

GFWC PROGRESS CLUB OF LAS CRUCES

Summer/Fall 2023

MEMBER RECOGNITION



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

The Friends of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

July 2023 Vol. 47, Issue 3

A TRIBUTE TO JO BANKS

The Board of the Friends wants to extend a very warm, sincere, and heartfelt "thank you" to Jo Banks, who retired from her position as Membership Chair at the end of May.

Jo Banks joined the Friends of TBM Library in 2006 and has been an integral part of the organization over the years. Her dedication to the Friends is reflected in her Life Membership as well as the countless hours she has spent recruiting volunteers for Book Sales and volunteering herself as a cashier.

During her tenure as Membership Chair, the number of Friends increased, due in no small part to Jo's recruiting efforts. For example, she added the GFWC Progress Club as a Proud Patron and many GFWC Progress Club members became new Friends because of Jo. The recent "\$5 Matching Membership Campaign" was Jo's initiative and was successful in encouraging many renewals and new memberships. There is little doubt that a significant percentage of the current members are Jo's recruits!

Although she is stepping back from her formal role as Membership Chair, Jo has promised to continue to serve the Friends in an advisory capacity (much to the relief of the relative newcomers on the Board!). Jo has been, and continues to be, a loyal Friend, a tireless worker, and a dedicated supporter of the Friends' mission. We cannot begin to thank her enough for all her contributions.



Officers

Lynda St. Clair, Vice President
Sally Kohl, Secretary
Dennis Morin, Treasurer

Chairs

John Jaffe, Media
Bonnie Poloner, Book Sales
Dolores Tellez, Events
Susan Ansara, Author Talks

Members-at-Large

Mark Hohnstreiter
Mona Charney



MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library help the public library serve the community by providing funding, advocacy, programming services, and materials.

Left: Jo Banks during Library Week 2021, passing out cookies and encouraging library patrons to join the Friends. Word has it that it was Jo who successfully enticed past-president John Jaffe to join the Friends during a prior Library Week Cookie Event.

<http://libraryfriendslc.org>

5

Article from The Friends of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library Newsletter

in the past 11 years to several graduate students as they worked toward their Master's degrees. Jo then helped start "La Bodega", a food bank which was run by the St Albert the Great parish from 2000 until 2020 when parishioners were requested to continue their grocery contributions to NMSU Food Pantry. As well as joining the GFWC Progress Club, she expanded her volunteer work with the Book Store at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library by joining the "Friends" board as Membership Chair in 2006. Last but not least, she discovered the "Young at Heart" Chorus in 2006. They perform at the Nursing and Retirement Homes singing "Oldies but Goodies" mostly from the 1920's to the 1940's. In every instance, she has gained every bit as much as she contributed mostly by acquiring an amazing group of friends and acquaintances. This may happen everywhere but the "Volunteer Spirit" & all it means - lives and thrives in Las Cruces.

Jo Banks not only served as the Membership Chair for The Friends of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library but has also been a member of Progress Club of Las Cruces since 2002. She has been the club's Library Chair and Friendship Chair for many years.

She was raised, educated, married and began her teaching career and her family in Davenport, Iowa, where the Mississippi River flows from East to West. She chose to give up her career to raise four children. They moved to Roswell, NM in 1976 when she became active in the PTA, began her "volunteer career" and was a substitute librarian until her youngest son went to Middle School. She then returned to the classroom as a 6th grade then 3rd grade teacher. 17 years later, she retired along with her husband (he was a 30 yr. High School Guidance Counselor). They then followed their children to Las Cruces where the two of them still live as well as 3 of their 6 grandchildren. The 5th Great-grandchild joined her family this past May.

Jo learned of the GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces and knew their many areas of interest were in great part also hers. Her husband Bill, passed away in 2005 and her second daughter in 2010. She, like her, was able to stay home and raise her 2 boys. As they grew older she returned to NMSU for a Masters Degree in Education and became a teacher in the Gifted Students Program.

Jo learned from Jennifer Cervantes of the endowment scholarship program and established the Jean Banks Apodaca Endowed Scholarship for returning students. It has provided assistance



GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces



www.GFWCnm.org



www.gfwc.org

FRIENDSGIVING

An appreciation happy hour was given on June 23rd for the generous supporters of our annual golf outing fundraiser. We invited our top sponsors from last year's tournament to thank them and see how we can help promote their business in our PR efforts. We also asked their input on how we might improve our annual golf tournament.

