

Education Collaboration
Spring, 2011
Bulletin # 2



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No. of Members	Hours	Cost to Club	Goods/Money Contrib	Profit
5,205	97,305	\$273,550	\$337,281	\$26,344

“Why should society feel responsible only for the education of children and not for the education of adults of every age?” --Erich Fromm

Our members, the ladies of the GFWC Florida Generals and Juniors, do feel very responsible for the education of adults of every age as well as for the children of our state.

In 2010 fifty four clubs gave scholarships to 157 people in the state of Florida. The scholarships ranged from grants of \$50 to four year scholarships of \$2,500 per year. The GFWC Lutz-Land O’Lakes Woman’s Club gave 30 scholarships to high school students and to older students who returned to school. St. Petersburg College has a program called “Women on the Way” to help older women, many of them single mothers, who returned to college. The GFWC Clearwater Community Woman’s Club and the GFWC Tarpon Springs Woman’s club gave scholarships to some of these women.

Adult literacy and life-long learning is an important concern for our members. The GFWC Tampa Woman’s Club partnered with the University of South Florida Life-Long Learning program. They hosted a six week course called “Geopolitics Today.” Committee members volunteered to provide coffee and cookies for class members during the break for nearly 74 students. Three other clubs also provided life-long learning programs. When their local library became concerned with the high level of literacy in their community, the GFWC Woman’s Club of Hollywood partnered with the library to combat this problem. The library had a program called “Each One Teach One” which paired people with tutors at the library. Club members became volunteers in this program.

Our clubs contributed to our schools in many ways from volunteering in the schools, saving labels and printer cartridges for the schools, buying flash drives for high school students and donating books and supplies to the schools. However, a number of clubs took special care of the neediest students. Members contributed clothing, toiletries and school supplies for these children. Of special note is the S.T.U.F.F. bus in the Flagler County School District. This bus brought essentials to these children and the GFWC Woman’s Club of Grand Haven gave a \$1500 donation to the bus. Members also donated clothing and an additional \$570. One club called their program “Operation Underwear.”

Because their local school district did not have the funds for this program, the GFWC Woman’s Club of Welaka, the GFWC Crescent City Woman’s Club and the GFWC South Putnam Woman’s Club partnered to donate the books for a character development program by the

Ambassador Company. These are books that teach reading skills, manners, respect, honesty, kindness and the danger of drugs. The clubs each paid \$150 for these books.

Clubs raised money for education in different ways including book sales, bake sales and bazaars. The GFWC Wildwood Woman's Club and the GFWC Williston Woman's Club used a Christmas tour of homes to raise funds. The GFWC Williston Woman's club raised money to build a pavilion for their local elementary school.

Our clubs appreciated the hard work of our teachers by honoring them in different ways. The GFWC Tampa Woman's Club gave mini-grants to teachers enabling the teachers to try new and innovative programs with their classes. Many clubs sponsored teacher appreciation breakfasts and luncheons.

Our clubs also supported education abroad. Four clubs contributed support for education in Haiti, Vietnam and Afghanistan. The GFWC Gulf Coast Woman's Club contributed funds for desks for Haiti schoolchildren as well as books, Beanie Babies, backpacks and school supplies. The GFWC St. Augustine Woman's club also contributed funds for the purchase of books. The GFWC Palm Beach Woman's Club contributed money for a school in Vietnam named after an American soldier who died there. The GFWC Woman's club of St. Petersburg contributed money to a school in Afghanistan.

The Learning at the Laundromat program started by Debbie Struk and the GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club has expanded to other areas of our state. This program has expanded to nine clubs. One member said: "This program spoke to me."

Special Recognition goes to a new club, the GFWC North Shore Woman's Club. Members chose to take part in the Literacy Buddies Program. This is a program to help children, mostly from Spanish speaking homes, learn English as well as to learn to read. Members worked with four and five year olds by sending a book with a letter to their selected child three to four times a year. The child then read the book and sent a note of thanks to its donor. Not only did the child get a gift, they were learning to read and write as well. Some of the club members sent books to two or three children.

Libraries are very dear to the hearts of all of our clubs. Our clubs were very generous of their time and money to support our local libraries. The GFWC Woman's Club of Welaka housed, maintained and staffed their local library. They received a new computer from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and club members learned how to operate this computer so they were better able to assist library users.

The members of the GFWC Florida truly value education. We contribute a great deal of time and money to further its cause. Indeed, the members of the GFWC Florida clubs not only helped to educate our children, but we provided for the education of adults of every age.

