

## **GFWC Iowa Top 10 Special Projects by Area**

### **Domestic & Sexual Violence – Chairman Cheryl Einsweiler**

1. Solon Women's Club, SE District, 24 members - The Club held an evening at Something Beautiful Studio. This is a 501©3 non-- profit retreat is run by an ordained chaplain with a mission to restore joy and creativity for trafficked and sexually abused adults and youth. As a former victim of abuse, Chaplain Teresa Shymanksy presents creative workshops and flower camps, donating the proceeds to support Operation Underground Rescue. The Solon women enjoyed a Mother's Day Flower workshop. 15 members were in attendance for a project total of 46 hours and a monetary donation of \$380.
2. Maquoketa Woman's Club, NE District, 30 members – This Club hosted a Domestic & Sexual Violence Panel discussion with the collaboration of 3 attorneys, a Sheriff's Deputy, an Area substance abuse representative and a Jackson County Court Advocate. The panel discussion was open to the public and attended by 40 people as the Club worked to raise public awareness and understanding of Domestic Violence. To promote their program, Club representatives appeared on a 30-minute talk show hosted by a local radio station, collaborated with the local newspaper on 2 articles, and publicized it through Facebook. They applied and received a \$250 grant from Maquoketa Community Services to offset the facility rental costs for the evening. In addition, the Club was able to donate \$400 of in-kind donations to "Resources Unite" and donated another \$50 to the Affiliate Program, Hope for Justice. Club members spent 22 hours on this meticulously planned event.
3. Lake City Monday Club collaborated with churches, clubs and individuals in two communities to host a presentation by Stacy Besch on Human Trafficking in Iowa. Ms. Besch presented current data on sex trafficking our state and showed the film "Gridshock" to support those facts. The women of this Club helped make and distribute 100 posters that were paid for by donations that they raised. They additionally placed announcements in churches and medical facilities. Over 200 people of the community, including 12 Club members attended the 2-hour presentation. The 12 Club members spent 43 hours of volunteer time with \$175 of in-kind donations.
4. Solon Women's Club, SE District, 24 members - - The club hosts an annual Domestic Violence Shelter Shower for the DVIP shelter in Iowa City, Iowa.

Household, children's women's and baby items were donated. This Holiday Party generated \$1012 in-kind donations for DVIP in December.

5. Adel Women's Club, SW District, 56 members – Over a two-month period, this club donated \$270 of personal care items to their local Crisis Intervention Center and adopted a family for the holiday. 22 volunteer hours produced \$490 of in-kind donations.
6. Progressive Chautauqua Circle Study Club, SW District, 9 members – This small club consistently works with the Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center in Adel, corresponding with them on a regular basis and collecting monthly donations. This year, 20 volunteer hours were spent and \$604 in monetary donations were given.
7. Akron Friendship and Service Club – NW District, 40 members – This Club works with the SAFE PLACE Crisis Center in LeMars. 2 club members contact the center to determine needs, sharing information at the November meeting. IN December, \$500 worth of in-kind donations were delivered. This project included 25 volunteer hours and \$500 in in-kind donations.
8. Solon Women's Club, SE District, 24 members - - In June 2024, this Club made and donated 60 basic bags to that Iowa City domestic Violence Shelter. 24 members volunteered 30 hours of time and generated \$400 of in-kind gifts with this project.
9. Granger Women's Club, SW District, 26 members – 5 volunteer hours were spent putting together 24 bags for the Adel Crisis Center, with a total in-kind donation of \$300.
10. Bancroft History Assembly, SW District, 7 members – This tiny club donated six brown paper bags filled with enough non-perishable food for a family of four. The bags included easy-to-open cans and prepared packaged food, with notes of encouragement for the families also included. 7 volunteer hours and \$85 of in-kind donations were spent on this project.

## **Advocates for Children – Christene Gent**

1. GFWC/Baldwin Woman's Club for their collaborative effort to bring Santa Claus to town IN A FIRETRUCK! Baldwin Woman's Club collaborated with two city councils, the area fire department, and Todd Weise (TJ Stockings) to bring Santa Clause to the town parks of Baldwin and Monmouth. Each year the club provides each child with a gift bag with snacks, a craft, an educational item, and an age-appropriate book. In addition, each child receives a Christmas stocking full of toys and goodies. This year the club served close to 50 children. Being a very rural area, families of both communities truly appreciate and look forward to this annual event that continues to grow every year.
2. GFWC/Rural Woman's Study Club of Jesup for their dedication to exposing their Jesup kindergarten students to live theater. After learning tickets had been sold out to this year's children's theater event at the William's Center for the Arts in Oelwein, they acted on a suggestion of the school principal to assist with a school trip to the Phelps Youth Pavillion in Waterloo. We praise their efforts to give children access to art and theater.
3. GFWC/Solon Woman's Club for their "Egg my Yard" fundraising campaign. During this campaign, club members sold and distributed boxes and baskets of Easter goodies throughout Solon and the surrounding rural area. Funds raised were donated to Solon Park and Recreation Department towards the purchase of a new dugout for one of the baseball/softball fields.
4. GFWC/Solon Woman's Club dressed up in Halloween costumes while participating in their community's trunk or treat event. 1200 CHILDREN with their families enjoyed this fun family outing.
5. Cedar Falls Woman's Club. The Operation Smile Chairman spoke about Operation Smile at each monthly meeting and donations were encouraged. All in all, Cedar Fall's Woman's Club donated \$237 to Operation Smile.