



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

*Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2023*

Chairman: Dianne Lundquist		Club: Ebell Club of Irvine	
Number of Members: 16		District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: President			
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]		Phone: [REDACTED]	
<b>Advocates for Children</b>			

The City of Irvine was incorporated in 1971, evolving from a working ranch to a “model city” as planned by the Irvine Company. Three years later in 1974, the Ebell Club of Irvine was founded and federated with the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international organization dedicated to improving local communities through volunteer service in the following areas: Advocates for Children, Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness.

In the last 52 years, the City of Irvine has grown to over 309,000 residents and has been named the safest city of its size for more than 17 years. It includes the Orange County Great Park, Pretend City Children’s Museum, Irvine Art Museum, 2 universities and a junior college. Most residents are college graduate; the Irvine Unified School District is highly regarded; and the population is a diverse mixture of cultures. As the population of the city has grown, the number of volunteer organizations has also multiplied. Many of these have with a single mission, such as CHOC guilds, Friends of the Library, and Families Forward.

Our club offers volunteers a diverse approach to volunteering and has held steady over the years averaging about 15 energetic members who are proud to be federated and making a difference in the Irvine community.

**Project: St Teresa’s Orphanage   Hours 120   Donated \$ 1,888   In Kind \$16,027**

Aiding St Teresa’s Orphanage and School in Ensenada, Mexico has been a long-time project of the Ebell Club of Irvine. In addition to annually sponsoring an angel tree to collect gifts for the children served by St. Teresa’s, we accept donations of cash and food supplies. People in our community are very generous.

Beginning in October we plan a Christmas party for the children by having an angel tree. This year the nuns sent us the names, gender, and age of 152 children. Our club paid \$27 to make and laminate an angel for each child, and we held a meeting where 5 members cut out the angels. The angels are then hung on our artificial Christmas tree which is displayed at a local church and other events until all children have a gift sponsor. All of our club members either buy the gift for a child or donate money or food items to be delivered with the gifts in December.

We also have great community support for this project. One community member sewed a stocking for each child which we then stuffed with candy and small toys our members had donated (\$175). Another supporter had a toy drive at her work and got 40 extra gifts for

us. A local Youth Group donated 152 decorated candy canes for the kids, an Irvine school held a post-Halloween candy drive, and another club donated two large bags of candy; we received an amazing amount of candy for distribution at the up-coming party.

By December 9, the day of the trip to Ensenada, we had collected over 152 gifts plus some gifts for the staff. We left early to drive from Irvine to Ensenada since we are never sure how long it will take to get through security at the border. The gifts were packed into 9 vehicles that would drive all the way and two more who would only go as far as the border. Two nuns from St. Teresa's met us at the border to help us get through border security, and the packages from the two cars not going into Mexico were loaded into the nun's van for the rest of the trip. We also took along the money and food we had collected from the community - \$1,915.

Our caravan arrived at St. Teresa's about 2 pm, and the children were waiting. The first event was the "candy scramble" while one of our volunteers got into the Santa suit. He was so dynamic and brought smiles to everyone as the gifts were passed out to the children. Seeing the joy on their faces is always the best way to start our own holiday celebrations. In addition to a lot of food donations, we brought down 3 bicycles which were a joyful surprise. Everyone, both children and volunteers, had a great day!

Before, we left we were shown where a portion of the roof over one of the dorms had caved in, making it unsafe to use. Termites and dry rot are the cause. It will be VERY expensive to fix. Will report on that next year.

**Project: Todd Anglin Backpack Program Hours 11 Donated \$ 0 In Kind \$647**

Among other projects, Todd Anglin Home helps to feed food insecure school children over the weekend. To do this, they collect donated food items that do not require refrigeration or cooking that can be packed into a large backpack which is sent home with the student on Friday and returned empty on Monday. The children receiving these supplies qualify for free meals at school during the week but may not have sufficient food to feed them over the weekend.

The participating school district's Board of Education tells the Todd Anglin Home volunteers how many backpacks are needed and where. They provide 300 each week. Seven of our club members support this program by donating food items small enough for the backpacks in 8 months of the year. For GFWC's National Day of Service on September 30, 2023, we held a special food drive. One member made sure the donated food gets to Todd Anglin Home each month.

**Project: Easter Basket Program Hours 10 Donated \$0 In Kind \$180**

Friendly Center assists the economically less fortunate by supporting children and youth enrichment programs, family advocacy, and supplemental food programs. They sponsor an annual Easter basket distribution. One member transported to the 9 baskets that our club members donated to the distribution center.

**Project: Operation Christmas Child Hours 9 Donated \$0 In Kind \$ 180**

Operation Christmas Child is a program of Samaritan's Purse, a non-denominational Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to people around the world. Groups of all sizes collect boxes during November. These shoe boxes are to be filled with

fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Our club members filled 6 preprinted boxes, and one member worked at their distribution center packing the shoe boxes into larger boxes for transport to children in remote regions of the world.

**Project: Back to School Supplies   Hours 35   Donated \$ 0   In Kind \$1150**

Each summer Families Forward, an Irvine based non-profit assisting families with temporary housing needs and counseling, holds a community drive to collect new backpacks and a variety of school supplies for the children of the families in their program. The Chairman used the \$100 approved by the club to purchase backpacks. In addition, club members shopped for and donated pencils, pens, art supplies, notebook paper, glue sticks, notebooks, etc. and more backpacks. 30 backpacks and a variety of school supplies helped to ensure these children started the school year with the supplies they would need.

**Project: Joy Jars                      Hours 8   Donated \$0   In Kind \$0**

The Jessie Rees Foundation started 11 years ago to bring some joy to childhood cancer patients. Four of our members toured their facility in Irvine and watched 2 videos. Then we stuffed 25 Joy Jars with small toys, beanies, etc. to bring a smile to a child in a hospital.

**Project: Card Fronts Program   Hours 10   Donated \$0   In Kind \$0**

St Jude' Ranch for Children provides a safe, nurturing home to thousands of abused and neglected children in Boulder City, NV. They collect greeting card fronts with which the children create new cards and items to sell in support of the Ranch. This year 5 members supplied 304 card fronts. They have not yet been delivered to Nevada.