**FUNDRAISING – NARRATIVE REPORT 2024**

**WOMAN’S CLUB OF LACEY, INC.**

**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. 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 2024, the profit from this fundraiser 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 2024, $1,200 was raised and used toward the Lacey Township School District’s second decompression room for autistic children.

**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. The many beautiful baskets provided in 2024 brought in $1,600 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 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 2024, $3,200 was collected to benefit the general fund.

**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.

**Performance Trips**

The members of the Woman’s Club of Lacey enjoy the local theater performances. Several trips to were planned in 2024 including: two shows at the Ocean County College Grunin Theater to see a Doo Wop Show (which has Club members dancing in the aisles) and Big Band Sentimental Journey. Three other shows were attended at the Surflight Theater with dinner afterwards including South Pacific, Footloose and Miracle on 34th Street. The cost of each of these outings was increased by $10 earmarked for fundraising. In 2024, a total of $400 was raised to benefit the general fund.

**Tricky Tray Event**

A Tricky Tray event was held after the January, 2024 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 $\_\_\_ 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 NJSFWC special state project. If a member so desires to donate, her yearbook is stamped with a pink smiley face ☺. In 2024, members contributed $430 to this effort.