Those that were invited were Cavill & Company (Ron Cavill - Platinum sponsor); Metal Craft (Carla McMillan) and Darin Manes Farmers Agency - Gold Sponsors; Bank of the Southwest (DeAnn Rocha - Silver sponsor); and our Dinner sponsors: NAI 1st Valley (Jacob Slavic); Ashley Furniture (Wanda Bowman); Dental Associates (Dr. David Sudimack); Kids Kare (Dr. Mark Wolfe), American Linen (Tina and Mike Lutz); and Prosper Real Estate (Mike Carpenter).



A Big Thanks!

You have been so generous in supporting the GFWC Progress Club, so we want to give back to you.

Join us for happy hour and share how we can help promote your business in our PR efforts. We also want your input on how we might improve our annual golf tournament. Your ideas are important to us!

Friday, June 23rd, 2023
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Picacho Hills Country Club

RSVP regrets only
949-232-3284 (text or call)

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Every year the Arts and Culture Committee of Progress Club of Las Cruces donates \$250 to Dona Ana Arts Council for Missoula Children's Theatre. This goes towards registration for children to participate in the workshop. It is a one-week rehearsal process for an original Missoula Children's Theatre musical culminating in performances. Camps are Monday through Friday with performances on Saturday. All children who participate in an audition, are cast in a role, and perform in the show.

The Missoula Children's Theatre gave a performance of The Little Mermaid at Farm and Ranch during the week of July 10th. A huge thank you to our members who were able to check students in and out and also for selling tickets for the performances on July 15, 2023. Those members were: Lynda St. Clair, Inge Peter, Rita Suina, Margaret Beck, Chayo Garcia, Lynn Mulholland, Jo Banks, Jeanne Sepiol, Janelle Welch, Joan Worden, Val Redington, Mahli Michael and Minel Schlaefli.



Children performers from The Little Mermaid play.

COMMUNICATIONS



Las Cruces, NM
Sunday, July 9, 2023
8:00 AM
Website: www.bulletin.com

THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin



Progress Club 2022-23 donations reach almost \$50,000

Posted Thursday, July 6, 2023 1:42 pm

By Mike Cook

The Progress Club of Las Cruces made \$47,152 in direct donations to about two dozen programs benefiting children and education, veterans and people affected by domestic violence, as well as health and wellness, the environment and arts and culture.

The Progress Club also made in-kind donations during the fiscal year valued at \$111,146, and contributed more than 40,000 volunteer hours, the club said in a report issued during a June donors reception at Picacho Hills Country Club.

Local beneficiaries of direct and in-kind donations during the year included the Children's Reading Alliance, Asombro Institute of Education, La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Service, Families and Youth, Inc.'s My Friends Place emergency youth shelter, 4 Paws and a Wake Up, Christ Child Society Layette Shower providing clothing and supplies for new mothers, the Doña Ana Arts Council's Missoula Children's Theatre, La Casa Domestic Violence Program, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College.

The club also donated gift cards for veterans and supported veterans' honor flights, volunteered at local schools and at the Asombro Institute, purchased books for school libraries and volunteered at DACC's Renaissance Arts Faire.

Club history

The club celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015 but got its start when the Women's Improvement Association was formed in 1894 by five Las Cruces women who wanted to help provide services to the community the city was not providing, according to club records. At the time, the women were riding behind a coal wagon taking the body of a friend of theirs to a local cemetery. Their first goal was to buy a hearse for the community. That commitment to serve evolved into the Progress Club of Las Cruces' mission of "living the volunteer spirit."

Coming up

The Progress Club's annual fundraising golf tournament will be Oct. 7 in Las Cruces.

Join the club

Membership is open to all women. Dues are \$40 a year. To become a club member and/or to make a donation to the club, contact Belen Valenzuela at 575-496-4292 and belens8@yahoo.com.

Visit www.facebook.com/ProgressClubofLasCruces.

Article from The Las Cruces Bulletin

9/11 REMEMBRANCE

Various members distributed microwave popcorn to all Las Cruces Fire Stations in honor of 9/11.

