



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

Chairman: Linda Queen	Club: Yorba Linda Woman's Club	
Number of Members: 97	District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Education & Libraries Program Chair		
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]		
City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]	
<u>EDUCATION & LIBRARIES</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 determination to accomplish good things for their community. To this day, we 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: GRANTS HELP TEACHERS MAKE THE GRADE **Hours:** 44 **Donated:** \$2,925 **In-Kind:** \$0
 The Yorba Linda Woman's Club mission statement includes the words: "...*promoting educational interests within our community.*" Thus, we are committed to proudly support the efforts of our educators within the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD).

Seven club members formed the Teacher Grant Project Committee and worked closely with the school district to make sure all teachers were aware of the opportunity to apply for our monetary grants. The applications asked teachers to describe their intended projects and create a budget based on: 1) that proposed goals for student achievement are challenging and rigorous; 2) that proposed work engages students in critical thinking and problem solving; 3) that there is alignment between goals, assessment, activities and budget; and 4) that the project is collaborative and can be sustained in future years and/or adopted by other educators. The grants offer the opportunity for teachers to purchase new equipment and offer students classroom projects that require critical thinking and problem solving. Funding for these types of projects is usually unavailable to teachers.

During the judging process, we were amazed at the creativity and enthusiasm presented by the teacher applicants. The benefits of their proposed projects were immeasurable, as they fostered inquiring minds of students, logical reasoning, and collaboration skills, especially in the field of science. We know that what benefits the students also benefits the parents and community. In February, we awarded grants of \$225 each to 13 teachers in 9 different schools in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

Project Title: NO LIMIT TO HELPING NO LIMITS LEARNING CENTER **Hours:** 50 **Donated:** \$3,000
In-Kind: \$200

The *No Limits Learning Center* is an educational day program for adults with intellectual disabilities. At their Brea campus, the program serves more than 110 students daily with a staff of 25. Early in the year, a large group of club members toured the No Limits facility. Through the tour, we learned more about how their program operates, what type of support is most needed, and enjoyed interacting with students and staff. We quickly realized this was the beginning of a wonderful new partnership.

In April, we donated \$3,000 toward equipment for their long-awaited gym/fitness center. We were invited to the fitness center's *grand opening* and were impressed by No Limits' commitment to better health by adding exercise classes to the long list of activities offered to students. Throughout 2023, 15-18 club members volunteered at numerous extra-curricular holiday events, such as: the annual Halloween Trunk 'R Treat party;

“National Pickle Day” (handing out fresh dill pickles); a pumpkin pie workshop; and serving up turkey with all trimmings at their Thanksgiving feast. In addition, club members spent time making (lots of) fun, festive party favors to bring a special touch to No Limits' holiday celebrations!

We are truly enjoying our relationship with No Limits Learning Center and the friendships we've developed with the students. We are excited to expand our support in the coming years.

Project Title: LITTLE FREE LIBRARY HEADED TO YORBA LINDA **Hours:** 10 **Donated:** \$0 **In-Kind:** \$140
Little Free Libraries (LFL) are small, sturdy, hand-built book cabinets placed in parks and other accessible areas in towns throughout the U.S. They make books available at no charge to anyone who stops to look inside. Last year, a new club member donated the library cabinet built by her daughter's Girl Scout troop. Since then, we have done a bit of modification work to make it weather proof and add a sturdy stand.

The City of Yorba Linda recently approved installation of our LFL at a high visibility community park. This is a great location, as the park is on a main road and will have lots of interested patrons stopping by often for books. Our club is responsible for maintaining the library and making sure it is stocked with a good variety of books for children and adults. The community has learned about our LFL project through a well-written article recently published in the *Orange County Register* newspaper.

Plans are underway for a grand unveiling of Yorba Linda's newest Little Free Library, along with the inaugural filling of the bookshelves. We'll be inviting club members, city dignitaries, interested readers, and the talented Girl Scouts who devoted their talents to building it! As the saying goes: “*Build it and they will come!*”

Project Title: HELPING YOUTH REACH “HIGHER GROUND **Hours:** 10 **Donated:** \$0 **In-Kind:** \$300
Higher Ground Youth Services, in Anaheim, was founded 10 years ago by Yorba Linda resident Joe Baldo. After retirement, Joe began volunteering at Orange County Juvenile Hall, visiting w/teenage detainees. He realized the harsh realities and sad consequences these kids would live with the rest of their lives, if there was no intervention or alternatives available. Joe's goal was to offer help in their own neighborhoods, through opportunities to experience an environment that aimed to see them succeed. Today, the daily after-school program serves 500 youth in elementary, middle, and high school, through enrichment courses geared to develop strong interpersonal skills and positive educational habits, including: tutoring; dance; singing; art therapy; theater; film and video production; cooking; gardening; job skills and leadership training.

