

Civic Engagement and Outreach - Narrative 2024

Woman's Club of Lacey, Inc

The Woman's Club of Lacey is always active in a variety of projects supporting Civic Engagement and Outreach.

Veterans' Support

In May ten members 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 and placed a wreath honoring and mourning the US military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. An afternoon barbeque was held afterwards.

The Woman's Club of Lacey supports the Vetworks 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.

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 10th year participating in the annual Lacey Day. Club members man a table displaying the Club banner, meet the public, and distribute information about the Woman's Club. We were proudly among the 500 participants.

Clothing Drives

Members of the Environmental Department teamed up with residents of the Pheasant Run Homeowners Association in Forked River to collect new and gently-used winter coats. Ladies', men's and children's coats were accepted for the One Warm Coat organization. Members collected the coats at general meetings and at a collection bin placed at the Lacey Recreation Building. A total of 153 coats were collected and shipped to One Warm Coat in time for the start of winter weather.

Emergency Preparedness

At the general meeting in September, members were educated on how to use the ICE (In Case of Emergency) feature on their cell phones. The Club also created an updated emergency which is now displayed at all functions members attend. Members were also educated on how to create a "GO BAG" to have on hand in the event they may need to evacuate in the event of a fire, flooding and/or hurricane.

First Responder Support

The Woman's Club of Lacey makes yearly donations to the Fire Departments and EMS stations in Lacey Township totaling \$500. These donations were made in May.

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 was 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 cans of tuna and miscellaneous food items to the general meeting for donation to the food bank. Over the course of 2024, members donated over 900 cans of tuna and miscellaneous food items. The Lacey Food Bank has come to rely on the Woman's Club of Lacey for these items on a monthly basis.

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. WCOL were able to collect and stuff 67 stockings as our contribution and support for our United States Military Forces serving overseas through Operation NJ Cares.

Intergenerational Community Projects

Club members collaborate with the Lacey School District 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.

Scouting Support

In November nine members of the Woman's Club of Lacey enjoyed a brunch hosted by the Girl Scout Troop 478 at the Lacey United Methodist Church. The event allowed the 5th grade girls to complete the *Social Butterfly Badge*. This badge explores conversation starters, table manners, behavior on special occasions, and the importance of thank you notes. Additionally, members worked with the girls making a holiday craft.

Wreaths Across America

In 2024, The Woman's Club of Lacey became a sponsorship club for Wreaths Across America. For each wreath sold under the Club's name, \$5 was returned to the Club. A total of 43 wreaths were sold and placed on the graves of fallen veterans at the Good Luck Cemetery in Lanoka Harbor. The proceeds of \$215.00 were dedicated to the Club's general fund.

After a heartwarming ceremony on Dec 14th, 2024, the wreaths were placed on the graves of all deceased veterans laid to rest at the Good Luck Cemetery in Lanoka Harbor. The distribution and laying of wreaths were coordinated with members of Woman's Club of Lacey, residents from Pheasant Run Adult Community and Girl Scout Troop 478.

Tree Lighting

In December, Lacey United Methodist Church sponsored the *Winter Wonderland Tree Lighting Ceremony* where community organizations throughout the Lacey were invited to decorate a tree. Members committee Woman's Club of Lacey decorated a Christmas tree in pink to represent the Club. Christmas music played as hot chocolate and cookies were enjoyed by all.