

GFWC GREATER OCALA WOMAN'S CLUB

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/EVENTS September 2023 - March 2024



1. The Greater Ocala Woman's Club (GOWC) continues to make Bears for Camp Boggy Creek (A Magical Camp For Children With Serious Medical Illnesses), the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Florida Presidents project. These efforts have resulted in over a 1,000 bears being sewn. Members have had the opportunity to tour the camp and get a first hand view of all the services and activities available for chronically ill children.
2. Our 4th Heart of a Hero fundraiser honoring community heroes was held February 15, 2024. Heroes modeled their professional work wear and Florida style dress donated by Dillard's. It was a huge success; close to 200 people attended. Our mystery guest model was the mayor of Ocala. The fundraiser provided \$10,000 for Project Hope, a non-profit organization, established in 2007 by a faith-based community group, to provide solutions for homelessness among women and their children.
3. A club member who works for Pella windows was awarded the Joan Kuyper Farver Spirit Award for her volunteerism in the community. The Pella Rolscreen Foundation, which is the nonprofit arm of the Pella Corporation, recognized our member with the award for her caring spirit and passion for community service. The Foundation seeks to provide Pella Corporation team members a way to direct resources to the community in which they live, towards projects and organizations that are important to them. As the recipient, our member was given a \$25,000 grant which has been given in her name to our club!. Pella also has employee matching gift programs to provide resources towards projects and organizations that are important to their employees. In addition, this member received an additional grant from Pella for \$1000, which was donated to our club based on her annual volunteer hours.
4. As part of the GFWC president's National Day of Service in September 2023, the club collected 100 pounds (\$375) of food donated to Interfaith Emergency Services.
5. GOWC provides scholarships for non-traditional women students, women returning to school to continue their education at College of Central Florida.

6. Lavin Family Foundation from Chicago through their CCs wish list program donated \$20,000 of clothing for men, women and children. They also donated 1440 pairs of slides and were distributed to 10 organizations in need.

NOTE: The Lavin Family Foundation was created over 50 years ago by the family that founded the Alberto Culver Company to fund groups working in health care, education and programs designed to better family life. CC's Wish List is a program of the Lavin Family Foundation and several times a year, CC's Wish List will extend in-kind donation offers to a rotating list of nonprofits. The foundation finds extraordinary buys and looks for great organizations to help distribute them to those in need.

The GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club was identified several years ago and has been gifted by the foundation with thousands of dollars' worth of items to distribute to our local charities. Club members then sort and group the hundreds of items for distribution to various charitable organizations. The items donated in kind have included, but are not limited to hats, sweaters, underwear, pajamas, and shoes.

7. GOWC completed work regarding branding to increase our recognition in the Ocala area, with a brand new logo and updated club brochure. The club did not have a current logo that would facilitate ongoing immediate recognition of our club and the brochure was outdated. Research was conducted on use of logos by other GFWC organizations across the country. This included why a logo is important to pique the interest of the public and invite them to learn more about the Greater Ocala Woman's Club. The logo (see above) was designed to symbolize a contemporary woman in a hat with red rose. A rose is the club flower and red symbolizes service. Ocala, Florida is the horse capital of the world and known for its natural springs (blue area behind roses are springs).

8. In December, a woodworker made and donated \$200 worth of wooden toys for children which our club gave to a few organizations we support.

9. Backpacks for the Domestic Violence Center children were collected before school started for children in need. There were extra school supplies in bags donated for the children at the Center, as the number of children staying at the Domestic Violence changes daily.

10. Donations to the Salvation Army of peanut butter and jelly to provide sandwiches to children in need of meals over the holidays.

11. Fifty Six pairs of pajamas and books were donated at Christmas to the Homeless Coalition of Marion County. The total value of the in kind donations was \$1400.

12. A new Facebook administrator was appointed. The GOWC facebook was subsequently reformatted and updated with our new GOWC logo, and posts organized to more easily find information on the club, videos and a drop down menu with photos, events and club mentions on Facebook. The administrator will also serve as Liaison to post on GFWC, GFWC Florida and district websites. A flyer or post is done on Facebook and members pages to promote a new event and encourage new members to join our club.

13. A Moby credit card reader was obtained, so that at monthly general meeting dinners, events etc. fees can be paid for by credit card rather than cash or check.

14. Used costume jewelry was collected and given to three organizations prior to Christmas and Valentine's Day so that children could choose a piece of jewelry to give to their moms as a gift.

15. Five of our members participate in the United Way Marion County ReadingPals program at two different elementary schools. Reading pals is a school year project where members devote a few hours twice a week reading to kindergarteners who need extra help. Each week the student takes home the book to start a library at home and to encourage more reading.

16. Our Book Club, Wise Women and Words, meets monthly for lunch and book discussion.



GF WC Florida
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