



**CLUB AWARD ENTRY FORM**  
*Annual Reporting January 1-December 31, 2020*

Prepared by: Name: Nora Gorton Club: Woman's Club of Cypress

Number of Members in Club (as according to the CFWC Yearbook): 82

Reporter's Address:

Club Position: Civic Engagement  
& Outreach Chairman

CFWC Area: C

City: La Mirada

State: CA

Zip: 90638

Email:

Phone:

**Civic Engagement & Outreach**

The Woman's Club of Cypress celebrated its 50th Anniversary in March 2016. Located in the northwest corner of Orange County, the club provides service and philanthropic opportunities for our membership, including dozens of members who mark more than 25 years of membership and participation, multiple Past-Presidents, and new members each year. Members range in age from 35 to 92 years. The majority are retired and able to be actively involved, while the working members participate whenever possible. In addition to financial donations, members volunteer hundreds of hours working on vital projects that impact our local, national, and global communities. Our members are motivated, compassionate, creative, civic-minded, infinitely generous, and grateful to give back to others.

**Project Title: Coupons & Comics "For the Military" Hours: 250 Donated: 0 In-Kind: \$10,000**  
**Project Leader: Colleen Janssen**

During 2020, our club continued a project called "Coupons and Comics for the Military." The Sunday color comics are collected by members and their friends, and sent to an organization called For the Troops (FTT) to be included with care packages sent to our troops. Over the year, our members collected more than 1,800 color comic sections of the Sunday newspaper. Another local Woman's Club collects comics to give to us to include with our donation.

The other part of the project is the manufacturer's coupons. Our members save the coupons, which are then given to another local Woman's Club to cut and send to families of troops serving overseas. This project has been a wonderful opportunity for two clubs to work together toward a common goal. During 2020, our club members collected coupons valued at more than \$40,000.

Both projects have been deemed successful and are easy to do since they do not require any money from members. This is the ultimate trash-to-treasure project.

**Project Title: 2020 VETERANS' HOLIDAY BUDDY BOXES Hours: 85 Donated: \$265**

**In Kind: \$1,868 Project Leader: Joan Larsen**

The Veterans' Holiday Buddy Box project provides patients at the Long Beach Veterans' Hospital and Community Living Center (CLC) with a box filled with small gift items for the holiday season. This is the ninth year that our club has participated in this project. Some members of the club fill a box provided by the Woman's Club or they donate cash toward filling one. Our local Home Depot generously donated 50 boxes. A list of ideas to fill a Buddy Box was included in each box such as travel size toiletries, t-shirts, baseball cap or beanie, socks, books/games, mini flashlight, pen/pad, or holiday décor (est. value of \$31/box). The Buddy Boxes are normally distributed to each veteran/patient on the first Saturday of December, but this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the boxes were left with our contact person at the CLC and at the Voluntary Services office of the Hospital for distribution to patients by their staff. Our club had 22 members participate in filling 38 boxes, and another member filled 20 boxes which were all donated. One member printed out holiday cards thanking the veterans for their service and identified our club which was placed in each of the 58 boxes. The Hospital and the CLC needed 250-300 boxes, so our club invited other Woman's Clubs to participate. This year our club provided 58 men's boxes plus 12 woman's boxes leftover from last year. A total of 276 boxes were delivered with the participation of the Fullerton Ebell Club (25 boxes), Woman's Club of Fountain Valley (40 boxes) and the 11 clubs that make up the Los Cerritos District Women's Clubs (141 boxes).

**Project Title: Crime Survivors Hours: 590 Donated: \$1,000 In Kind: \$890**

**Project Leader: Colleen Janssen**

Our Past President's Project from last year was Crime Survivors and we continued supporting them again this year. Patricia Wenskunas who was a victim of a particularly heinous pre-mediated attempted murder by her personal trainer created this organization 16 years ago. Although the perpetrator admitted guilt, the female judge sentenced him to only 120 days in jail. Ms Wenskunas started the organization to provide help and healing for other victims and to advocate for victim's rights in the courts and through legislation.

The club members donated gift items to support Crime Survivors and our fundraising this year took a turn and instead of attending bingo parties at our neighborhood clubhouse, "Zoom Bingo" was introduced. Three bingo sessions were held. Participants were not charged to play only encourage to send in donations to the Crime Survivors' project. This project chairman also raised money through a Holiday Card Exchange. Each of the members participating paid 25 cents per card to be delivered. The cards were separated into bags and delivered to each member recipient. This year, 35 members participated raising \$686.50 to be donated.

**Project Title: Cypress Police Department Appreciation Hours: 38 Donated: \$100**

**In Kind: \$550 Project Leader: Mariellen Yarc**

During the pandemic, many of our usual projects and events in support of our local Police were paused. But when the social unrest related to the police started, many Club members wanted to show their support for the outstanding job our local police were doing for our community. We came up with the idea of making "goodie" bags for each uniformed police officer and their support staff. As Chairman of the project, I ordered wrapped candy, gift bags and tissue, snacks such as Rice Krispies bars, granola bars, bags of nuts, etc. enough to fill 55 bags. Each bag had a handwritten thank-you note from a Club member so each police officer would know how genuine our appreciation was. Volunteers filled at least 5 bags each, decorated the bags and wrote a personal thank you note for each one. Our Club President, myself and several of the volunteers who worked on the project met some Officers at the department to present the bags. It was truly heart-warming to see how much our Officers appreciated our gesture. The Police posted pictures on their social media pages and our local paper ran an article about our Club's project.

**Project Title: Cypress Recreation & Community Service Foundation Hours: 0 Donated: \$1,000 In Kind: 0 Project Leader: Colleen Janssen**

The City of Cypress Recreation Department was undergoing a renovation of the Cypress Senior Center and asked for donations. Thousands of seniors use this facility each year for classes and programs, and renovations to upgrade the overused amenities became necessary. Our club pledged \$1,000 for the project. In 2020, the City established a foundation to receive the funds, and our check was delivered in November. Our club's name is displayed prominently with other renovation sponsors on a permanent plaque in the facility's lobby. We were honored to be one of the local organizations that joined with local businesses to create a better space for senior citizens.

**Project Title: Cypress Drive Through Halloween Town Hours: 10 Donated: \$150 In Kind: 0 Project Leader: Carole Shaw**

We were called by the Cypress City Recreation office to see if our woman's club would support the Halloween Town Drive Through the city was planning for October 30th. Children could be driven through the Civic Center parking lot that had a Halloween Town set up and receive a free tote bag with candy and crafts, and which would include fliers from supporting vendors. Entry was free and the children were encouraged to wear costumes. Some cars even had the family dog in costume. The sponsorship for putting our flier in 600 bags and being listed as a sponsor on the city website was \$150. We developed a flier and I delivered a check and the fliers to the Rec Center. Over 600 families came to this first-time event and it was a great success.

**Project Title: 2020 Census Hours: 4 Donated: 0 In Kind: 0 Project Leader: Veena Narain**

Our Club members are very civic-minded and feel a responsibility towards our community. Shortly before the United States Census Bureau started collecting their data in 2020, our Club invited their local representative, Jennifer Lee, to speak at our March general membership meeting. Ms. Lee informed members of the multiple ways in which the 2020 Census information would be used, and how it would affect our daily lives through accurate funding and representation for the people in our county. Not only does it affect government representation, but also the plans for senior housing and highways, and the funds for hospitals and firefighters, as well as many other facets of our lives. After her talk, our members felt well-informed on the uses of the Census data. We also understood the importance of responsibly providing accurate information to the Census Bureau every ten years.