

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH – NARRATIVE 2025

WOMAN’S CLUB OF LACEY, INC.

The Woman’s Club of Lacey is always active with projects supporting Civic Engagement and Outreach.

Special Needs Adults Committee

Long-time member and former president Beverly Keubler brought a proposal to the Club to fund a monthly activity for our community’s special needs adults. The membership was eager to support this effort as it furthers the work the Club does to support school-aged special needs children in the Lacey Township School District. Beverly quickly brought in seven new members and a committee was quickly formed chaired by new members Debra Gamsby and Janet Mulero. Six themed parties were planned in short order. 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. Each is advertised over social media. A collaboration was formed with the Bayville Elks Antlers to help with room set up, clean up and serving. 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. Debra and Janet established an Amazon wish list to defray the cost of decorations, tableware and some food items. In 2025, 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.

Veterans’ Support

In May, 12 members decked out in patriotic apparel participated in the Lacey Township annual Memorial Day parade. Together with the Mayor, Township Committee, Fire Departments, and other civic organizations, members marched two miles to Municipal Park. Three cars were festively decorated in red, white and blue for members not able to make the entire two-mile walk. Upon reaching the Lacey Municipal Building, members participated in a heartwarming ceremony and placed a wreath honoring and mourning the US military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The Woman’s Club of Lacey supports the **Vetwork** community organization with a \$500 donation each year. This organization assists veterans in obtaining affordable housing, transportation, and medical and professional services and is deserving of the Club’s support.

Veterans Watchmaking Initiative – At a Shore District meeting in Matawan on September 22, 2025, Kathy Doty of Little Silver mentioned that she was collecting broken watches for the “Veteran’s Watchmaking Initiative”. 15 watches were donated and given to Kathy Doty at the October Shore Conference. We will continue this initiative throughout 2026.

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Lacey Day is a celebration of community hosted by the Lacey Recreation Department providing music and games as well as participation of the township committee, non-profit organizations and local businesses. This is the 12th year participating in the annual Lacey Day. Club members man a table displaying the new club banner, meeting the public, and spreading the word about the wonderful work the Woman’s Club does in the community. Goodie bags containing a Woman’s Club business card, pink pen, heart shaped clip and pink heart candy were supplied to community members giving their email addresses for future contact. We were proudly among the 500 participants in this beautiful event.

NJ Sharing Network

In May, the Woman’s Club of Lacey participated in the annual “Celebration of Life 5K Walk/Run” hosted by the NJ Sharing Network in Ocean Grove, NJ. Members are encouraged to complete organ donation forms and make their loved ones aware of their wishes regarding organ donation.

Wrapped in Love

2/4/2026 8:22 AM

Club members with crochet and knitting talents make lap blankets which are donated monthly to the NJ Sharing Network. Chairman Jo Facciolli also solicits donated blankets from outside members in the community. Each blanket is forwarded to a family member of someone who has given the ultimate gift of life. During 2025, 193 blankets were packaged and set on behalf of our members. Since inception 1088 blankets were donated by the Woman's Club of Lacey.

Clothing Drive

The conservation committee conducted a coat drive during September and October to benefit Your Grandmother's Cupboard, a non-profit charity in Ocean County. 161 gently worn and freshly laundered children and adult coats were collected from three drop off locations in Lacey Township.

First Responder Support

The Woman's Club of Lacey makes yearly donations to the Fire Departments and EMS stations in Lacey Township totaling \$500. In recognition of the outstanding performance of these organizations during wildfire season in 2025, donations were increased to \$750. These donations were made in June.

Food Drives

The Woman's Club of Lacey is a staunch supporter of the Lacey Food Bank and has been for many years. The Club has been recognized by the Lacey Food Bank for all of their support and was awarded with a Certificate as "Friends of the Needy." Each month members bring food items to the general meeting for donation to the food bank. Many members volunteer their time at the food bank as well. Over the course of 2025, members donated over 900 food items.

Operation Holiday Stocking

Members started our collection at the September and October General meetings and on Mondays at our activity afternoon. We adhered to the list provided (no candy) and members were as generous as always. Woman's Club members were able to collect and stuff 70 stockings as our contribution and support for our United States Military Forces serving overseas through Operation NJ Cares.

Operation Sisterhood

The WCOL provided 19 full size shampoos/body washes and 10 loofah sponges to Operation Sisterhood at the NJSFWC Fall Conference. These items were too large to fit in holiday stockings.

Intergenerational Community Projects

Club members collaborate with the Lacey School District and the Pheasant Run Homeowners Association to share time with school aged children. They meet once a month during the school year to work with children in 4th – 12th grade on a variety of projects interacting with the children in activities and trips planned by the school and participate in the events with the children and their chaperones. Our members enjoy spending time with the children and the children feel the same.

Wreaths Across America

In 2024, The Woman's Club of Lacey became a sponsorship club for Wreaths Across America, and that work continued with enthusiasm throughout 2025. For each wreath sold under the Club's name, \$5 was returned to the Club. Members voted to invest these rebates in additional wreaths for the organization. A total of 175 wreaths were sold and placed on the graves of fallen veterans at the Good Luck Cemetery in Lanoka Harbor and at St. Joseph's cemetery in Toms River. Through the efforts of Jo Facciolli, committee chairman, both cemeteries were fully funded in 2025. Members attended ceremonies at both cemeteries and laid wreaths on the graves of deceased veterans.

Tree Lighting

In December, Lacey United Methodist Church sponsored the tree decorating event where community organizations throughout the Lacey were invited to decorate a tree. The Woman's Club of Lacey decorated a Christmas tree with white solar lights, weatherproof pink ornaments, bows and candy canes to represent the Club. The tree sparkled and glowed in our signature pink for the month of December.