Progress Club of Las Cruces wanted to show their appreciation so they gave each station ten microwavable popcorn packets with the note attached that read "This may sound Corney but we just wanted to Pop by and say thank you for everything that you do!"

Members went to the following fire stations:

Station 1: 201 E Picacho Ave

Station 2: 1199 E Foster Road

Station 3: 390 Valley Drive

Station 4: 2802 E Missouri Ave

Station 5: 5998 Bataan Memorial

Station 6: 2750 Northrise

Station 7: 1050 Crawford Boulevard

Station 8: 550 N Sonoma Blvd.

New Mexico State University: 1510 Wells St

East Mesa: 6900 Moongate Road

Station 12: Fairacres 5208 Quesenberry Lane

Station 13: South Valley 1801 Carver Road

Station 15: Las Alturas 4145 Cholla Road

Station 20: Talavera 8500 Achenbach Canyon Road

The Firemen were very appreciative that we acknowledged them and their service.



L to R: Laura Crews-Carreon and President Minel Schlaefli getting popcorn bags ready.



L to R: President Minel Schlaefli, Laura Crews-Carreon and Debbie McAllen with the finished product!



L to R: Inge Peter and Arnold Diaz a volunteer fireman for Las Alturas Fire Station



Mary Underwood went to Station 1 and 7



Ali Pagel went to Station 4



Minel Schlaefli at Station 5



Mary Wilke at Station 6



Susan Smith at Mesilla Fire Station



Kathleen Foreman and Susan Smith went to Station 3

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Recognition was given to members for their years of volunteering and giving back to the Las Cruces community and to the GFWC organization during the September general meeting. Five years of service went to Kathleen Foreman, Susan Smith, and Belen Valenzuela. Ten years of service went to Club President Minel Schlaefli.



L to R: Club Secretary Susan Smith, Member Kathleen Foreman, Club Treasurer Belen Valenzuela, Club President Minel Schlaefli and Club President Elect Chayo Garcia who pinned these ladies for their years of service.

The program for September was listening to the experience our LEAD candidate Debbie Campbell had at the annual convention in Louisville, Kentucky. She shared how honored she was to be the LEADS representative for 2023-24 & is looking forward to attending the District conventions to share the impact a LEADS candidate can make in the organization. She expressed how she didn't understand how some of the functions within the organization were necessary until she attended the workshop and everything tied itself together. She also encouraged members to take the step towards leadership.



Debbie Campbell with GFWC President International Deb Strahanowski receiving her LEADS pin and certificate.

NATIONAL DAY OF SELF AWARENESS

National Day of Self Awareness was September 26, 2023. Self awareness enables an individual to consciously know and comprehend their personality, emotions, motivations and desires. It is the recognition of one's cognizance or the awareness of one's environment, body, and lifestyle.

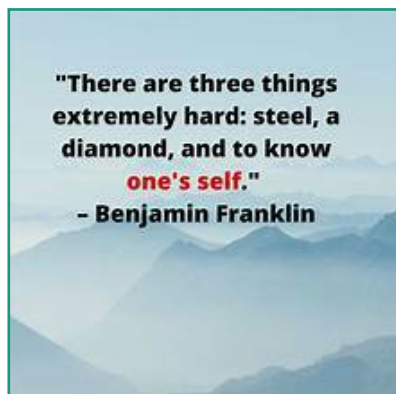
According to a news article from Newsd, they wrote:

What are the advantages of having self-awareness? It makes a leader significantly more effective, which is why it is one of the most sought-after leadership qualities. It teaches leaders critical reasoning, decision-making, attentiveness, and compassion.

Why is self-awareness so necessary? Self-awareness improves your understanding of yourself, allowing you to better comprehend others.

Why is self-awareness essential for personal development?

Self-awareness enables you to identify your strengths and weaknesses. It also teaches you how to identify what you need to enhance your way of life.



Courtesy of Damsel in Defense Company



NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE - SEPTEMBER 30

The General Federation of Women's Clubs announced the kickoff of the inaugural National Day of Service, spotlighting food insecurity and hunger in the United States. They asked the clubs in every state to participate in this event. By participating, we are helping to increase public awareness and to provide food resources to residents/families in our communities.

