

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC
Barbara McCloskey, President
Together is Service
United in Friendship

Community Impact Program

Jean Battaglia, Chairman
battaglia@njsfwc.org

The contest period has already started, and your club may have already started planning a project that would be ideal for an entry and an award.

The program was first introduced in 1949 as a “Build a Better Community Contest,” is GFWC’s longest standing project, and is designed to highlight grassroots efforts that make a difference and improve the community. The size and scope of the project are not the criteria; even the smallest project can make a big impact.

Look at projects your club is doing in any of the Community Service Program areas. Are you partnering with another organization? Did you have to mobilize to overcome an obstacle, will the project have a long-term effect? If it is being done during the contest period of January 1, 2024-December 31, 2025, the project may qualify for a CIP award. **GFWC provides a \$100 award for the state winner and the winning entry will be forwarded to compete for a \$2,500 GFWC national award. Contest rules and the GFWC entry form are available on the NJSFWC website under Materials.**

If you are in your planning period for projects, clubs are encouraged to consider the Community Connection Initiative highlighted in each of the Special Program areas and/or Community Service Programs. For details and suggestions go to the GFWC Club Manual and look at:

- Signature Program: Become a Champion – Be the Voice for Those that Have No Voice
- Juniors’ Special Program: Be a Champion in the Lives of Children
- Arts and Culture: Developing Community Oriented Art
- Civic Engagement and Outreach: Preparation Saves Lives
- Education and Libraries: Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs
- Environment: National and State Parks Engage in Nature
- Health and Wellness: Caregivers’ Circle

Remember, this does not have to be “one more project.” The entry can be a project your club is already doing. But you do want to be tracking contacts, hours, dollars and obstacles overcome to include on your entry form. Go to the website to look for more information on projects, preparing your entry and deadlines.