



This reporting year presented a challenge to many clubs because of the introduction of Partnership and Collaboration project sub-areas, especially this concept was not presented until the 2010 club was more than halfway over. But you rose to meet this challenge, and you embraced the partner areas with some really great projects! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to be true partners with our Home Life Partnership agencies.

First, a few statistics: Our clubs reported 378 Home Life Partnership projects, with 8,416 members participating. These projects involved 10,951 volunteer hours, with clubs donating \$13,596 in cash and \$14,291 in in-kind donations. By far, the most popular partnership was Canine Companions for Independence, as Florida has a long history of working with this agency, and it is dear to our hearts. The most challenging agency was Easter Seals, as there are not many local offices to work with. Your state chairman's goal is to keep our clubs updated on project ideas that we can do in all eight partnership agencies.

Here are just a few of the projects that clubs did to support our Partnership agencies:

Alzheimer's Association – The ***GFWC Tampa Woman's Club*** had the Alzheimer's Memory Bus come to their clubhouse and member had the opportunity to have their recall tested; all those who participated "passed the test." Clubs walked in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, and they visited Alzheimer's patients.

Canine Companions for Independence – The ***GFWC Woman's Club of Crestview*** has a member who is a puppy trainer, and they collected plastic bags, sewed doggie neck scarves, and baked doggie cookies. Clubs held fundraisers, sponsored puppies, and toured CCI sites. The ***GFWC Viera Woman's Club*** received a GFWC grant to redecorate a CCI dorm room.

Easter Seals – Clubs distributed information about Easter Seals and made donations.

Habitat for Humanity – The ***Crystal River Woman's Club*** donated mailboxes and fire extinguishers to new Habitat homeowners as a "house blessing." Clubs served lunch to Habitat volunteers, and some of our ladies even helped build the Habitat houses! A popular Habitat fundraiser was collecting used postage stamps that were sent to Habitat headquarters so they could sell the stamps to stamp collectors.

March of Dimes – The ***GFWC Palatka Woman's Club*** hosted the March of Dimes Kick-Off Luncheon at their clubhouse. Clubs did fundraisers, walked in the MOD walkathon, and distributed information about the March of Dimes.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute – Programs on heart health were very popular, and many clubs wore red and distributed red dress pins in recognition of heart health for women. The ***GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club*** had presentations by a member who is a registered nurse, who talked about heart disease and nutrition, along with a quiz on cholesterol.

National Osteoporosis Foundation – The *Village Improvement Association, Orange City Woman's Club* had a speaker on osteoporosis who gave out information and showed the members a cookbook she had published containing food recipes helpful to maintaining good bone strength. Club distributed information on osteoporosis and held bone density screenings.

Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement – Clubs held programs on women and financial issues, and some clubs ran financial columns in their newsletters. Retirement planning and maintenance is high on the list of important financial issues for women.

In order to fully take advantage of our GFWC partnership with the above agencies, it's important to contact them and order materials from them (most of which are free) for distribution. When possible, ask for a speaker to come out to a club meeting to talk about their agency. If you don't have a local office for a partnership agency, you can still distribute the agency materials and then count that as a project. For example, there are not really any local offices of the **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute**. However, most clubs have access to a medical person who can speak about heart and lung health. If you do that and distribute some of the brochures from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute then you have partnered with that agency and you can report the speaker and the brochures as a Home Life Partnership project.

Similarly, having a Financial Planner speak at a club meeting about retirement planning and then distributing brochures from the **Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement** would also constitute a Home Life Partnership project.

For a list of contact numbers and e-mails for the eight Home Life Partnership agencies, consult the Home Life Partnership Bulletin #1 on the GFWC Florida website. You can also find that information in the 2010-2012 GFWC manual and on-line at the GFWC website. And we want to know about your challenges as well as your successes in dealing with our partner agencies. For example, the **GFWC Woman's Club of Lake Wales** persevered in doing projects for Habitat for Humanity despite the fact that the local Habitat chapter was not aware of their partnership with GFWC. That demonstrated true Federation spirit!