

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET

Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Anna Vandergast	Club: San Clemente Junior Woman's Club				
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25	District: Orange	Area: C			
CFWC Yearbook): 18					
Club Position: Secretary					
Reporter's Address:					
City:	State: CA	Zip: 92058			
Email:	Phone:				
HEALTH & WELLNESS					

The San Clemente Junior Woman's Club, established in 1948, is a small club (18 members) located in the beachside community of San Clemente, CA. Members range in age from 20's through 50's. We are a diverse group of women, most of us with children and many with professional careers, and all with a passion to serve our community.

Project Title <u>: Angel Tree</u>	_ Hours <u> 100</u>	_ Donated \$	In Kind \$	<u> 11200</u>
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Each year the SCJWC hosts a series of Angel Trees throughout the community of San Clemente. We work as Santa's helpers to make the holiday wishes of children, teens, senior citizens and military adults or families in the local community that are in need.

We have taken our traditional model of hosting physical trees in two key locations with handmade ornaments made by our local schools and girl scout troops. We have for many years included an online registry and post on social media specific tags that need an angel to fill the gift wish.

Our members worked to curate a customized registry of gifts based on the wish lists we received from Boys & Girls Club, San Clemente Senior Center, and this year we helped a local military family in need through a military organization called Words of Comfort Hope & Promise. In partnering with these local charities, we were given a series of lists with specific gift wishes from individual children, teens, and seniors. The club provided the community with options for purchasing gifts, through the physical trees, online registry, and the option to donate through Zelle or Paypal for the club to purchase gifts on their behalf.

To reach members of our community we focused our outreach on multiple social media platforms, leveraged our relationship with the local paper called the San Clemente Journal, and hung flyers at local establishments to help spread the word. Our posts reached far and wide, providing us with one our most successful Angel Tree to date without having to partner with another larger organization.

We found this year was our most challenging one due to the very short turnaround time to procure the gifts and meet the deadlines for each of the charities. Our members worked together in all areas of the project by creating social media blasts, updating the online registry, and doing gift pickups for the sponsored tags on the trees. And the club created a shared spreadsheet to keep track of the gifts inventory in live time.

All gifts were individually wrapped and presented to our charities to distribute by their deadlines. We had such a successful year fulfilling each wish, that only a handful needed to be bought.

Every year this project brings much needed happiness to those in need. Not only does it provide a special gift for many who may not have received something otherwise, but also provides an outlet for those looking to give back to the community.

Through this project we provided nearly 250 much needed gifts for our community.

Project Title: Thanksgiving Adopt a Senior Hours 20 Donated \$____ In Kind \$_175

The San Clemente Junior Woman's Club held their first adopt-a-senior project in partnership with the local Senior Center for the seniors on our meals-on-wheels route. The SCJWC worked to fulfill a wish list of items the seniors needed for themselves or their homes to be cozy for the start of the Holidays. Such as a house plant, couch pillows, puzzles, socks with grips on the bottom, and a handwritten card signed by members at the last general meeting. We also had decorated pumpkins with paper mâché flowers to give each of them. All items were delivered to all the seniors on our route during our meals on wheels shift before Thanksgiving.

Project Title: Meals on Wheels Hours 30 Donated \$____ In Kind \$_25

As we get older, even the most independent person among us may experience physical declines or financial hardship that strips away at our independence. Add to that an increase in geographic mobility of our families, and then, as a result millions of seniors are left behind hungry and alone. Even with the advancement of technology, many are still in need of help and lonely.

Members of the SCJWC partner with the San Clemente Woman's Club and volunteer to drive for the North Route of the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program at the Senior Center. The juniors drive on the first Wednesday of the month and the Woman's Club drives the other 3 Wednesdays. If there are 5 weeks in the month, then we do the fourth. This year we were so very fortunate that a returning member came back to the club because she specifically wanted to cover shifts.

Volunteers meet at the San Clemente Senior Center to pick-up prepared meals and deliver them to the home bound seniors in the community. Even after the pandemic, it is our presence that means the world to the recipients and provides much needed human connections. The route usually takes about an hour and a half to complete, and our members enjoy seeing our regulars each week.

A highlight again this year, we gave each Senior on our route a themed gift or a card for the holiday occurring that month. The club passed around cards at our general meetings for members to sign. The member who was signed up for the next shift would take the cards (and the gift) with them to hand out on their route. Seeing the joy and happiness on their faces when they receive a Christmas, Valentine, Easter Card, a painted Halloween pumpkin, was so rewarding and we still plan on continuing this aspect of the project.