

**Community Improvement
Program Award**
Fall Board 2016
Bulletin 1



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Congratulations to the GFWC Ft. Walton Beach Woman's Club! Their Community Improvement Program was our state's first place winner. They were chosen by GFWC as a finalist. At GFWC Convention in Baltimore, they were awarded 5th Place and \$500. This also involved round trip transportation to GFWC convention and 2 banquet meals.

I received five entries and realize that many clubs are conducting projects that would fall under the criteria of a Community Improvement Project. I do want to thank all the clubs that submitted entries, GFWC Capital City Woman's Club (2nd place), GFWC Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach, (3rd place), GFWC Woman's Club of Panama City and GFWC Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club (see synopsis of each project on page 2).

Since 1949, the Community Improvement Program has been a two year project which clubs develop and implement to meet the needs of the community. Any General or Junior Club may participate and submit a report.

Find a need in your community. Projects must be accomplished during the program period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

Each project increases leadership skills of your members and promotes community awareness of GFWC, elevating a club's status in their community.

Reports must be postmarked to this chairman no later than March 1, 2018. The Contest Entry reporting form can be found at GFWC.org in the Club Manual.

Project notebooks, to accompany the entry form, can weigh no more than 7 lbs. and be no larger than 15" to 20" in size.

Your club can partner with others in your community such as government agencies, TV stations, domestic violence shelters, schools, Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops, churches, other service clubs, your local police department, and more. As soon as possible, appoint a chairman in your club. You will want to set aside funds in your club budget but will want to have your partners assist in fundraising efforts.

Your project may be a joint entry involving two to six GFWC clubs, however, only one form should be submitted signed by all club presidents participating. Clubs working on a joint entry may not each submit an individual entry.

The top three state prizes that are awarded are \$50 for first place, \$35 for second place and \$25 for third place. The GFWC international awards, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, are listed on the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award bulletin found on the gfwc.org website.

GFWC Ft. Walton Beach Woman's Club - The Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club, in partnership with the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce and the City of Fort Walton Beach, proposed and completed a walking trail and nature preserve to honor Colonel George "Bud" Day and his wife Dorie. This trail became officially known as the Bud and Dorie Day Patriots' Trail. Col. Day was a well-known American patriot who survived being a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War era and was a Medal of Honor recipient. Dorie Day, his wife, supported her husband and organized wives of other war prisoners. Fort Walton Beach is adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base, and their community and citizens individually are very supportive and appreciative of the military. This project provides a safe pathway throughout the main portion of the city's Ferry Park neighborhood, and is now used for all types of activities to include walking, jogging, biking, rollerblading, skateboarding and enjoyment of the area.

GFWC Capital City Woman's Club – The club adopted Wisdom Wellspring as their project, to work with a local minister to provide a safe place for young women other than moving into a homeless shelter. They renovated the building and donated items to facilitate the opening of the house to residents, to include a gently used refrigerator.

GFWC Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach – Joining forces with a local philanthropist, they sponsored a project to build an Underwater Garden Sculpture that would become an artificial reef using copies of historical figures of Easter Island. Due to an unforeseen circumstance, the project did not turn out as planned but did become an artificial reef.

GFWC Woman's Club of Panama City – The club selected a local foundation that wanted to set up a home for teenage boys. Despite efforts by all involved, the project was not completed by the end of 2015, however, the items and donations collected will still be given to the project once the home is opened.

GFWC Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club – Club members held a week long summer camp for children 6 – 11 years old dedicated to science lessons, experiments and activities. Several of their club members are teachers and recognized this need.

Be prepared, when you submit your report by March 1, 2018, to include the following:

- Identify and define the community need.
- Describe the project selection process.
- Explain how your club engaged community support.
- Define how project is financed.
- Identify media support and process in which it was obtained.
- Recount how you overcame obstacles.
- Provide a list of collaborating partners
- Describe your club's continuing role in the project.
- Explain the project's long-term effect on the community.
- Identify results and successes.
- Describe how the project influenced changes in your community, i.e., increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc.