

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS <u>CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET</u>

Annual Reporting January 1-December 31, 2022

| Chairman: Linda Queen | Club: Yorba Linda Woman's Club | |
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| Number of Members: 93 | District: Orange | Area: C |
| Club Position: Chairman | | |
| Reporter's Address | | |
| City: | State | Zip |
| Emai | Phone | • |
| EDUCATION & LIBRARIES CSP | | |
| Name of GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan or ESO | | |

Yorba Linda has a small-town feel and is known as the Land of Gracious Living. In 1912, the Yorba Linda Woman's Club was founded by a group of motivated women, whose inspiration was boundless and was matched only by their faith in their abilities to accomplish good things for their community. To this day, they follow their Mission Statement: We are a diverse organization working to promote civic, philanthropic, cultural, and educational interests within our community through the spirit of volunteerism.

Project Title: GRANTS HELP TEACHERS "MAKE THE GRADE" Hours 44 Donated \$2,400 In-Kind \$0

The Yorba Linda Woman's Club's mission statement includes promoting educational interests within our community, thus, we proudly support the efforts of our educators within the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD).

Six club members formed the project committee and worked closely with the PYLUSD to make sure all teachers in the school district were aware of the opportunity to apply for our monetary grants. The applications asked teachers to describe their intended projects and create a budget based on: 1) That proposed goals for student achievement are challenging and rigorous; 2) That proposed work engages students in critical thinking and problem solving; 3) That there is alignment between goals, assessment, activities and budget; and 4) That the project is collaborative and can be sustained in future years and/or adopted by other educators. The grants offer the opportunity for teachers to purchase new equipment and offer students classroom projects that require critical thinking and problem solving. Funding for these types of projects is usually unavailable to teachers.

As the committee judged the applications on the curriculum needs and innovation, we were amazed at the creativity and enthusiasm presented by the teacher applicants. The benefits of their proposed projects were immeasurable, as they fostered inquiring minds of students, logical reasoning, and collaboration skills, especially in the field of science.

In February, we awarded grants of \$200 each to 12 teachers in our school district. Certificates and checks were hand-delivered by committee members to teachers in nine different schools! Five teacher recipients attended our club's annual Awards Night in May to share their appreciation for the grant opportunity, along with their passion for education. We know that what benefits the students also benefits the parents and community. Our small but mighty project has far-reaching and commendable results that make us very proud.

Project Title: JOYA SCHOLARS SHINE BRIGHT Hours 10 Donated \$8,600 In-Kind \$1,000

Ten years ago, JOYA Scholars began with a small group of mentors willing to volunteer time to local high school students. [FYI: "joya" means "gem" in Spanish.] JOYA's mission is to encourage academic achievement and teach good study skills to disadvantaged youth in our school district, while inspiring and preparing these young students to attend college. The program not only offers tutoring, mentors, college visits, and help with the college admissions process, there is also a coordinated

seminar series for the parents. The program has grown and recently expanded to serve elementary and middle school students through organized after-school study programs, tutoring, and group activities. JOYA Scholars is now a leading "mentoring" program in Orange County with proven success.

Yorba Linda Woman's Club has supported JOYA Scholars since their 'early days' and considers the program a very worthy cause. Our members enjoy finding new ways each year to offer support. This year, we contributed \$8,000 in May toward their graduating seniors headed to college in the fall. In June, eighteen club members attended JOYA Scholars' 2022 Fundraising Gala and made generous personal donations toward JOYA's success.

Soon after the school year began in September, we purchased a variety of school supplies, calculators, and teaching materials for use at JOYA's after-school study site. When we later learned that it was difficult for their young scholars to access affordable and appropriate books for personal reading, we partnered with the Yorba Linda Public Library to collect several boxes of books for JOYA's elementary and middle school program.

On "Giving Tuesday 2022" (November's annual *day of giving* charity fundraising campaign), our club donated \$500, which was generously matched by an outside donor to equal \$1,000 in JOYA Scholars' funding. The club is inspired by the dedication of JOYA's staff, mentors, and the achievements of all JOYA Scholars students. We look forward to continuing our partnership and support for years to come!

