



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
***Annual Reporting January 1-December 31, 2022***

Chairman: Bonnie Peat		Club: GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress	
Number of Members (from CFWC Yearbk): 95		District: Orange	Area: C
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]		Phone: [REDACTED]	
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>			
Name of GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan or ESO			

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress has contributed time, talent, and funds to help the community for 56 years. Located in the northwest corner of Orange County, the club provides service and philanthropic opportunities for our membership, including dozens of members who mark either 50, or more than 25 years of membership, multiple past-presidents, and new members each year. Members range in age from 35 to 94 years. The majority are retired and able to be actively involved, with the experienced members mentoring those who are newer or working, helping them to get involved however 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: Staying Connected & Engaged Hours: 812 Donated: \$0 Spent: \$736**

One of the priorities of our club leaders is to find ways to keep our membership connected with other members throughout the year. There are several ways we do this on a monthly basis including: in-person club, chair & executive board meetings; Legislation & Public Policy (L&PP) updates via Zoom; fundraiser game nights and ESO. Each one of these meetings are open to all our members for their participation and/or learning. We regularly invite guest speakers to our club meetings and L&PP updates who inspire the members or provide us updates of what is going on in our community, state, or nation. At the end of the year, the club board members host a holiday luncheon for past presidents. We have eight past presidents who regularly attend, and it is always inspiring to see everyone having fun as well as celebrating the history of our club.

In between the meetings, we send out our monthly Friendly Informer newsletter and our president sends weekly emails to all members. Both are intended to provide updates on our members who may need our support or congratulations on a new grandchild. We also provide a summary of key dates and chair updates. Both the newsletter and weekly emails are intended to be interesting and informative, so our members feel connected to what is happening in our club. We receive great feedback from our members and there is no better testimony than this.

Outside our club, we are active with our Orange District by having five of our club members in various district positions. Talk about having insight into the Orange District and being able to have these women mentor others. A great opportunity to prepare our future leaders.

**Project Title: Sharpening our Skills Hours: 619 Donated: \$0 Spent: \$326**

As leaders in our club, we need to continue to not only provide leadership but make sure we are sharpening our skills to be the best leaders we can be. We do this in several ways. The CFWC Orange District Council Meetings and CFWC conference are great ways to better understand what is happening at the District level as well as State. It provides an opportunity to sharpen the skills of our members, while also developing potential leaders for the future. Our Club typically has 15 members attending both the Orange District Council meeting as well as the CFWC conference. Networking at these events is a great way to share ideas and to sharpen all our skills.

We also have many of our members with 10+ years with the club who share their experiences with other members. This has especially helped with the on-boarding of newer members into the club. We will be formalizing this in 2023 to establish a buddy system to further help new members be the best they can be.

Lastly, our club chairs and leaders write annual reports summarizing their activities throughout the year, hours spent and donations made to our projects. When doing this, it is a great learning moment for all our leaders as they reflect not only what has been accomplished, but what could they have done differently, sharpening their skills for future years.

**Project Title: Expanding our Membership Hours: 307 Donated: \$0 Spent: \$0**

This has been a great year for our club. We had 28 members who decided to join us this year. So, how did we do this? During our New Member Orientation sessions that we conduct at least two times a year, one of the questions we ask is... "How did you hear about our club?" While we received lots of feedback, the main themes were: A member invited me to the club to check it out; I saw you at a public event where you had a booth and I was inspired by the people I met; I heard about the projects you are involved in and want to make an impact in our community; and lastly, I was at a local restaurant and I overheard some women talking about the club. No matter how our new members join us, it is always inspiring for our leaders to hear the impact they and our members are making within the community. Our membership at the end of 2022 is at 112 members, with 40% joining in the last two years. We are active, our leaders are energized and its being noticed in our community.

**Project Title: Inspiring our Members Hours: 30 Donated: \$0 Spent: \$160**

While we are staying connected and engaged, our members want to come and be involved because of the great things we are doing within our club and, of course, the people. Our members are inspired by our projects, as we cover so many different areas that there is always a topic of interest for each member. We work early on when members join to get them involved. This includes possibly supporting a project or could be as simple as asking them to say the Pledge of Allegiance at one of our meetings. Seeing us in the community and hearing what we are doing definitely is a motivating factor.

Secondly, we make being a member FUN. This includes are monthly meetings where we include an ice breaker event, or a game usually customized by our president. Examples include In January we had a matching game to see how many members could match an interest with a new member. It was called New Year, New Members. In March for our club birthday, we played Pass the Gift with the theme of the game focused on the year we were incorporated (1966); and in June to kick off the summer, we played Name That Tune, where we played a variety of summer tunes and had each of the member tables competing against each other. There are simple prizes that could be won, but it's not about that, it's about the memory created.