Progress Club of Las Cruces put an announcement into the Bulletin Newspaper to get the whole community of Las Cruces involved in bringing healthy snacks for the teenager shelter as well as our Community of Hope homeless shelter. A list of items were given and Progress Club members sat out front the WIA building on September 30th collecting items that were being donated.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 34 million people in the U.S. are food insecure, 9 million children are hungry, 53 million people turned to food banks following Covid-19 due to unemployment, and 100 percent of U.S. counties have families suffering from food insecurity.

Progress Club collected 315 pounds of food which was distributed to our youth throughout Las Cruces. Food went to La Pinon, Boys and Girls, Teen Connection and Weed and Seed.



Teen Connection L to R: Laura Carreon, Alexis Mejias, Stephanie Lopez, Michael Cicunio



Boys and Girls Club



Weed and Seed



La Pinon



Community Involvement: Bike riders who gave a check L to R: Laura Carreon, Margie Herberger and Janella Welch



Laura Carreon with items dropped off at Club President Minel Schlaefli's home



Minel Schlaefli accepting Karan Lewis donation



Lynda St. Clair dropping off her donation

9TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 7, 2023

THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin

By Debbie Campbell, GFWC Progress Club of [Las Cruces](#)

It was a beautiful day at Picacho Hills Country Club for the ninth annual golf tournament, hosted Oct. 7 at Picacho Hills Country Club by GFWC Progress Club of [Las Cruces](#). 84 golfers on 21 teams registered to play and it was a successful day for all involved.

This is the major fundraiser for GFWC Progress Club and this year, 87 sponsors, along with the golfers, donated more than \$40,000. After expenses, \$34,727 will help nonprofits in the Las Cruces area.

The Progress Club focuses on charities such as La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services, Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico, 4 Paws and a Wake Up, La Casa, Inc. domestic violence program, veterans, New Mexico State University, Doña Ana Community College, and others.

The platinum title sponsor again this year was Cavill & Company. Gold sponsors were Metal Craft and Ashley Furniture. Silver sponsors were Farm Bureau Financial Services, Bank of the Southwest, and Household Furniture. Dinner sponsors were American Linen, Prosper Real Estate, Dental Associates and Waterstone Mortgage. Cart sponsors were Darin Manes Farmers Insurance, Law Offices of Dana Kyle and David Hill Financial. NAI 1st Valley sponsored a golf team so veterans could play – and the veterans team won the tournament!

"The generosity that these businesses show toward the Las Cruces community is overwhelming," said tournament chair Mary Wilke.

At the foundation of the fundraising efforts are the event's hole sponsorships, which this year included 24 Progress Club members and 50 businesses: Arthritis Treatment Specialists, Be Local Publication, Becki Thomas, Big Picture Digital Image Experts, Billy the Kid Hair Salon, Citizens Bank, Color Bar & Hair Studio, Coyote Traders, Daniel Buck, Dickerson's Catering, The Game, The Game II, Dobrandt Realty, Dr. Antoinette Green, Elevated Solutions, Elias Elizalde - Exit Realty Horizons, Experience Mesilla, Dr. Rodger Lewis, InstaCopy, Jimmy Michael, John Papen, KidsKare, Las Cruces Coins & Collectibles, Malooly's Flooring, MDC Computers, Mesilla Valley Insurance Group, Mike's Blinds, Moore Insurance Services, Nathaniel May - Exit Realty Horizons, Martin Realty, Picture Frame Outlet & Gallery, Prosper Real Estate, Quintana Garage Doors, Jeffery Bowers, OD, Elaine Brown, REMAX Realty, Route 54 Home Décor, Salud de Mesilla, Santa Fe Boutique Wines, Schwalm, Martos & Co., PC, Luis Quiterio - Select Realty Group, Stroll Magazine, Susan Lee Stevens & Harold Herring, Historic Mesilla Valley Magazine, The Patio Store of El Paso, Threadbear Fabrics, Throat Punch Performance and Weave Us Alone.

Posted, Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 1:49 pm.

