

**GFWC NORTH PINELLAS WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
2010**

PARTNERSHIPS WITH GFWC

1. HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Six of our members attended the GFWC Clearwater Juniorettes meeting in March to hear guest speakers Brenda Philpot and Bunny Sandlin, the winners of the trip to Peru in August 2009. They gave a power point presentation about their travel experience with the Peruvian people, culture and land, along with showing what Heifer International has helped accomplish in that country. Ellie Lee, GFWC Florida District 14 Hope Chair, also gave a short presentation and introduced Brenda and Bunny. The speakers said that they had never been asked to speak at a meeting that was so well decorated with the black and white cow print, everything from napkins to balloons and stuffed cows. Four of our members are Juniorette Advisors and helped the girls with the decorations and brochures and other materials distributed. Many members of local GFWC clubs were in attendance including our District Director, Junior District Director and FFWC Finance Officer. We continued our support of Heifer by collecting spare change at each general meeting in special animal-decorated boxes that were placed on each table. A check for \$136 was sent to Heifer at the end of the year.

2. INMED PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

We donated \$50 to this organization working for the health and welfare of children in over 100 countries.

3. PLAN USA SPONSORSHIP

We continued our sponsorship of a girl from Sri Lanka. One of our members paid the cost of \$347 in the name of our club. We were also able to send her a birthday present and corresponded with her through the year.

4. PLAN USA GLOBAL WOMAN'S FUND

We donated \$100 to the Global Woman's Fund.

5. CARE

We donated \$50 to CARE.

6. OPERATION SMILE INTERNATIONAL

We donated \$50 to Operation Smile.

7. U. S. FUND FOR UNICEF

We donated \$50 to UNICEF

8. UNA/USA

We emailed members about two books that the UNA/USA Tampa Bay Chapter listed as recommended reading: *Where the River Met the Sky* by Tim Kennedy about a pioneering attempt at participatory development and change and *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood Ali. This story is the autobiography of a woman married in Yemen at age 10.

COLLABORATION WITH GFWC FLORIDA

9. THE HUNGER SITE

Club members were informed about the website "www.hungersite.com" and reminded to click on daily, or as often as possible, to give free food delivered by sponsors who provide cups of food based on people visiting the site. One click = 1.1 cups of food like rice or grain.

10. GOOD SAMARITAN MISSION IN WIMAUMA

Club members toured the mission, which is committed to meeting the needs of the community, and reaching out and caring for those in need of assistance. The mission provides food and other necessities to mostly migrant workers. Our club collected items to donate such as diapers, toys and clothing. We also made a monetary donation. After assessing their needs, we returned to deliver a sewing machine and sewing supplies, school supplies, food, clothes and toys.

11. EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN OF ESOL STUDENTS

An Easter Egg Hunt was held at a Church that has a program for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Our members provided 120 juice boxes. Four members attended and helped with the arts and crafts tables and enjoyed seeing the children scrambling for hidden eggs. This is our third year helping with this program.

12. ESOL COMMUNITY RESOURCES FAIR

This annual fair was attended by four club members, who welcomed and directed one hundred and thirty three visitors and forty eight vendors to the proper booths/tables, and assisted with translations and filling out forms. We were happy to be part of such a successful event, and able to make a difference in the lives of people new to this country. The fair offered free help for job placements and resumes, child care, financial literacy, transportation, English classes and tutoring for adults, after school programs, legal issues and citizenship to refugees and immigrants in Pinellas County.

13. ESOL DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

A juried exhibit titled "Mi Vecindario" was visited by three club members at a local library. Fifty Spanish speaking middle school students showcased their cultural heritage through a digital photography project combining photos and written stories about their heritage and culture.

14. WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2010

Four club members participated and assisted in the naturalization oath ceremony for twenty five new Americans. Awards were given to the new citizens. Children were entertained with arts and crafts. Citizenship games were provided for the teens. Our club provided some of the refreshments. It was certainly a moving and emotional experience for us when we witnessed the joy of the new Americans and made us realize how much we take for granted in this country.

