

International Outreach
Convention 2018
Bulletin 4



Elena Coates
3605 W. El Prado Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33629
813-902-1983
emscoates@aol.com

We had some great club projects again this year to raise money for charity. Whether recipients were our partners or other deserving organizations, our members were creative and worked hard, all while having fun as they did good for others in need around the world. Keep up the great work ladies...you make us all proud!
Elena

The Shoe that Grows: The *GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman's Club* collaborated with another organization to raise funds for **The Shoe That Grows**, a charity that provides shoes designed to grow 5 sizes to children in areas vulnerable to soil-transmitted diseases. With the Wear-A-Pair campaign, members wore the shoes every day in order to raise awareness of the kids' needs and to raise \$500. The campaign was so successful that the club raised almost \$1,000.

Building Wells in Tanzania: Several members of *GFWC Woman's Club of Port Charlotte* made individual donations to a group from the Greek Orthodox Church heading to Tanzania to build wells leading to the building of 20 wells which now provide clean water for 50,000 people. Their donation also provided for two sewing machines and 20 hens for the villagers to sell the eggs. The club donated 15 bags of hard candy so the group going to Tanzania could hand it out to school kids.

Shot@Life at the Duval: *GFWC Capital City Woman's Club* joined forces with the Duval Hotel and Walgreens for a Shot@Life fundraiser. The event featured food, drink shots and a silent auction which brought in \$799 for Shot@Life.

Free the Girls: After reading an article about celebrating Valentine's Day with fair trade products, *GFWC Viera Woman's Club* decided that February was a perfect time to end their year-long bra collection. Tables were decorated with heart-shaped balloons and doilies made to look like bras. A total of 218 bras were collected, providing a half month's inventory for a trafficking survivor.

Heifer International and "Chicks for Chicks": *GFWC Woman's Club of Welaka* collected \$453 from donations from club member "chicks" and from memorial funds which was enough to purchase 16 flocks of 20 baby chicks, making life a bit easier for women living in extreme poverty.

Hearts Out to Haiti: Adopt a Teacher Program: *GFWC Satellite Beach Woman's Club* decided to help Haiti by adopting a teacher. Members collected their treasures and held a silent auction at the December meeting. The club made \$450, enough to fund a much-needed teacher for one full year.

Operation Smile: *GFWC Woman's Club of Crestview* donated their club house for one weekend to the Operation Medical Care Team going to Belize to sort, count and repackage supplies into individual-use packets. Additionally, a 10 year old boy brought to the US for a cleft operation stayed in the area for eight weeks and club members

made goody bags for each week he and his mother were in town. Some club members also made donations to Operation Smile.

“Trunk or Treat” for UNICEF: Partnering with a local Church, *GFWC Milton Woman’s Club* helped sponsor the “Trunk or Treat” for UNICEF event on Halloween. Activities included a Cake Walk, pumpkin arts and crafts, and a hot dog/chili supper. Candy was distributed from six decorated car trunks. Club members baked cakes, volunteered their time, sponsored two car trunks, and held a silent auction, with \$280 going to UNICEF.

Refugee Resettlement Project: Twelve members of *GFWC North Pinellas Woman’s Club* attended refugee resettlement orientations and then worked with a Congolese family of 11 that had recently moved to Largo, helping with English, taking them shopping, and helping around their home. They donated a TV and bedding, and gave books, toys and shoes to the children. One club member is now the emergency contact at the school and has taken the family to doctor and dental appointments. Several club members have also provided supplies for other refugee families and volunteered at the annual refugee celebration picnic put on by the Coptic Orthodox Charities at a local park, serving food, handing out raffle prizes and cleaning up.

Operation Smile became a favorite charity for *GFWC Woman’s Club of Plant City* with several well-coordinated projects leading to a very successful year. They passed around the Smiley Cup during the first two meetings of the year to collect donations to jumpstart their plan. They then began their Lunch and Learn International Cooking Classes, which were open to the public, with Cuban, Italian and Greek cooking classes. During each class, students learned to cook an entrée, one or two sides and a dessert. Cooking tips were shared and the history and traditions of the countries were discussed. The classes always sold out, and the club gained new members with each class. Phase 3 was a successful yard sale benefiting Operation Smile. The final phase was club member Margie’s “87 Miles for Smiles” campaign, where she raised money by walking one mile for each of her years, ending on her 87th birthday in late summer. She wore a special T-shirt designed for her walks and got sponsors for her project. Local TV stations, newspapers, and magazines helped spread awareness of her campaign. Members of the club’s International Outreach committee walked the last half-mile with her as she crossed the Finish Line. They all then went to Margie’s house for a birthday and thank you party with a potluck meal prepared by club members. Margie was honored at City Hall with a Plant City Proclamation from the mayor. GFWC headquarters contacted the club and had an article in GFWC News & Notes and one in Clubwoman magazine. The club’s coordinated efforts yielded \$9,361 for Operation Smile, enough for 39 cleft surgeries with additional in-kind donations of \$905 from 105 smile dolls, 55 children’s gowns and other donated items. This was indeed a wonderful year for Operation Smile thanks to the *GFWC Woman’s Club of Plant City*.