

# **FUNDRAISING – NARRATIVE REPORT 2025**

## **WOMAN’S CLUB OF LACEY, INC.**

**Fundraising efforts at the Woman’s Club of Lacey are varied and produce income necessary to fund all the charitable donations important to our community.**

### **Calendar Club Raffle**

The keystone of fundraising efforts for the Woman’s Club of Lacey is the Calendar Club Raffle. It is the largest fundraiser each year for our Club designed to fund our high school scholarship program. There is not another fundraiser like it in our community and it has become our “signature fundraiser”. The process begins in the summer when a member is appointed as calendar club chair to control the distribution of tickets and the collection of payments. The raffle ticket is designed and printed by a local business. Our financial secretary secures the license so that sales can begin at our September general meeting. Our goal is to sell 500 tickets. Each member is encouraged to sell five tickets. Ticket sales continue through the last week of December. Monthly progress is reported to the membership at general meetings. Five winners are drawn each month from January through June at the general meetings. One winner receives \$500 and the other four receive \$100. Winners are notified by mail. State financial reports are filed by the financial secretary. In 2025, the profit from this fundraiser was \$4,650.00 and enabled the Club to award four \$1,000 scholarships to students at Lacey High School students.

### **50/50 Raffles**

Another cause important to the Woman’s Club of Lacey is supporting our local schools’ special needs students. At each general meeting the Club conducts a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are sold before the meeting begins and the winner is drawn at the end of the meeting. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the winner; 50% is earmarked for the schools’ special project. At the end of the general meetings the raffle is pulled and 50% was awarded to the lucky winner and 50% was used for a project which benefits special needs students. In 2025, \$1,500 was raised and used toward the Lacey Township School District’s second decompression room for autistic children. In 2025 our new Special Needs Adults Committee added a monthly 50/50 drawing to each of their functions which has generated approximately \$1,000.00 which will also be donated to the schools.

### **Monthly Baskets**

At the beginning of the Club year, departments are assigned a month in which they are to provide a gift basket for raffle at the general meetings. Members of the department get together to decide on a theme and work together gather items for the basket. Tickets are sold before the general meeting and the winning ticket is drawn after the meeting has concluded. This effort has been so well received by members that many months have more than one basket for raffle. Beginning in September were began hosting a Gift Certificate instead of baskets and this was also well received. The many beautiful baskets and generous gift cards provided in 2025 brought in \$1,885.00 in revenue for our general fund.

### **Activity Day**

Each Monday during the year, the Woman’s Club of Lacey hosts an activity day at the Charles A. Smith Community Center in Forked River. Club members and others from the community are welcomed to play Mah Jongg and a variety of card and board games. Club members supply snacks to share and enjoy an afternoon of social interaction and fun. A donation of \$2.00 is collected from attendees. In 2025, \$3,146.00 was collected to benefit the general fund. From it’s inception in May 2008 we have collected a total amount of \$35,459.00.

### **Wreaths Across America**

In December 2024 it was determined that a local cemetery did not receive enough donations to fund the 1,700 plus Veterans interred there. So the Woman’s Club of Lacey changed their sponsorship to St. Joseph’s

Cemetery and Mausoleum in Toms River to help them achieve their goals. A total of 175 wreaths were donated by members. The proceeds from our \$5.00 give back was used to order and donate more wreaths.

### **Performance Trips**

The members of the Woman's Club of Lacey enjoy the local theater performances. Several trips to were planned in 2025 to the Surflight Theater with dinner afterwards including Top Hat, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, West Side Story, Buddy Holly, and Elf. Two shows at the Grunnin Center Neil Diamond and Celtic Christmas. The cost of each of these outings was increased by \$10 earmarked for fundraising. In 2025, a total of \$515.00 was raised to benefit the general fund.

### **Tricky Tray Event**

A Tricky Tray event was held after the January, 2025 general meeting. Members were asked to donate one or more items to be displayed and raffled off. The fundraising chair sets up the tables and ticket cups before the meeting. Members purchase a card of tickets and may bid on any item they would like to win. This event is a lot of fun for members and raised \$155.00 for the Club's general fund.

### **Yearbook Smiley Stamps**

Each September, the Woman's Club of Lacey distribute new yearbooks containing valuable information about the Club. As books are distributed, members are asked to donate \$5 earmarked for the NJFWC special state project. If a member so desires to donate, her yearbook is stamped with a pink smiley face ☺. In 2025, members contributed \$80.00 to this effort.

### **Membership Donation**

Each month, members contribute \$2.00 at each general meeting. This small donation translates to approximately \$1,200.00 which benefits the general fund.

### **Hobby Fair benefiting Special State Project**

At the Woman's Club November general meeting, representatives from the NJ Children's Alliance were invited to speak to the membership about work their organization does. Our members were supportive of this effort and one member in particular, Cathy Katsianis, especially so. She proposed an idea of hosting a hobby fair to raise funds to donate to this worthy cause. Cathy organized a committee and quickly sprang into action. In a short time, she solicited 33 vendors and hobbyists to participate in the hobby fair on March 30, 2025, at the Charles A. Smith Community Center in Forked River. Each vendor or hobbyist was asked to provide a basket or item for raffle. She was able to solicit donations for the ticket and signage printing. In kind donations amounted to \$750. An area hobby shop donated \$900 in cash. Members supplied baked goods for sale to guests. Due to her efforts the Club was able to make a \$2,000 donation to the NJ Children's Alliance. Since many hobbyists and vendors expressed a desire to participate again, this event may be hosted again in the future.

### **Special Needs Adults**

Over the course of the year, the Woman's Club hosted six events from June to December at the Charles A. Smith Community Center in Forked River. These events include music, dinner and dessert, photography, door prizes and activities allowing approximately 75 special needs adults and their caregivers the opportunity to interact with each other in a controlled and safe environment. An Amazon wish list was established in 2025 and since then nearly \$15,000 in in-kind donations have been made. In October a \$10 entry fee was established to help fund events for 2026 and to be able to donate to special needs causes. These events have had overwhelming support among special needs adults' parents and other organizations in our community. Every fundraising effort, large and small, make possible many improvements in our community.