



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
*Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2023*

Chairman: Roberta Voet		Club: GFWC Women's Club of Cypress	
Number of Members ( <i>per CFWC Yearbook</i> ): 117		District: ORANGE	Area: C
Club Position: Financial Secretary			
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]		Phone: [REDACTED]	
<u>Health &amp; Wellness</u> Name of GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan or ESO			

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress has contributed time, talent, and funds to help the community for 57 years. Located in the northwest corner of Orange County, the club provides service and philanthropic opportunities for our membership, including dozens of members who mark either 50, or more than 25 years of membership, multiple past-presidents, and new members each year. Members range in age from 35 to 94 years. The majority are retired and able to be actively involved, with the experienced members mentoring those who are newer or working, helping them to get involved however possible. In addition to financial donations, members volunteer hundreds of hours working on vital projects that impact our local, national, and global communities. Our members are motivated, compassionate, creative, civic minded, infinitely generous, and grateful to give back to others.

**Project Title: Kindness Bags Project                      Hours 200                      Donated \$112                      In Kind \$1150**

The Kindness Bags Project was initiated in 2018 to support homebound seniors enrolled in the Meals on Wheels program. Originally assisting 25 seniors, the project has since expanded, currently serving between 35 and 50 individuals, with this number continuously evolving. The Woman's Club of Cypress, staffed by dedicated volunteers, orchestrates the deliveries, aligning with the Meals on Wheels schedule. Deliveries occur bi-monthly, featuring themed months such as "Let's Clean Up" in April, calling for donations of essential items like sponges, dish towels, dish soap, and furniture polish. A heartwarming incident during an October delivery highlighted the program's significance, as a senior unexpectedly absent received their bag the following day, showcasing the anticipation and importance attached to these deliveries. The December deliveries, involving a wish list survey, stand out as particularly fulfilling, bringing joy not only to the seniors but also to the Woman's Club of Cypress. Expressing genuine gratitude, seniors and their families have conveyed appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the program, emphasizing its positive impact on the lives of the homebound seniors. Meals on Wheels partners have also acknowledged the program's excellence in enhancing the well-being of the recipients. Witnessing the joy and gratitude it brings, the Woman's Club of Cypress finds immense satisfaction in contributing to the welfare of these seniors.

**Project Title: Precious Life                      Hours 307                      Donated \$2830                      In Kind \$0**

For several years, our members have demonstrated unwavering support for the Precious Life Shelter and its Thrift & Gift Shop, both through financial contributions and dedicated volunteerism. The shelter serves as an emergency haven for adult pregnant women facing abuse or abandonment, providing a secure environment for those with nowhere else to turn. Beyond immediate relief, the shelter offers a transitional program, empowering women with life skills and employment opportunities, while their children benefit from the Day Care Program. In a heartfelt tribute, a Memoriam donation of \$1,330 was made in 2023 to honor a cherished member who had devoted years to working at the Thrift Shop. The Thrift & Gift Shop, fueled by generous donations of clothes, toys, books, jewelry, and more, operates five days a week, with additional scheduled Saturdays,

primarily run by dedicated volunteers. Notably, the shop's income contributes approximately 35% to its operating budget, showcasing the significant impact of our members' ongoing support. Many of our members actively contribute items to the shop, which has expanded its reach through an Etsy presence, catering to a wider audience with higher-end and vintage items. Highlighting the depth of our members' commitment, a recent addition to the Woman's Club of Cypress not only volunteers at the Thrift & Gift Shop but has assumed a role on the Board of Directors. Furthermore, a remarkable 95-year-old member of WCC contributes her time in the offices, handling phones and filing. Her dedication, spanning 22 years, exemplifies the enduring joy of making a positive difference in the lives of others.

**Project Title: Lion's Club Recycle for Sight Program      Hours 12      Donated \$0 In Kind \$1360**

The Lion's Club International Recycle for Sight Program collects used prescription glasses, sunglasses, and plastic and metal frames. Lion's Club volunteers will then clean, sort by prescription strength and package the glasses for distribution to people in low income and middle income communities worldwide, where they will have the greatest impact. Their ability to calibrate the prescription strength of the donated lenses makes it possible to match that prescription to someone that has access to a Lion's Club Eyeglass Recycle location. Since the Lion's Club is an International Foundation, their Recycle for Sight Program is far reaching. Donna Holder contacted a Lion's Club member who resides in Cypress to act as a liaison with the Woman's Club of Cypress to take the Club's donations to the Lion's Club of Long Beach for processing. Throughout the year 2023, the Club collected 68 prescription eyeglasses, many with cases. The donation-in-kind value of \$1360.00 for this project is for frames only.