15. PROGRAM AND SPEAKER, REV. ELSIE HUEBNER

The Reverend Elsie Huebner gave an interesting presentation about Toastmasters International when she was the guest speaker at our General Meeting hosted by the International Outreach department. Although her topic was to be public speaking we also learned that she had worked for the CIA before raising her children. She returned to work with the Government and gave intelligence briefings to high ranking officers and security briefings to travelers regarding terrorist threats in foreign countries. She invited us to come to a local Toastmasters meeting to learn to enjoy speaking in public, something most of us dread.

16. HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY FOR CHILDREN OF ESOL STUDENTS

Seven club members joined the GFWC Clearwater Juniorettes and the GFWC Clearwater Woman's Club to help make costumes for the children of the ESOL parents. We provided some of the material for the outfits and other props, such as hats and crowns. The children were able to become pirates and princesses and even lady bugs with pipe cleaner antennas. One of our members did face painting, to the delight of the children. Club members provided all the refreshments for 40 children and their parents. After the children were assisted in making a costume, they were given trick-or-treat bags and went to tables set up around the room and collected treats such as cookies and candy as well as coloring books, story books, spider rings, glow in the dark bracelets and other small items. This was our fourth year participating in this event. The church sponsoring this event is so very grateful for our participation. They featured our club on the front page of their church newsletter in the "Volunteer Spotlight."

17. ST.PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL FOLK FAIR (SPIFFS)

Four members attended this annual international fair. Over 30 countries are represented at this 3-day fair offering exotic cuisine, arts and crafts, ethnic displays, citizenship oath ceremony, live music and ethnic entertainment. This is a wonderful opportunity to be exposed to different cultures.

18. DONATION TO DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

This donation was partly funded by the repayment of a loan we gave last year to KIVA. This is an online lending system that allows individuals to lend to small entrepreneurs around the globe. The money is repaid in a short period of time with no interest charged. Last year we lent \$50 to a woman in the Ukraine to start a small business selling clothing in her city market. The loan was repaid this year and we added another \$50 from our department budget to make a donation of \$100 to Doctors Without Borders.

19. HAITI DISASTER RELIEF

The membership generously donated goods and money towards alleviating the plight of the recently Haitian disaster victims.

20. SOLES 4 SOULS SHOE COLLECTION

Many members collected gently used or new shoes for the benefit of the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Over one hundred pairs were donated and remitted to the Foot Solutions Company that in turn paid for the shipment of these shoes to the needy. All shoe donations were also matched by Foot Solutions with new shoes.

21. WOMEN OF GLOBAL ACTION/ TAMPA BAY (WOGA)

In celebration of "International Day of Women", four members saw a film connected with "Half the Sky", after a book by co-authors Nicolas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn, on the condition of women worldwide. The documentary raises awareness about the needs of women and why WOGA ministries exist. It demonstrates how to turn oppression into opportunity for women around the world. Beautifully done and quite an eye opener! WOGA also sponsored a "trunk show" of items made by women in underdeveloped countries. Two of our members purchased hand made jewelry and beautiful hand made cloth items.

22. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Three club members attended a reception at a private home on Clearwater Beach to hear Linda Smith, a former US Congresswoman, two Clearwater law enforcement officers and an FBI agent share their knowledge and views about human trafficking. Each guest received a free autographed copy of "*Renting Lacy*" written by Linda Smith, who is the founder of an anti-sex trafficking organization called Shared Hope International. "*Renting Lacy*" is a short story of America's prostituted children. She spoke about how young victims are stripped of dignity to be used in prostitution, pornography and strip clubs. 100,000-300,000 juveniles in the USA are victims. The Clearwater police officers and the FBI agent have since formed a task force that has been used as a model for cities all over the United States. They told us that "safe houses" for the victims when they are rescued are in very short supply. The traffickers find the children and convince them that they will never be able to go back to normal life and then take them from the "safe house" back to a life of prostitution and eventually drugs and death. We continued informing members of human trafficking issues by email.

23. DONATION TO INSTITUTE FOR WATER EDUCATION

We made a donation to UNESCO-IHE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Institute for Hydraulic Engineering). It helps students from developing countries that are pursuing a Master's Degree in Hydro informatics (Hydraulic Engineering).