander, Shari D. Kleiman, received a quilt of valor made by the Washington Woman’s Club. The quilt had specific requirement – the front includes patriotic symbols, while the backing shows the works and music of Jane Austen. The 26 club members purchased a “Woman of Valor” pin from the Military Women’s National Memorial and present to LCDR Kleiman along with the quilt.

**7.** To coincide with “Wreaths Across America”, the Woman’s Club of Matawan made wreaths that were given to the American Legion to lay during their Veterans Day ceremonies. The sites chosen by the club are: the Rose Hill Cemetery, where many veterans, the 1916 shark attach victims and prominent families are buried; The Johnson Avenue Cemetery where many African-American veterans of various wars are buried and the World War I doughboy statue in Memorial Park where the only woman to serve in World War 1 is buried (and marked by the club). The red, white and blue wreaths were created with the participation of the 19 members of the club.

8. The Woman’s Club of Denville-Rockaway Area held a unique project, a Virtual Technology Workshop. They had five different workshops. They were Web Browser and Microsoft Word, I-Pads and other tablets, Digital Photography, I-Phones, and Social Media; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tik Tok. Each workshop lasted about 45-60 minutes. They charged a $10 attendance fee. Other clubs were invited to participate in the workshops. The audience, which included technically challenged individuals, found all the workshops informative and educational. The tutorials assisted many in managing their technological devices more successfully.

9. One club, Woman’s Club of West Deptford, during the month of February had a project to benefit the State’s Special State Project for Homeless Veterans. It was called “Money for Your Coats”. They asked each club member to count the number of coats which they had in their closets and send $.50 per coat for a donation. These donations were designed to encourage their members to appreciate what they have in comparison to the homeless veterans who may not have coats at all.

10. At their local Street Fair and Town Day, the Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights, displayed their 6ft by 3ft banner announcing that Operation Chillout, an organization servicing homeless veterans, was the New Jersey’s State Project. They distributed 350 brochures. They also sold raffle tickets on five homemade knitted or crocheted blankets to get people’s attention. Their members worked very hard to create these beautiful bed sized afghans. During this event they sold sweatshirts and tee shirts as well as wind breakers with their towns name on them to raise money for this project.