Yorba Linda Woman's Club began the year by collecting and donating a variety of “wishlist” art supplies to Higher Ground's art program. A couple weeks before Christmas, we found out that Higher Ground set up a *Christmas Store* shopping experience on campus. Kids earned *HG Bucks* during the year for good behavior. When they came in the room to shop, they used their *bucks* instead of real money. They could select gifts for mom, dad, siblings, and friends from a wide variety of donated items. Occasionally, they even found a special something just for themselves. Our club volunteers truly felt the Spirit of Christmas as we helped the children carefully choose gifts for the people they loved most. They walked out beaming with pride, carrying their treasures all wrapped and ready to give. We can't wait till next year – we've got big plans to boost Higher Ground's Christmas Store with gifts galore and even more!

Project Title: SHARING GOOD STORIES WITH YOUNG STUDENTS **Hours:** 255 **Donated:** \$0 **In-Kind:** \$0
Several years ago, our club began a well-received project that involved club members reading to classrooms of children each week during the school year. Unfortunately, during the Covid pandemic we had to stop the project because schools went *virtual* for a time. As schools returned to normal schedules, we were fortunate (and thrilled) to gain a new club member in January who is the Librarian at Yorba Linda's Bryant Ranch Elementary School.

The wheels started turning and, by April, we had re-started our popular reading program, but at a new school! We began with four club member readers, who volunteered to read to students in transition-kindergarten through 1st grade. They took on a committed schedule of reading 1x a week, to one class for a ½ hour period, from April through June. After summer break, we were pleased to be invited by the school to continue our

reading program when the new school year began in September. Our project chair works with the school librarian to keep our volunteers and the reading schedules on track. She contacts the reading team regularly to confirm or update schedules, note any class changes, school holidays, etc. The school welcomed us and this project with open arms and enthusiasm. We've had great reviews from both teachers and school staff, plus our club readers. The young students look forward to seeing their *weekly readers* and it's very rewarding to see their smiling faces as they listen to our stories.

Project Title: COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE REWARDING! **Hours:** 95 **Donated:** \$34,000 **In-Kind:** \$0
Yorba Linda Woman's Club is proud of our annual Scholarship Program for high school seniors embarking on a college education, whether they are headed to well-known *Ivy League* schools or universities and community colleges closer to home. This year, we were fortunate to receive additional funding from several outside sponsors specifically for our scholarship program. The extra funds allowed us to award scholarships to two, hearing-impaired students in recognition of their impressive academic achievement.

Beginning in January, we promoted our scholarship program to counselors at each high school in our area, encouraging them to inform students about the opportunity and answering questions about the application process. Applicants must submit not only school transcripts, but also a personal essay addressing a topic selected by our scholarship committee. The 8-club member Scholarship Committee was thrilled to receive 85 applications this year from high-achieving students in both public and private local high schools! Committee members spent 8-10 hours each as they reviewed and scored each application individually, using a rubric system based on certain criteria: GPA, AP/Honors classes, community service hours, and essay. The committee then met to compile, compare and discuss their scores in order to select the final winners. The project chairman prepared achievement certificates for each recipient, which are presented during our annual scholarship and awards night event in May.

Project Title: ENCOURAGING YOUNG LEADERS THROUGH HOBY **Hours:** 4 **Donated:** \$1,700
In-Kind: \$0

For decades, an organization known as the *Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar* (aka HOBY) has offered social training and leadership skills to sophomore-grade high school students nationwide. Many General Federation Women's Clubs (GFWC) are proud to contribute each year toward HOBY's long and continued success, by sponsoring students to attend the 3-day seminar in their own geographic area.

The Yorba Linda Woman's Club is excited to continue its long relationship with the HOBY SoCal team and donated funds in December to cover full seminar expenses for four students from two local high schools (Esperanza HS and Yorba Linda HS) to attend the upcoming seminar at the University of San Diego. We know the value of good leadership and the benefits those skills bring to any organization. Our club is excited to know we are contributing to the successful future of our community.

Project Title: AWARDS NIGHT IS A HIGHLIGHT **Hours:** 250 **Donated:** \$0 **In-Kind:** \$250

In May, more than 300 people packed the community center for the Yorba Linda Woman's Club Awards Night event, celebrating our college scholarship recipients, winners of our student art contest, and presentation of monetary grants to teachers in our school district. Attendees included parents and families, teachers, and school principals. The impressive group of 60 students and a dozen teachers were recognized individually and invited on stage to receive their monetary awards, achievement certificates, and congratulations from the Mayor, City Council, Congress representatives, and members of the school board.

We work hard planning what is truly a highlight of our club year! 50 club members took part in the event, helping to prepare and serve refreshments; coordinate stage décor; handle guest check-in; escort attendees to seats; run slideshow presentations; photograph the winners; and, of course, mingle with students, parents and guests. The enjoyable evening included a color guard ceremony presented by a local Jr. ROTC unit, entertainment by talented high school musicians, and printed programs listing each recipient's name, accomplishments and awards. 36 winning art entries were displayed around the room – sculptures, paintings, drawings, and mixed media artwork – to highlight the talent and creativity of young artists in our community.