Article written in *The Bulletin*
Newspaper



L to R: Laura Crews-Carreón, Chayo García, Fundraiser Chair Mary Wilke, Ron Cavill, and Debbie Bailey by the Silent Auction Items



L to R: Robert Hall, Tina Lutz, Mike Lutz, and Richard Wilbee



SWINGING INTO ACTION

9th Annual Golf Tournament

BY PICACHO NEIGHBOR SALLY KOHL AND CONTENT MANAGER OLIVIA MORITZ

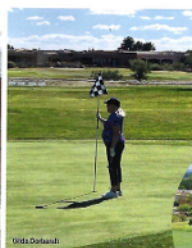
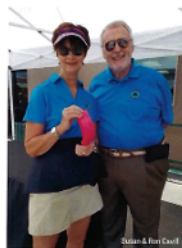
Saturday, October 7 was a beautiful day at Pico Hills Country Club. GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces hosted its 9th Annual Golf Tournament and the event was a whopping success! Mary Wilke, Tournament Chair, said "This is the major fundraiser for GFWC Progress Club and this year, 87 sponsors, along with golfers, donated \$460,000". After golf expenses, \$34,727, will be used for helping non-profit organizations in the Las Cruces area. This year's tournament benefited veterans in our community, as well as a variety of Las Cruces charities and organizations, including La Pasa, 4 Paws and a Wake Up, La Casa, NMSU, DACG, Honor Flight, and others. Golfers (22 teams) and volunteers from across the city and beyond showed up to show their support and have a total blast. Just in time to celebrate Veteran's Day, a significant donation was made to Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico, providing more veterans from our community with this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's all about giving back. In the

spirit of giving, we'd like to give a big shout-out to all of the sponsors and volunteers of the event, including our very own Stroll and BeLocal sponsors. This event would not have been a success without you!



Ed and Beth Kuffner Gilchrist Hall



PLATINUM SPONSOR

• Ron Cavill, Carill & Company

GOLD SPONSORS

• Wendy Bowman, Ashley Furniture HomeStore
• Carla McMillan, Metal Craft Co.

SILVER SPONSORS

• Alex Jaffee, Household Furniture
• DeAnn Rocha, Bank of the Southwest
• Javier Correa & Evan Narvaez, Farm Bureau Financial Services

DINNER SPONSORS

• Kyle Merhege, American Linen & Uniform Supply
• Dr. David Sallamack, Dental Associates
• Michael Carpenter, Prosper Real Estate
• Vicki Lucero, Waterstone Mortgage

CART SPONSORS

• David Hill, David Hill Financial
• Derin Messer, The Davis Maes Farmers Insurance Agency

HOLE SPONSORS

We live in such a giving community. The number of hole sponsors is so large we cannot list them here but if you were a hole sponsor of this event, the Progress Club expresses its sincere gratitude to you for your ongoing support of this event.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR STROLL AND BELOCAL SPONSORS

Among the many generous sponsors for this event, let's give a special shout-out to our publication sponsors.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

• Cavill & Company
• Wendy Bowman, Ashley Furniture HomeStore
• Carla McMillan, Metal Craft Co.
• Colour Bar
• Coyote Traders
• The Game Bar & Restaurant
• Quintana Garage Doors
• Elaine Brown Remax Realty
• BeLocal Las Cruces
• Stroll Las Cruces

CASH DONATIONS
• Margie Herberger

Stroll Sonoma Ranch 21



Susan Cavill and her dog Pippa rooting golfers to make the putt

The GFWC Progress Club is an organization of women working to improve our community by living the volunteer spirit. This year's tournament raised over \$41,000. With the funds raised, the Club will increase the amount they give to their scholarships and help more veterans as well as continue to support many worthwhile causes in Las Cruces.

GOLF COMMITTEE
Mary Wilke, Cathy Barn, Debbie Coughlin, Chayo Garcia, Leona Crews, Sally Kohl, Jeanne Siegel, Missi Schlessel and Eden Valenzuela



Any contribution is community support that you want to share it to support our mission. Please contact us at 505.625.1234 or visit our website at www.gfwc.org



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HEALTHY YOU, HEALTHY COMMUNITY

NEIGHBORHOOD GOLFERS SWING INTO ACTION TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY AT THE PROGRESS CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT.

