



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET
Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Megan Martinez - King		Club: GFWC Women's Club Cypress	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 <i>CFWC Yearbook</i>): 107		District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: President			
Reporter's Address:			
City:		State: CA	Zip: 90630
email:		Phone:	
LEADERSHIP GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan, ESO			

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress has proudly served the community for 58 years, dedicating time, talent, and resources to making a meaningful impact. Situated in the northwest corner of Orange County, the club offers service and philanthropic opportunities to its diverse membership, with a shared goal of being both a voice and a helping hand in the community and the communities around us. Our membership includes long-standing members with over 50 years of involvement, along with numerous past presidents, and new members joining annually. Members, ranging in age from 35 to 94, bring a wealth of experience and energy to the club. While many are retired and actively engaged, seasoned members mentor newer or working members, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to contribute meaningfully. Beyond financial contributions, members volunteer hundreds of hours annually, supporting vital projects that benefit local, national, and global communities. Together, we work toward lasting change, continually upholding our mission of service, empowerment, and fostering a stronger, more connected community.

The Women's Club of Cypress found a hilariously creative way to stay connected and celebrate tradition with our #AdventureswithColleen project. What started as a fun "Colleen on a Stick" prop for her Orange District President installation turned into a globe-trotting phenomenon—Colleen's face has now "traveled" everywhere from Vegas to Paris, earning her more frequent flyer miles than any of us! With a world map tracking her adventures, this quirky tradition proves that even a stick figure can bring our Club closer while spreading Women's Club spirit worldwide.

Project Title: #AdventureswithColleen Hours 750 Donated \$ 0 In Kind 0

The Women's Club of Cypress has embraced the exciting challenge of welcoming an influx of new members while keeping our long-standing members engaged and enthusiastic. Our Leadership Team has creatively combined tradition and innovation to foster unity and fun within our Club. One standout initiative this year has been the #AdventureswithColleen project, inspired by the installation of one of our members as the new Orange District President. To celebrate, we created "Colleen on a Stick" props featuring her face, which quickly became a beloved and entertaining tradition. Members have taken Colleen's likeness on their travels—from the mountains to Las Vegas to international destinations like Paris during the holidays—spreading the message of Women's Clubs worldwide. A world map now tracks her global adventures, showcasing the reach and camaraderie of our Club. This lighthearted project underscores the importance of GFWC traditions while illustrating how laughter, creativity, and connection can strengthen our shared mission and celebrate the spirit of service and leadership.

Project Title: President's Project **Hours** 40 **Donated \$** 4,500 **In Kind** 0

As President, my theme, "Supporting the Most Vulnerable Members of Our Community," reflects the heart of our Club's mission to make a meaningful impact. Inspired by the guidance and motivation of the GFWC, we chose to support a local adaptive martial arts program for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities—a cause deeply personal to me, as my autistic son has flourished in this program for many years. Together, our Club raised \$4,500 to fund scholarships for students in need, provide new belts and gis, and purchase essential training equipment for the studio. The unwavering support and framework of the GFWC propelled this initiative, uniting our members with a shared purpose and drive. Unlimited Possibilities Martial Arts exemplifies inclusivity and empowerment, helping participants build physical strength, confidence, and teamwork skills. Supporting this program demonstrates our commitment to fostering growth, resilience, and opportunity for all.

PROJECT TITLE: National Day of Service **Hours** **Donated:** **In Kind:**

As part of the GFWC National Day of Service on September 27th, members of the Women's Club of Cypress, led by our President and joined by her two children, volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County's farm in Irvine. Together with other volunteers, we harvested thousands of pounds of zucchini and yellow squash destined for food banks, shelters, schools, and volunteer kitchens across the county. Meeting in the early hours, we received training before pairing up in the fields, experiencing the farming process firsthand while working toward a shared mission of combating food insecurity. The program is entirely volunteer-driven, and the experience left us with a deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication required to provide fresh, nutritious produce to those in need. Despite the sore backs, legs, and feet, the joy of knowing our efforts would directly benefit families and individuals in our community was immensely rewarding. In addition, members who were unable to join the harvesting effort demonstrated their support by donating to the Cypress College Food Bank. These contributions helped address food insecurity among college students, ensuring they have access to nutritious meals as they focus on their education. This dual effort exemplifies the Women's Club of Cypress's commitment to service and supporting our broader community in meaningful ways. The Women's Club is dedicated to making the partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank a recurring event and expanding our outreach to other local food programs. By combining hands-on service, community collaboration, and generosity, we proudly uphold our club's ideals of compassion and empowerment for those in need.