Project Title: COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE REWARDING! Hours 75 Donated \$27,100 In-Kind \$0

Yorba Linda Woman's Club is proud of our ongoing scholarship program, which benefits youth in our community. In the spring of 2022, we awarded scholarships in the amounts of \$500 or \$1,000 to a large group of graduating seniors as they embark on their college education. These talented and deserving students are headed not only to well-known *Ivy League* schools, but also to universities and community colleges closer to home. This year, we were fortunate to also receive contributions from several Yorba Linda families to help increase the number of scholarships we could award. This extra funding was targeted for scholarships to assist eligible, hearing-impaired students and those who may not qualify for scholarships based on a high GPA.

Beginning in January, we promoted our scholarship program to counselors at each high school in our area, encouraging them to inform their students about the opportunity. Scholarship info and applications are available on our club website for several months. Applicants must submit not only school transcripts, but also a personal essay addressing a topic selected by our scholarship committee. The eight-member scholarship committee was thrilled to receive 70 applications this year from high-achieving students, in both public and private local high schools! Committee members review and score each application individually, using a rubric system, based on certain criteria: GPAs, AP/Honors classes, community service hours, and essays. Committee members spent 7-8 hours each on this task. The committee then met to compile, compare and discuss their scores in order to select the final winners.

Project Title: AWARDS NIGHT IS A HIGHLIGHT Hours 250 Donated \$0 In-Kind \$250

In May, more than 300 people packed the Community Center for the Yorba Linda Woman's Club Awards Night event, celebrating our 2022 College Scholarship recipients and winners of our Student Art Contest and Teacher Grants. Attendees included parents, friends, teachers, principals, City Council members, State and U.S. Congress members, and other VIPs. We work hard planning what is truly a highlight of our club year!

Fifty club members took part in the event, helping to prepare and serve refreshments; coordinate stage décor; handle guest check-in; escort attendees to seats; run several slideshow presentations; photograph the winners and, of course, mingle with students, parents and guests. The enjoyable evening includes a Color Guard Ceremony presented by a local Jr. ROTC unit, entertainment provided by a quintet of talented high school musicians, a photo backdrop for proud-family pics, and programs listing each recipient's accomplishments and awards.

Our Club President emceed the evening and kept things running smoothly. The Scholarship and Art Contest chairmen announced each category of award recipients. The impressive group of 60 students were recognized individually and invited onstage to receive monetary awards, achievement certificates, and congratulations from the Mayor, Congress representatives, and members of the school board. We presented a slideshow highlighting the achievements of each recipient, and displayed

around the room were the 36 winning entries submitted by talented young artists – sculptures, paintings, drawings, and mixed media artwork.

Project Title: A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY COMING RIGHT UP! Hours 2 Donated \$50 In-Kind \$300

Little Free Libraries are small, sturdy, hand-built book cabinets placed in parks and other accessible areas in towns throughout the U.S. They contain free books available to anyone who stops to look inside. Several months ago, a new club member advised us that her daughter's Girl Scout troop had recently built one of these cabinets and that the troop wished to donate it to our club.

We were happy to partner with these enterprising young women and made a donation to their troop in exchange for the cabinet. Since then, we have worked with the City of Yorba Linda to decide on an appropriate location. We anticipate that the City will help us install it very soon and club members are excited to keep our *Little Free Library* well stocked with free books for children, teens and adults.

Project Title: LENDING A HAND AT THE LIBRARY Hours 275 Donated \$0 In-Kind \$300

There is a terrific used bookstore in town that is maintained by the Friends of the Yorba Linda Public Library. Proceeds support numerous programs to benefit the entire community. Yorba Linda Woman's Club helped found the original Yorba Linda Public Library about 100 years ago and we've offered ongoing support in various ways ever since. At this time, we have seven club members who volunteer each month toward the successful operation of the bookstore. These members serve customers visiting the store, help keep the shelves stocked, and assist with pricing and organizing inventory. In addition, the club collects books at our general meetings that are donated to the library monthly.

Project Title: WE SHARE GOOD READS WITH A BOOK SWAP Hours 0 Donated \$0 In-Kind \$200

Guess what? We've got loads of avid readers in the Yorba Linda Woman's Club, and we're here to keep their reading habits happy! In September, we began a General Meeting *book swap*. Members are encouraged to bring in books they are finished with and peruse the book swap table during our pre-meeting social hour, to see if there are new titles they would like to take home. Free! The books remaining at the end of our meeting are donated to the City Library's used book store. This has been a simple and well-received perk for both our members AND the library.