9th Annual Golf Tournament

BY PICHACHO NEIGHBOR SALLY KOHL AND CONTENT MANAGER OLIVIA MORITZ

Saturday, October 7 was a beautiful day at Picocho Hills Country Club. GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces hosted its 9th Annual Golf Tournament and the event was a whopping success! Mary Wilke, Tournament Chair, said "This is the major fundraiser for GFWC Progress Club and this year, 87 sponsors, along with golfers, donated \$40,000+. After golf expenses, \$34,737, will be used for helping non-profit organizations in the Las Cruces area." This year's tournament benefited veterans in our community, as well as a variety of Las Cruces charities and organizations, including La Piñon, 4 Paws and a Wake Up, La Casa, NMSU, DACC, Honor Flight, and others. Golfers (22 teams!) and volunteers from across the city and beyond showed up to show their support and have a total blast. Just in time to celebrate Veteran's Day, a significant donation was made to Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico, providing more veterans from our community with this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

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Carla McMillan, Metal Craft Co.

SILVER SPONSORS

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DeAnn Rocha, Bank of the Southwest
Javier Correa & Evan Narvaez, Farm Bureau Financial Services Dinner Sponsors
Kyle Merhege, American Linen & Uniform Supply
Dr. David Sudlmack, Dental Associates
Michael Carpenter, Prosper Real Estate
Vicki Lucero, Waterstone Mortgage

CART SPONSORS

David Hill, David Hill Financial
Darin Manes, The Darin Manes Farmers Insurance Agency



Zena Koshirami, Rosanna Corley, Vicki Rodriguez, Val Redington



Karen Lewis and Mendi Schaffel



Margie Harberger, Dorcas Laffont, Judy Luback and Lynn Ziemert



Farm Bureau team: Javier Correa, Evan Narvaez and his father Evan A. Narvaez

HOLE SPONSORS

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- Carla McMillan, Metal Craft Co.
- Colour Bar
- Coyote Traders
- The Game Bar & Restaurant
- Quintana Garage Doors
- Elaine Brown Remax Realty
- BeLocal Las Cruces
- Stroll Las Cruces

CASH DONATIONS

Margie Herberger

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they give to their scholarships and help more veterans as well as continue to support many worthwhile causes in Las Cruces.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Mary Wilke, Cathy Burn, Debbie Campbell, Chayo Garcia, Laura Crews, Sally Kohl, Jeanne Sepiol, Mirel Schaeffli and Belen Valenzuela

Are you involved in a community organization that you want to shine a light on? Contact Tamara Almer @tamara.almer@stroll.com and we'll make it happen.



Gilda Dorbanat



Eileen and Ron Cetti



Sally Kohl and a lot of golf carts!



Laura Crews-Corson, Chayo Garcia, Mary Wilke, Ron Cavill, Debbie Bailey



Honor Flight Recipients



Kal and Beth Hoffman, Gillian Hall

25 Baldy Peak Way
FERRED AT \$799,990



Elaine Brown,
Associate Broker

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Las Cruces, NM 88011
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L to R: Belen Valenzuela, Sally Kohl, and Debbie Campbell



Silent Auction Items

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING



Nicole Martinez, Director of Community of Hope

Nicole Martinez, Director of Community of Hope came to present. Community of Hope started out as a day shelter back in the 1990's. Currently it has become a campus of organizations which include Casa De Peregrinos, Amador Health Center, and Jardin de los Ninos serving people who are experiencing poverty or homelessness. Camp Hope (tent city) currently houses 5 homeless vets and can occupy 50 people per night on a first come first serve basis. A Mano y Mano labor program which provides people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerabilities, such as being a veteran, mental illness or disability are being paid daily to do day work beautifying the city of Las Cruces, including trash pick-up, gardening, and cleaning up public parks. She thanked Progress Club for all the previous support and will be looking for volunteers to put structures together for tent city along with welcoming kits such as cleaning supplies to outfit future apartment units.



Photo Courtesy of Las Cruces Bulletin



Mary Wilke recognized her fundraising committee for an excellent job everyone did. She also made a special recognition to Inge Peter for having the vision to start a golf tournament as a fundraiser and how it has grown from there. This year's tournament brought in \$40,625.00 for total income, and after expenses the profit was \$34,797.93. President Minel Schlaefli thanked Mary Wilke, Deb Campbell and Belen Valenzuela for an outstanding golf tournament.

