



GFWC Florida
GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS
living the volunteer spirit



GFWC FLORIDA: Narrative for Club Reporting (Click in gray box and type)

Official Name of Club:	GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF THE SISTERHOOD
District Number:	18
Number of Members:	95
Community Service Program or Advancement Plan:	ARTS AND CULTURE

- 1. A DAY OF VERY SPECIAL ARTS FOR VERY SPECIAL CHILDREN!!!:** This indeed is our most precious day of the year that we have calendared for the past 28 years! This wonderful event was started by Alice Storms, a Charter Member of GFWC Brandon Service League who was Past President and served as a past District 8 Director. Unfortunately, we lost our sweet Alice in December 2018, but her legacy will live on through our Arts 4 All (formerly VSA) festival year after year. This specially planned event provides an exciting outing for special needs kindergarten age developmentally disabled students in our area. This day is lots of FUN and the children's faces just beam with Big Smiles! They enjoy various arts & crafts stations, face painting, balloon art, storytelling, dancing, puppet shows, blowing bubbles... with the biggest hit of all, making unique paper hats decorated with flowers, beads, feathers, jewels, and ribbons. This special event involves a great deal of coordination to prepare for over 250 attendees in all; working with the Florida Diagnostic and Learning System of the ESL Department of the Hillsborough County School District; coordinating the event space with the First Baptist Church of Brandon; coordinating transportation needs and directing traffic on-site; securing 30-40 students from the local high schools to volunteer and verifying their volunteer hours.
- 2. COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS:** Our Arts Committee sponsored the March general meeting. The committee supplied tasty treats and arranged for our guest speaker Mr. Greg Manley, a local high school art teacher from Armwood High. Mr. Manley talked to us about the importance of art in young lives and even brought along art work from several students for our enjoyment.
- 3. HONORING OUR LOCAL ART STUDENTS' WORK:** Each year we take pride in partnering with Center Place Fine Arts in a juried art show featuring the works of young artists from the high schools located in eastern Hillsborough County. The works include various mediums including acrylics, oil and water color painting; pen and ink, as well as pencil drawings; clay sculptures; jewelry making; photography and two and three-dimensional works. Brandon Service League also sponsors an Open House for the students, teachers, parents & families to view all the art, to socialize and for the winners to be recognized. As well, the sisters of BSL provide decorating for the event, the beverages and bake a large array of different cookies, BIG and small, to be enjoyed by all! It is also with great pride that the event ends with our President announcing the winners and presenting the prize ribbons and cash awards donated by BSL. It is a very rewarding experience to participate in!!

4. **CLAIRE AND REYNOLDS BYRAN SCHOLORSHIP FOR THE ARTS:** For over 20 years, Brandon Service League has taken great pride in being able to provide a \$1,000 Scholarship for the Arts to a graduating senior wanting to pursue an education with a focus on the Arts! This named scholarship is in recognition of Claire and Reynolds Bryan for their commitment and contributions to our club over the years. Their daughter, Judy Darsey, remains an active member of BSL and is currently serving as club president for a second term, just like her mother. Applications for this scholarship are distributed to area high school art departments in eastern Hillsborough County and the award is presented each Spring with the winning student and their parents being invited to a special BSL event!
5. **PUTTING A BIG SMILES ON ART TEACHERS FACES!:** We were honored again this year to be able to donate \$600 to each of six area high schools. With the cutbacks in school funding for special departments, these funds earmarked for the Arts Programs are and have been very meaningful to the teachers and allows them to have the funds available for special needs or projects for students that would not be otherwise available. It is a wonderful experience to be able to deliver the donations and see the impact it has on the teachers, many that we have established relationship with, and the students.
6. **A LITTLE BIT OF TALENT GOES A LONG WAY... ALL THE WAY TO THE DISTRICT 8 ART SHOW!:** We were very excited to submit 9 entries in the District 8 Arts and Crafts Festival. Three entries won first place, entitling them to enter the GFWC Florida Arts and Crafts competition. We were also proud of our members and their fine work. They each are so talented and take such pride in all that they do!!
7. **ART WORKSHOPS:** For both the Spring and Fall Conventions, each year members are always encouraged to attend. It is also our goal that the Art Workshop at each function is attended by the chairman and/or a representative of our club and that all information received is shared. It is always productive to learn from our other clubs and to share ideas!
8. **ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM Basket:** Our committee works well together and we just have lots of FUN!! This year we chose a pampered pet theme for an opportunity basket. It included dog treats, decorative water and food bowls and a deluxe dog bed. Money raised went to support our community projects.
9. **OPERATION SMILE:** Committee organized 2 sewing days, creating blankets and gowns for the children undergoing Smile surgery. Fabric stashes were brought in and shared resulting in bright, colorful and cheerful blankets and gowns.