



CLUB AWARD ENTRY FORM

Annual Reporting January 1-December 31, 2019

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<i>Number of Members in Club according to the CFWC Yearbook:</i> 20		
<i>Reporter's Address:</i> [REDACTED]		
<i>Club Position:</i> Treasurer & International Outreach Chair		<i>CFWC Area:</i> C
<i>City:</i> Irvine	<i>State:</i> CA	<i>Zip:</i> [REDACTED]
<i>Email:</i> [REDACTED]		<i>Phone:</i> [REDACTED]
International Outreach Community Service Program		

The Ebell Club of Irvine was founded and federated in 1974. At that time the City of Irvine had existed for only two years evolving from a working ranch to a "model city" as planned by the Irvine Company. Today the City of Irvine has grown to over 280,000 residents, is the 3rd largest city in Orange County, and is the 16th most populous city in the State. Our city is viewed as affluent where most residents are college graduates, the school district is highly regarded, and the population is a diverse mixture of cultures.

With the city growing rapidly, one would expect the number of club members to also grow. What has grown is the number of organizations with a single mission, such as CHOC Guilds, Friends of the Library, and Families Forward. Our club has historically had about 18-20 members. Most of us are retired and would like to bring in new members. But we are competing with other agencies for the same new volunteers. There have been great hopes that some of our many friends who enjoy supporting club activities will decide to become members. We have expanded our online presence but still remain a small club. We are an aging but energetic group who are proud to be federated.

Project: St Teresa's Orphanage/School **Hours:** 100 **Donated:** \$2800 **In-Kind:** \$15,500

The trip to Ensenada to bring Christmas to the children of St Teresa's Orphanage went quite smoothly this year. In spite of the fact that we had to solicit gifts for more children this year than previously (162). Last year, I had trouble getting sufficient volunteer drivers to take the gifts across the border due to news reports of migrants storming the San Ysidro border. But this year, I got 11 volunteer drivers right away, and 2 who were willing to drive donations to San Diego and offload their vehicles into the orphanage van, which would then cross the border with us. As it turned out, 2 of the vehicles were not needed. My main concern this year was my inability to verify the U.S. meeting place between us and the orphanage representatives. This caused a delay in getting maps to my volunteers, and one truck ended up in the wrong location. But it only caused an hour delay, and we were on our way.

Our club provided postage, supplies for making and laminating angels, and sanitary supplies for the girls in the orphanage for a total of \$117.58 (listed as in-kind). We also purchased \$158.12 worth of stocking stuffers. We collected 162 very nice gifts for the children and about 20 extra gifts for those at the orphanage who got inappropriate gifts or whose names we had not been given for some reason. I had 6 club members sign up to supply extra gifts or supplement ones. I estimate the value of the gifts to be \$8900.

Two schools did candy drives for us, and we solicited more from our members and friends, collecting over 350 pounds of candy worth about \$1750. One woman made 162 felt Christmas stockings, and a class at a local school stuffed them (value \$162). A Youth Group decorated 169 candy canes (\$169).

My parish has a monthly food collection for the poor, and on 2 occasions, allowed me to take food for the orphanage after our parish boxes were packed. Other people dropped off food donations at my house. A square dance club also collected food and some gifts for me. Estimated value of total food donated is \$4000. Miscellaneous items donated (serving spoons, 2 bicycles, calendars, wrapping paper, note pads and 8 blankets, etc.) are estimated at \$200.

We gave the nuns \$2800 in cash, and they used about \$98 of that to pay Customs Duty on the donations. After about 2 hours at Mexican Customs and reaching Ensenada, we had a lovely time at the orphanage. The children put on a play and sang and danced to thank us. Rather than breaking a piñata, they brought the kids before us in 4 groups according to age, and we threw the candy out to them for a "candy scramble." There was a little girl named Jessica sitting alone in a room that stored the candy. She was forlorn because she was blind and not allowed in the candy scramble for safety sake. We made sure to give her a big bag of candy.

After the scramble, Santa gave out the gifts, and other volunteers gave each child a candy cane and stocking. The nuns fed us tamales and gave us homemade Christmas cookies before we left. I took up a collection to pay them something for feeding us lunch and tamale dinner, but I did not include it in the above statistics.

Five of our volunteer families opted to spend the night at Estero Beach Resort Hotel (about 6 miles south of the orphanage), and we enjoyed having margaritas and snacks in the restaurant and talking over the day's activities. It was wonderful to meet at the restaurant patio next morning for their great buffet, to wish everyone well on their trip back home, and to thank them for their work. The hotel gave us a Fast Pass for the border, and from the time we got in the line until touching U.S. soil was only 10 minutes!!! That was the best time ever. Everyone got home safely. This project is very gratifying to us who witness the joy of the children and the generosity of the public. The challenges are different each year, and can be unnerving, but the emotional reward is so very great. My volunteers actually thank me for allowing them to help!!!

Project: Free Wheelchair Mission Support Hours: 35 Donated: \$80 In-Kind \$0

In July, 5 members and 3 friends volunteered at the Free Wheelchair Mission's major fundraiser called the 16th Miracle of Mobility. This annual event includes both a silent and an oral auction at Segerstrom Center in Costa Mesa. We assisted as "runners" getting bid packets for the persons checking guests in at registration. Following the close of registration, we were invited to taste the food and listen to inspirational speakers. This organization makes over a million dollars at this event.

In the fall, our club donated \$80, the cost of one wheelchair, when there were matching funds available. We wait for this matching grant time so 2 people get the benefit.

Project: Benefit Dinner for LSEEF Hours: 38 Donated: \$476 In Kind: \$0

This year the founder of Free Wheelchair Mission established the Laurie Schoendorfer Endowment for Education Fund to honor his deceased wife. This fund provides scholarships to those who need it most – to enable students in wheelchairs to continue their education. They are currently working in Peru, Uganda, and Vietnam. Scholarships are awarded based on the individual's need and his/her desire to achieve greatness beyond what is expected of them. Our club held the first fundraiser for them, a Murder Mystery Dinner with a 1929 gangster theme. One member hosted,

decorated, and provided the 3-course meal and drinks. Eight guest participants paid \$25 each as a donation. They dressed appropriately for the "character" they were assigned and had a fun afternoon and evening trying to determine "who dunnit".

The hostess planned 2 Chicago Caper dinners, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, so extra money could be made. The bartender even had a "tip" jar which raised an extra \$76 over and above the \$400 we knew we would raise. Two club members played characters at the Saturday dinner. This was a really fun way to raise some money, and the recipient was ever so grateful and amazed that we had not even asked them for help doing it.

Project: Soles4Souls Hours: 6 Donated: \$ 0 In Kind: \$1560

One member registered with Soles4Souls, a GFWC Grand Initiative Program. With the help of club members, 104 pairs of shoes were collected, bundled, and delivered to a drop-off location in Brea.