L to R: Deb Campbell, Mary Wilke, Belen Valenzuela

VETERANS DAY



Hygiene kits for Homeless Veterans

In honor of our Veterans, Progress Club of Las Cruces donated hygiene kits for our homeless at the Community of Hope. The Community of Hope serves the homeless and near-homeless population. They provide a number of services from housing to case management to helping house veterans. They have an ongoing rental assistance and supportive services for Veterans at a 20-unit complex. Assistance is available to homeless vets for security deposit, first month's rent, and utility assistance. Community of Hope also has a tent city called Camp Hope. This is for members of the community currently experiencing homelessness and is located at the Community of Hope campus which provides a safe place for homeless residents to stay while they transition to housing. Campground amenities include a full service bathroom, kitchen, and 3-sided structures on 50 tent pad sites.

The hygiene kits consisted of 2 pairs of socks, some Cottonelle wipes, shaving cream, razor, toothpaste and toothbrush, comb, shampoo, deodorant, and body wash.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING



Judy Davis talking about the book called The Power of Days by Celeste Mergens

The speaker for November General Meeting was Judy Davis from Days for Girls. Menstrual health and hygiene are critical factors in improving education opportunities and livelihood outcomes for women, girls and people with periods worldwide.

Days for Girls began in 2008 when Founder, Celeste Mergens, was working with a foundation in Kenya assisting an orphanage in the outskirts of Nairobi. When inquiring about the menstrual health practices of the many girls at the orphanage, Celeste learned that many were sitting on cardboard in their rooms for several days each month - often going without food unless someone would bring it to them. This set into motion her first intervention: disposable pads.

The Days for Girls (DfG) Pad is a washable, reusable, beautiful menstrual health product that's built to last. Their patented design, which includes a protective shield and absorbent liner, is backed by the latest menstrual health research and a decade of feedback from women around the world. It is a truly sustainable solution that menstruators can count on month after month, for up to three years.

Celeste Mergens wrote a book called The Power of Days which is the story of one woman's path to create a grassroots effort that has now helped nearly 3 million women and girls in 145 countries and 6 continents - and isn't stopping there.

Each girl is given a pair of panties, washcloth, soap, absorbent liners, waterproof shields, a care and use sheet in a carry pouch for washing and storing.

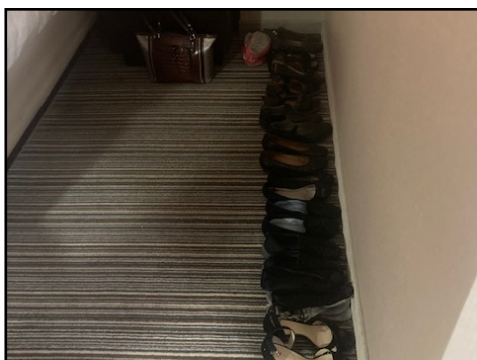


The Days for Girls (DfG) Pad hygiene kit



Judy Davis explaining what is put in each hygiene/menstrual kit

WHO' WHO: THE GFWC OVER ACHIEVER FOR MOST SHOES



For a two day conference, you never can be too prepared. Every club needs a member who goes beyond in more ways than one. Whether it's bringing ten pairs of black shoes for a 2 day conference or going beyond the call of duty in fundraising, this member brings her beautiful smile, magnetic, and charismatic persona in everything she does.

Can you guess which Progress Club member this is?

Mary Wilke

DONATIONS MADE IN NOVEMBER



Gabriela Franco of Asombro Institute accepts 11 binoculars donated by GFWC Progress Club. The binoculars will be used primarily for kindergarten and first graders on field trips.

Asombro Institute for Science Education is a nonprofit dedicated to increasing natural science literacy with our youth.

Art materials were donated to La Pinion for children to express themselves on canvas. Their art work will displayed in there intake room and along the hallways.

A donation of \$1000 was also made for them to use for items not covered by grant money such as Thanksgiving baskets for families who are dealing with sexual assault.