**Project Title: Emergency Card Project      Hours 22      Donated \$0      In Kind \$120**

Recognizing the importance of having vital personal information readily available during emergencies, a crucial initiative was launched within the club last year. It came to light that not all members had essential details easily accessible, even though some may rely on cell phones for such information. Understanding that not everyone possesses a smartphone or may encounter challenges in accessing vital details, the project aimed to equip each member with an emergency card. These cards, distributed free of charge, were designed for members to carry in their purses, pockets, backpacks, or any easily reachable location when leaving home. Regular reminders were provided at meetings, encouraging members to complete their cards. While ensuring widespread participation remains a goal, a recent incident underscored the significance of the project. A member who experienced a fall resulting in a broken ankle expressed gratitude for having the emergency card in her purse. In moments of intense pain, she found solace in the fact that paramedics could swiftly access crucial information, alleviating the stress of communicating details during a challenging situation. The project, though ongoing, has already demonstrated its importance in aiding members during unforeseen circumstances.

**Project Title: Adopt a Family      Hours 18      Donated \$2100      In Kind \$300**

We organized two successful fundraisers in collaboration with the local jewelry manufacturer ENO. ENO generously allowed us to conduct an inventory sale accessible to both our members and the public. WCC took charge of advertising through our social media chair and dedicated members, resulting in the highest sales for any ENO fundraiser to date. The funds raised amounted to \$2,586, complementing our in-house club donations and See's candy sales of \$168 for the Adopt-a-Family program. Adopt-a-Family, a highly rewarding event for our club members, achieved significant success this year. We were delighted to bring the joy of Christmas to six families with children. Thanks to our members' contributions and a dedicated fundraiser, we purchased six Walmart Gift Cards, each valued at \$350. These gift cards were distributed to families in need, identified by the City of Cypress and the Boys & Girls Club. The impact on these families was profound, as expressed in their heartfelt thank-you notes, emphasizing how we contributed to making their holiday truly special.

The Edgemont Circle Holiday Party has become a beloved tradition, bringing together neighbors in Cypress for a magical night of festive celebration. Taking place on Edgemont Circle, a street celebrated for its 90% participation in spreading Christmas cheer, the event serves as a testament to the community's dedication to joy and togetherness. The enchanting festivities kick off with the Santa House, adorned with over 100 Santas and inviting sitting areas that create a picturesque setting for mingling and capturing delightful memories. The lively atmosphere includes a live band, dancing, and the excitement of raffle baskets worth hundreds of dollars. Attendees can indulge in hot dogs and hamburgers from a BBQ truck, relish popcorn and candy, and participate in the entertaining cake walk – all generously donated by the WCC and community, fostering a sense of unity and warmth.

Orchestrated by the neighborhood with the active involvement of three dedicated Woman's Club of Cypress (WCC) members, the event truly embodies the spirit of charity and philanthropy. Contributions of time, cakes, and energy from the WCC further enrich the occasion, showcasing the power of community collaboration. Beyond fostering neighborhood camaraderie, the event serves as a platform to introduce the WCC to new attendees, inspiring some to express interest in joining and contributing to the club's impactful initiatives. This creates a ripple effect of goodwill and community engagement.

The commitment of the Woman's Club of Cypress (WCC) to inclusivity and community well-being is seamlessly reflected in the Edgemont Circle Holiday Party. In a commendable gesture, the WCC ensures that everyone in the community, regardless of their financial situation, can partake in the festivities without any entry cost. The event offers a delightful array of free amenities, including food, drinks, popcorn, hot chocolate, candy tables, face painting, and live music. This thoughtful approach emphasizes the WCC's dedication to creating an inclusive and joyous atmosphere for all attendees.

Importantly, the community-driven event goes beyond mere celebration by incorporating a philanthropic aspect. While entry and all activities are free of charge, donation cans are thoughtfully placed for those who wish to contribute to the WCC's charitable initiatives. Remarkably, the generosity of the community resulted in donations exceeding \$5,000. This overwhelming support underscores the collective spirit of goodwill and community engagement, making the Edgemont Circle Holiday Party not only a joyous celebration but also a heartwarming demonstration of the power of unity and giving back. It truly stands as a feel-good event that leaves a positive and lasting impact on both the community and the charitable causes it supports.

Thanks to the funds donated and the proceeds from the raffles and silent auction, we will have the privilege of supporting two remarkable charities. The first is Second Harvest Food Bank, which made a significant impact. In FY 2023, their food distribution totaled an impressive 36,285,023 pounds, reaching an average of 392,666 people per month. This substantial contribution helped address food insecurity and provide essential support to those in need. Additionally, we extended our support to Unlimited Possibilities Martial Arts, an organization with a mission to adapt martial arts practices to accommodate individuals with intellectual and physical challenges. Their commitment goes beyond martial arts, as they strive to create social gatherings and opportunities for students and families to interact in ways that are often lacking in the community. Our contributions aimed at these two charities reflect our dedication to making a positive impact on diverse aspects of our community.