Thirdly, we recognize our members for the great work they've done. This could be the results of a fundraiser to supporting a project. Everyone likes to be recognized and it is up to us as leaders to provide the environment to make this something we do consistently.

**Project Title: Making a Positive Impact in our Community Hours: 120 Donated: \$0 Spent: \$36**

Our club has been in the Cypress community for more than 55 years and is one of the city's largest non-profit organizations. We are very active within our community and our city has been very supportive of our efforts. Our impact is evident and here are a few examples of what we've done.

For our seniors, we continued delivering Kindness Bags to Cypress homebound seniors. By partnering with the city and Meals on Wheels, we delivered over 200 bags throughout the year, including gifts on their wish list for the holidays. We ask members, including newer ones to help support the deliveries. It always puts a smile on the face of our seniors.

For our Cypress families in need, our leaders worked with our city to identify families we could adopt for the holidays. We provided \$1,000 in Walmart gift cards for four families. We also had a member donate \$200 to go toward one family.

For our students, we provide college and ROP scholarships for high school seniors who are planning to go on for further education. We have an interview process and then we down select a number of students. This past year, we donated over \$10,000 in scholarships.

For our special needs children and adults, we partnered with two Cypress organizations -- Cypress Champion Baseball and B.R.A.I.N. Both help brain injured adults or special needs individuals to be the best they can be. We donated \$3,800 of new baseball bats replacing all their worn equipment. We also donated \$1,000 to B.R.A.I.N. to go toward scholarships and therapy equipment. Our leaders are committed to helping others get the services and support needed.

One of our members is active with Royal Family Kids Camp, a weeklong event for kids in the foster care system. Kids going to this camp typically have limited clothes and shoes. Between her personal donation of shoes and \$1,000 donated by a member who works for VANS, they collectively were able to donate \$1,300 in new shoes that could be given to the children at the camp who sorely needed them. This project will be formalized in 2023 as we work with the local organization to determine their needs are for the coming year.

We were able to do all the above and more through fundraising activities, such as game nights, member donations and our club philanthropy budget.

**Project Title:** Partnering with the City of Cypress **Hours:** 24 **Donated:** \$0 **Spent:** \$72

Our Club has been active in our community for more than 55 years. Having the support of our City has helped us thrive as a club. Every two years we complete grant paperwork with the city for the use of their facilities free of charge. This has worked so well for us, and it helps us reduce the cost for our membership. In addition to this, we partnered with the city on three different city events. In July, we were a Patriot sponsor of the July Salute to America event. We donated \$1,000 as a sponsor which provided us a booth, public announcements about our club and a special introduction as the event kicked off. In October we sponsored the seniors walk for \$1,000 where they conditioned about 15-20 seniors to do a 3K walk. Their T-shirts had our club's name on the back. And in October, we worked with the city on the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Conference where 200 women from our city and surrounding communities participated. We had a booth, and we led the event, giving us tremendous visibility with at three members joining shortly thereafter. Having such a relationship with the leaders of our city has benefited our club in so many ways.

**Project Title:** Developing Future Leaders **Hours:** 160 **Donated:** \$0 **Spent:** \$1,910

The **GFWC Leadership Education and Development (LEADS) Seminar program** is intended to identify members who have the desire to assume a leadership position beyond their club. This year, we nominated one of our executive board members to the Orange District. As part of the process, the candidate filled in a very detailed application summarizing her background and why she should be considered for the LEADS program. This application was supplemented by a letter of reference by our president. Our candidate had a tremendous career making her an easy selection at the Orange District level and she then moved to the California Federation of Women's Club level. There she had a great experience, getting to know candidates from across California but more importantly, gained a deeper understanding of GFWC and how she can be a better leader for the organization. At the CFWC level, she was exposed to so many different experiences, but one of them was creating a short video on her phone of a club project she is passionate about. This was easy for her, and she excelled amongst her peers. She was selected as "Ms. California" to represent CFWC at the national level. She had the wonderful opportunity of attending the GFWC convention in New Orleans and meeting some of the national LEADS candidates, as well as GWFC leadership. She attended workshops and gained visibility at the GFWC level. What a tremendous opportunity and she came back to our club with so much experience energizing her for future leadership roles. She is a voice for the LEADS program and has been asked to speak at different events. From our club, we've now had five members who have gone through this program. We are proud to have such talent and women who will move into bigger roles within GFWC.