



A Better World for Every Girl

We did it! Thanks to all your hard work and generous support of the President's Project, we were able to present a check for \$50,000 to CHS for Hacienda. That first need of the safety and security of the girls and staff at Hacienda via a fence and gate has been met!

But you awesome ladies didn't stop there. There were 71 clubs that reported, telling of visits to Hacienda, items collected and donated, and multiple variations of fundraising efforts. A total of 263 projects, and 6781 volunteer hours specifically for the President's Project were reported for 2016. Clubs large and small did much to help, and it was a joy to read about it all. I was given the difficult task of picking the top ten projects, which I have listed here, in order of district, as reported by the club.

GFWC Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club, District 1. The President's Project Chairman chose as a fundraiser, a lottery opportunity. She set a goal of raising \$500.00 per drawing for the lottery win. She bought a Fall bouquet and arranged \$100.00 worth of scratch off Lotto tickets in card holders and placed them in the arrangement. She separated the opportunity tickets into strips of six tickets which would sell for \$5.00. She determined how many ticket groups would need to be sold in order to raise \$500.00. Once the tickets were sold, a name was drawn and the winner won the bouquet and the \$100.00 worth of scratch off Lotto tickets. The winner was drawn at the District Reporting Workshop. Two other opportunities will be presented with the goal to raise \$1,500.00 for Hacienda Girls Ranch

GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club, District 4 One of our members made plans to have her 60th birthday celebration at our club with guests making donations to Hacienda in lieu of gifts. Invitations were sent out with this printed on them as well as announced at club meetings. She made a paper Mache house decorated like the President's Project logo with a slot on top for a bank. Literature was placed on the table as well. Invitations were sent across the district and state.

GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club, District 4 Our president and the staff at Hacienda made the plans for our club to make a trip to the girl's ranch that took place in November. We educated our members about Hacienda Girls Ranch at our meetings, in our club newsletters and through literature. We had 14 ladies take the trip to Melbourne. We received a special donation from one of our member's son's company of Samsung Galaxy Tablets to give to the transitional girls. We made up special gift bags with the tablets inside as well as hair products, socks, manicure set, nail polish, and candy to present to them. We were elated to give them to these older girls for their college studies or helping them to acquire employment. The girls enjoyed pizza and soda we had brought them. Crafts were planned and purchased and we taught the girls how to make decorated head bands and paint jewelry boxes.

GFWC Woman's Club of Fernandina Beach, District 4. The second annual Little Women (Juniorettes) craft show was held at our Clubhouse on Saturday, November 19, 2016. The GFWC Fernandina Beach Woman's Club rented a space for \$25 from the Little Women (Juniorettes) to raise money for the President's Project—Hacienda Girls Ranch. Crafts were donated by members. The Thursday before the show, fifteen members baked breads, cookies,

candy, and pies at the Clubhouse to be sold. We also sold our cookbooks and shrimp boat Christmas ornaments. We sold chances for one dollar to win a pound cake made by a member that is known within the community for her delicious pound cakes.

GFWC Woman's Club of Inverness, District 5. Inverness Book Club members donated copies of a Book Club selection for the Month of December, "Racing In The Rain" by Garth Stein. The book addresses a variety of life skills and competencies such as Goal Setting and Perseverance, skills needed for independent living. A book talk with the girls is being planned for the future to help guide and support girls in the Transition Program.

GFWC Melbourne Woman's Club, District 6. The GFWC Melbourne Woman's Club was proud to take the lead role in the Hacienda Girls reunion. The reunion was held on May 30, 2016. The club Hacienda Chairman set up meetings with the other clubs at Hacienda. The Elks Club of Melbourne donated their club to hold the event. The clubs donated the food for the event and Hacienda provided the cake. The former Hacienda girls came from all over the country for this event. Members donated funds to help one of the girls with air fare to the event. They met at Hacienda for a tour to see how things had changed since they were there. Then they came to the Elks Club for lunch and visit. There were old scrapbooks to look at with plenty of memories. There were 50 girls, past Hacienda employees, GFWC Florida President Mary Powell, GFWC Florida 2nd.Vice President Linda Toole, and many club members in attendance.

Woman's Club of Coconut Grove, District 11. One of our youngest members went to the HGR in Melbourne; she took yoga mats for them and gave 1 hour classes on various occasions.

Coral Gables Woman's Club, District 11. The GFWC Coral Gables Woman's Club hosted an evening in August for club members and fellow GFWC sisters from other clubs as a fundraising event for Hacienda Girls Ranch. Members and guests came in their favorite pajamas; some even brought their pillows and favorite blankets. The evening began with hors d'oeuvres and wine, followed by mini-foot treatments and facials, compliments of Airbonne Skin Care products. Once the movie began, starring our own Mireya Kilmon; audience members grabbed their bags of popcorn then got comfortable curled up with their blankies and pillows.

GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club, District 14. Two club members went to Hacienda Ranch in July and gave the girls swim lessons, goggles, caps, and swim suits. One member is a certified instructor and provided the girls with certificates after the event. Three of the girls earned a swimmer's pin.

Miami Springs Woman's Club, District 11. Our club took a road trip to Hacienda with eight members, one booster, and over 150 butterfly garden plants. Where previously had been just dirt beds, we created gardens at the entrances of two of the homes. A garden with over 20 baby milkweed plants was also planted. We printed out a photo of a chrysalis, framed it and placed it by the front door so the girls would know what a developing monarch butterfly looks like. While there we also bought watering hoses, nozzles, and welcome mats.

Please keep up the great work and remember that every little bit helps in a big way. Don't forget about our two state wide fundraising efforts in 2017: "Give a Hand" and "Knights of a Thousand Dinners". I continue to be honored to be serving as your GFWC Florida State President's Project Chairman. Please contact me anytime. I encourage you to post your events and activities on our Facebook page under GFWC FL President's Project 2016-2018 and submit related articles to The Clubwoman and Membership Monday. I know that together we can continue to accomplish great things to make "A Better World for Every Girl!"