



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

Chairman: Heather Laporte		Club: Yorba Linda Woman's Club	
Number of Members: 97		District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Advocates for Children Chair			
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]		Phone: [REDACTED]	
<u>ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN</u> Name of GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan or ESO			

Yorba Linda has a small-town feel and is known as the Land of Gracious Living. In 1912, the Yorba Linda Woman's Club was founded by a group of motivated women, whose inspiration was boundless and was matched only by their faith in their ability to accomplish good things for their community. To this day, they follow their Mission Statement: *We are a diverse organization working to promote civic, philanthropic, cultural, and educational interests within our community through the spirit of volunteerism.*

Project Title: Threads of Love T.O.L. **Hours:** 1050 **Donated:** \$250 **In Kind:** \$6,056

Threads of Love is a national charity that supports the Neonatal Intensive Care Units at hospitals across the country. Currently, our workshops serve 11 area hospitals with handmade items. Each month, the hospitals request specific quantities of various items made by the Threads of Love group. It's not uncommon for us to fill two orders a month for a few of the hospitals. The most popular item is what's known as the Lovey Doll - it's made of flannel and designed specifically to help nurses prop tiny newborns, protecting their fragile skin while delivering the parents' bonding scent to babies too small to be held. Additionally, we make bereavement gown sets, isolette covers to protect the babies' eyes while adding visual stimulations, flannel, knitted and crocheted blankets, eye patches to protect the eyes of the newborn, and scent pads to help the baby adjust to nursing. All items provided to a child are theirs to keep and can be taken home with the baby.

During 2023, the Threads of Love team members made and delivered approximately 11,000 items - an astounding number! This could not be achieved without the extensive time and labor offered by many. Our volunteers include men, women, and teenagers from a local church; some of whom cannot sew but instead become our pattern cutters or head makers. Each month, we hold a two-hour workshop in our clubroom preparing the fabric sets to send home with our sewers and log in the completed sets as they are returned ready for delivery to the hospitals. The majority of our time is spent doing home sewing. Although this is a club project, we also welcome the support and assistance from many seamstresses who are not club members. The hours shown reflect only time spent by club members. A significant amount of fabric and sewing supplies (including sewing machines) are donated to this project by our members (reported above as in-kind dollars).

In addition to contributions from club members, our Threads of Love chairmen (who are Yorba Linda Woman's Club members) often speak at local churches, Elks Clubs and other philanthropic groups seeking additional funds or fabric for their wide-reaching cause.

Project Title: Garden of Innocence (Infant Burials) **Hours:** 20 **Donated:** \$0 **In Kind:** \$55

The Garden of Innocence sole purpose is to provide dignified burials for abandoned and unidentified children. The children may be found in trash, sewers and in hospitals, but the parents walked out and abandoned their bodies. This organization makes sure no child leaves this earth without someone who cares. The Yorba Linda Woman's Club (YLWC) Sew Kind sewing group provided 109, 8"x8" blankets for the Garden of Innocence services. The little blankets are put in the small urns or caskets for the funeral service of the abandoned child.

Project Title: Capes for Heroes **Hours:** 60 **Donated:** \$0 **In Kind:** \$1,080

Several times a year, Children's Hospital Orange County (CHOC) has a hero day. The patients are given a cape to wear. They may be Captain Marvel, Superman, Wonder Woman, etc. There are many heroes to choose from. The patients are the heroes of the day. What a good feeling to be a hero, especially when you may not be feeling that well. The Sew Kind group made and donated 90 capes with different hero logos on them.

Project Title: Giving Children Hope **Hours:** 167 **Donated:** \$439 **In Kind:** \$938

Giving Children Hope (GCH) is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that helps children and families break out of the cycle of need into success and self-sustainability through wellness programs in local communities. Their goal is to build a community to help support in areas of food, essentials, and a pathway out of poverty.

The purpose of the Yorba Linda Woman's Club's project is to support Giving Children Hope, as they help to provide the most vulnerable families in need with a consistent source of food on a weekly basis.

The Yorba Linda Woman's Club began volunteering in 2018, and has continued to volunteer through 2023. Volunteer opportunities included packing backpacks with food for school age students, Family Food Distribution, and product sorting at the GCH Warehouse. In addition, YLWC has continued to support GCH with donations of 199 boxes of cereal, 19 large and small boxes of individual breakfast snacks, 2 jars of peanut butter, and 213 boxes/bags of pasta and rice. The YLWC looks forward to extending our partnership in 2024.

Project Title: Paul Newman Painted Turtle Camp **Hours:** 30 **Donated:** \$0 **In Kind:** \$530

The Painted Turtle Camp was founded by Paul Newman and a group of friends, in 1999, to let kids with medical conditions just be kids. Their mission is to provide a year-round, life-changing environment and authentic camp experience for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses. The Painted Turtle Camp supports children's medical needs, inspires them to reach beyond their illnesses, and provides care, education, and respite for their families. All campers and families attend completely free of charge. Each camper is given a large turtle-shaped pillow to sleep with and take home. The Sew Kind sewing group donated 44 very colorful turtle-shaped pillows for the campers.

Project Title: Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.) **Hours:** 167 **Donated:** \$150 **In Kind:** \$1,637

Bikers Against Child Abuse is a national organization that exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. They work in conjunction with local and state officials who are already in place to protect these children. They are a body of Bikers who empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. They stand ready to lend support to their wounded friend by involving them with an established, united organization, and to shield these children from further abuse.

The chairman of this project asks our members to donate stuffed bears and denim jackets and/or vests during the year. The jackets are turned into vests. The vests are personalized by the Bikers for the individual child, making that child feel a part of the organization. Our club collected 152 bears and 59 jackets/vests. Of the 152 bears collected, 21 trauma bears were handmade by the Sew Kind sewing group.

Project Title: Crittenton Home for Children **Hours:** 188 **Donated:** \$0 **In Kind:** \$2,986

Crittenton Home for Children, located in Orange County, is a safe harbor for children who have been removed from a dangerous situation. The children are of all ages and stay there for as short or long a time as is deemed appropriate. These children arrive at the shelter with almost nothing. This year, our Sew Kind group made 400 Christmas stockings, 54 bags for belongings, 13 baby blankets, 14 bibs and 31 quilts and pillow cases. The Sew Kind membership is small in numbers, but has been able to produce a large variety of items.