L to R: Kaylan, Veronica, Julie, Angelica, Isabela, NM State President Val Redington, Progress Club President Minel Schlaefli, Debra, Lisa, and Jordan

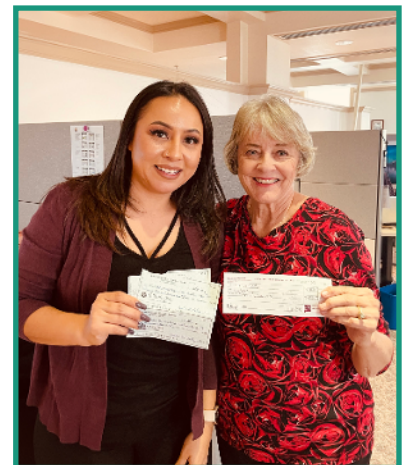


Donation of \$2000 to New Mexico State University STEM program

Middle to R: Education Chair Mary Underwood, Wanda Bulger Tamar (Director of STEM program)



Donations were made to New Mexico State University \$2000 for nursing scholarship plus \$400 for books or extra expenses, \$2000 for Bernice Wright Scholarship and \$1000 for Dona Ana Community College for Trades Program.



L to R: Eileen Montoya NMSU Foundation and Mary Underwood

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to our golf sponsors

Members of the golf fundraiser committee got together to make 25 loaves of bread to give to our generous golf sponsors. Jeanne Sepiol made cards that read "You are the Bread and Butter of our community. Thank you for your support this year!" Debbie Campbell and Mary Wilke went around delivering these to the businesses.



Ron Cavill from Cavill & Company



DeAnn Rocha, from Bank of the Southwest



Javiar Correa, Farm Bureau Financial Services



Carla McMillian, Metal Craft Co.

Christmas Luncheon



GFWC Progress Club Members 2023

WORD FROM CLUB PRESIDENT BY MINEL SCHLAEFLI



GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces meets every 2nd Friday of the month at 11:00 am during the months of September through May. The meetings are held at the WIA building at 340 N. Raymond, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

PROGRESS CLUB MEETINGS:

For more information, contact our Membership Chair Debby Fleming at debbyfleming@comcast.net



My Community Project was to focus on Children's Advocacy and I must say I am proud of all that we did my first year as Club President. Our club was able to deliver stuffed animals to La Pinon, the only full-service sexual assault response agency in Southern New Mexico; provide \$3,057 worth of baby items to Christ Child for layette items to moms in need; obtained a proclamation in April declaring Child Abuse Awareness Month by the City of Las Cruces; sponsored 600+ Pinwheels on behalf of the campaign to bring awareness to Child Abuse here in Dona Ana County; helped support Asombro by judging in their Desert Data Jam competition; provided monies to Our Friends Place to purchase snacks or items for their "Reward" program that is not covered by grant money; provided funds for the NMSU GALS STEM program for girls in 9th -12th grade, that consist of scientific lessons, discussions, hands-on environmental investigation and experimentation, and small group activities all while backpacking through the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico; and donated \$2500 towards our New Mexico State President Project called Camp Enchantment a week-long camp for children with cancer or in survivorship from cancer.



*GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces
President, Minel Schlaefli*

I am excited to continue focusing on our teens and their emotional well being as part of Children's Advocacy. We are looking forward in donating canvases and paints to La Pinon so that children can express their feelings through Art; supplying fidgets for children that are experiencing sexual assault; journals for children to write about their feelings; and to participate in the National Day of Service, in which we will be collecting healthy snacks for teens from our community and club to give to our homeless teenagers at Our Friend's Place.

Respectfully Your President,
Minel Schlaefli

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2024



*President, Minel Schlaefli
lucky_kamel_lady@yahoo.com*



*President Elect, Chayo Garcia
garciachayo3@gmail.com*



*Treasurer, Belen Valenzuela
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*Recording Secretary, Susan Smith
susancleve@msn.com*



*Corresponding Secretary, Robin Cline
robin93056@yahoo.com*



*Parliamentary Advisor, Mary Underwood
munderwood5610@yahoo.com*

Dates to Remember.....

- March 8, 2004 - Women's History
- April 23-29, 2024 - Volunteers in Action Week
- April 24, 2024 - GFWC Federation Day
- April 26-27, 2024 - New Mexico State Convention - Portales, NM
- June 27-July 3, 2024 - GFWC Annual Convention - Hilton Chicago
- September 6, 2024 - Progress Club Board of Directors meeting
- September 13, 2024 - Progress Club General meeting
- October 18-19, 2024 - District IV Convention - Silver City, NM