Project Title: Cypress Women's Conference **Hours:** **Donated:** **In Kind:**

The City of Cypress hosted its 10th annual Women's Conference in October, drawing an impressive 200 attendees from the city and surrounding areas. Among the dignitaries present were the Mayor of Cypress and Women's Club member Mayor Pro Tem Bonnie Peat. High school and Cypress College students attended free of charge, adding youthful energy to this empowering event. The program featured two dynamic guest speakers and a two-person panel who shared personal journeys, career triumphs, and challenges, inspiring all in attendance. Our Club played an integral role in the planning, with four members coordinating guest speakers and vendors, while President Martinez-King delivered a warm welcome and hosted the opportunity drawings. A Women's Club table showcased our mission, accomplishments, and opportunities for involvement, resulting in three new members joining and several others expressing interest. The event received glowing coverage in the *Cypress Progress* magazine, which highlighted the Woman of the Year award presented to our own Lucile Coltey, a dedicated Cypress Senior Center volunteer. With such positive feedback and enthusiasm, this conference not only uplifted women but also strengthened our Club's presence in the community.

Project Title: The Informer Women in History Articles **Hours:** 30 **Donated:** **In Kind:** -

We are thrilled to introduce a new section in *The Informer* dedicated to celebrating the remarkable women of the past who have shaped the world and reflecting on how we, as members of the GFWC Cypress Woman's Club, are making an impact in our community today. Inspired by the GFWC's national initiative to establish a monument honoring the women's suffrage movement in Washington, D.C., this section serves as a tribute to the transformative power of determination and unity. In support of this historic effort, over 30 of our members proudly signed the petition, demonstrating the strength of our collective voice and commitment to advancing

change. Through these articles, we aim to expand awareness of the enduring legacies left by trailblazing women while celebrating the philanthropy, leadership, and community impact of the incredible members within our Club. This initiative not only honors history but also empowers us to carry forward the torch of progress and empowerment. *The Informer* continues to be an invaluable platform for highlighting the Club's accomplishments, attracting new members, and recognizing the hard work of our team. With its vibrant design and comprehensive updates, it stands as a cornerstone of our communication strategy, reflecting the dedication, energy, and spirit of the Women's Club of Cypress while inspiring connection and action.

Project Title: GFWC District and Club Meetings Hours: 10 Donated: In Kind: -

The Women's Club of Cypress takes immense pride in its active participation and representation at District meetings, fostering collaboration, camaraderie, and mutual support among clubs. Our current membership includes a wealth of experience, with several past Club Presidents, District Chairmen, and a strong presence of active leaders who represent us with dedication. Attending District meetings is a valued tradition for our Club, as it provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, celebrate successes, and strengthen connections with other clubs in our community. This year, we had enthusiastic representation at every District meeting. Our club supports members by contributing \$5 toward the costs of other members attending district meetings when needed. An essential aspect of being part of the GFWC is supporting other clubs, exemplifying the spirit of sisterhood that unites us. When we were unable to meet at our own location for a monthly meeting, the Fullerton Woman's Club graciously lent us their clubhouse, a testament to the strong bonds and mutual assistance that define our network. These gatherings not only reflect the importance of staying engaged with the broader GFWC community but also provide a platform for new members to learn, connect, and grow.

Project Title: Night Section Successes Hours Donated In Kind .

Our Night Section meetings occur once a quarter and not only offer an opportunity for club members who work during the day to participate but also allow members to interact in a loose and fun setting. We usually hold a potluck and one of our club members offers up her home for these special meetings. In July one member hosted a Christmas in July fundraiser in her backyard to benefit Royal Family Kids Camp, a special once a year camp for children in foster care. Members donated money and assembled birthday presents for the kids at camp. The host member held a fun Christmas themed game, and the nearly 30 participants brought foods and beverages to share. The night concluded with an outdoor showing of a new Hallmark Christmas movie. In December another member hosted around 60 club members and spouses at her home for a potluck, this time members were asked to bring a \$20 value unwrapped toy to be donated to the CHPs for Kids program. We played a fun game based on holiday carols, and ended up gathering \$1,200 worth of toys which were delivered by two members the following Saturday. Night Sections are a fun way to get club members together in a different, less formal setting. Our Night Sections are so successful because of the generous members willing to open their homes and because of the special bond our members share. We have so much fun together, and it is contagious.