



GFWC

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

INDIANA

135th ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 4-5, 2025

WINNERS
&
WHY

Arts and Culture.....Chair- Sandy Christofanelli

Civic Engagement and Outreach.....Chair- Laura Grolla

Communications and Public Relations.....Chair- Patty Rusin

Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prev.....Chair- Malinda Bradley

Education and Libraries.....Chair- Lucy Devine

Environment.....Chair- Sandy Cortelloni

ESO.....Chair- Tric Heepe

Fundraising and Development.....Chair- Susan Stevens

Health and Wellness.....Chair- Judy Kappes

Juniors Special Project: Advocates for Children.....Chair- Rene Sims

Leadership.....Chair- Marianne McCombs

Legislation and Public Policy.....Chair- Peggy Lykins

Membership.....Chair- Joan Cannon and Sherry Dusko

Women's History and Resource Center.....Chair- Christy Fincey

Based on Club Membership Reported with 2024 Dues Payment

Large Clubs are 16 Members or More

Small Clubs are 15 Members or Less

Arts Culture Program
Chair-Sandy Christofanelli

Large Clubs

1st Place- Munster Junior Woman's Club - An ongoing project for the Munster Juniors is the **Women's Association of Northwest Indiana Symphony Society (WANISS) "2024 Festival of Trees"** which is held at the Center for Performing Arts in Munster from the end of November through December 31st. The **Munster Junior Woman's Club** entered a tree featuring collected toys to be donated to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The club was motivated to contribute after hearing the representative from the organization speak at one of their monthly meetings. Visitors could vote for their favorite trees by casting votes for \$1 each. Donations went to WANISS. Our beautiful tree and its message about MJWC continue to educate others about charities that need help in the area. MJWC donated approximately \$2,500 in-kind from 717 toys turned in!! **The Munster Junior Woman's Club** purchased 1,000 heavy duty lunch bags for Meals on Wheels, which they decorated individually. When MJWC members deliver Meals on wheels in our colorful bags – it is so special to see the smiles it brings to our clients. Many clients save those bags and display them on their walls. The MJWC members also colored bags with students at the Grade school Snow flurry event. The Munster Juniors support the Muster Band program by donating \$500. They also gave Top 20 Inc. Dance Group a \$200 Donation. The club also donated \$250 to The Towle Theater, which supports the arts with grants and donations.

2nd Place – GFWC Northwest Indiana Woman's Club – Meals on Wheels was the lucky recipient of beautiful made hand-made Valentine's Day cards that were given out on Meals on Wheels deliveries – to each family/house. The club purchased construction paper and supplies for the cards. Members brought glue sticks, markers and colored pencils to create the cards. Members donated stickers, ribbons, stamps and more for 15 members to create these personalized cards. The recipients of the cards were overjoyed to receive a beautiful card with their meal.

3rd Place – GFWC Fayette County ESO Club - The members of the **GFWC Fayette County ESO Club** dedicate a portion of each meeting to discuss their current projects. They all report some sort of crafting or creative project at least monthly. One member made 19 teddy bears that were sold at the Whitewater Valley Arts Association, with 20% of the sale price donated to the WVAA. She also makes bears for friends out of clothing that belonged to deceased friends and family. Two members continue

working with stained glass, making and selling an ever-growing assortment of glass ornaments and magnets. One member is constantly putting together puzzles. She always has at least one in progress, and they 1,000 plus pieces. Themes vary from flowers to reproductions of the Masters to Frank Lloyd Wright designs. One member spends time painting and making crafts from recyclable household items. These ladies are a creative bunch and are very busy keeping their creative juices flowing. They are each other's cheerleaders! Members report at meetings about their memberships and leadership positions in various organizations that are involved in the arts.

Small Clubs

1st Place- Lowell Woman's Club – The club handcrafted over 200 cards throughout the year for our Veterans and for those receiving meals through the Meals on Wheels program in our area. Cards were created and delivered for Valentine's Day, Easter, Veteran's Day, and Christmas. At the end of the Summer Reading Program at the local library, the children are asked to draw a picture of their favorite book read that summer. A few members donated their time to help during the art show after the Summer Reading Program and helped with setting up, serving refreshments, and clean up. The club created and donated coloring sheets for the local Pumpkin Fest. Members of our club also spent the day making ornaments with children at the town's Winterfest celebration. The club hosted a guest speaker, Michael White, who wrote a book about the history and empowerment of women at the local level, state level, and national level. The public was invited and refreshments were served. He distributed free copies of his book as well. The club made its annual donation to the IFC Arts and Music Scholarships. The club also participated in the drive for Riley's at IFC Convention. They purchased rocks, paints, brushes and other items for their project.

2nd Place - The GFWC/IFC Progress Club of South Bend - The club presented a \$1,000 donation to a local university, Bethel, which would be awarded to a special music student based on their ability to serve the community. This recognition took place at a Spring recital, where the GFWC/IFC Progress Club of South Bend was honored with a public announcement and featured in the program book. All Club members support the effort. The Progress Club also donated \$50.00 to the GFWC Indiana Federation of Clubs for scholarships in Art and Music.

3rd Place – GFWC/IFC Regional Readers Club – The GFWC/IFC Regional Readers Club tries to make the IFC Music and Art Scholarships go a bit further by asking members of the club to include additional money with

their club dues. This money is donated to the state's Music Scholarship and Art Scholarship of \$1,000.00 each. Because the GFWC/IFC Regional Readers Club is small, and are not able to have their own scholarship, they have chosen to donate to the state's scholarships to help make a difference in two student's lives. Members appreciate the benefits of Music education Art education and happily support this long standing State Scholarship. Some members attend local school musicals, town band concerts and various art festivals. Club members feel it is a good way to show support to family, friends and local artists.

**GFWC Signature Project
Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention
Chair-Malinda Bradley**

Large Clubs

1st Place: Munster Junior Woman's Club

This club did 5 different projects and donated \$2200.00 for their organizations. They really focused on helping woman and cheildren dealing with domestic and sexual abuse. They went in and volunteered their time and spet tie with the women and children.

- Fair Haven Rape Crisis Center
- Haven House
- Alternative House Crisis Center
- Shelter 91
- Resilience

2nd Place: GFWC Northwest Indiana Women's Club

This club was involved in one project and raised \$350.00 for their organization. I really liked this idea of providing pajamas and books for the women and children. A lot of kids have never had a book to read/a book read to them at bedtime. Also, they have never even had nice pajamas to sleep in. Great project for the club to participate in. This facility assists in emergency situations for families fleeing domestic violence situations.

- Haven House NWI

**Education and Libraries
Chair-Lucy Devine**

Large Clubs

1st Place- GFWC Fayette County ESO

This club of 16 members reported on 17 Projects, with \$8,725 donated dollars, 3,575 donated hours and \$462 in-kind donations. The club continues to award scholarships. Recognizing that there is no PTO for the senior high school, one member organized a parent group. The club continues to sponsor the "Kind News" by Red Rover. One member is the vice-present of the local Every Child Can Read program. The club partnered for the second time with a group in their 3rd Annual Celebrate Women event. As a result of this partnership, the club was able to co-present four \$1,000 scholarships to local female high school seniors. One member serves as the state ESO Chairman and Administrator. The club's November meeting guest was Lynette Ecklund, a Connersville native and resident. One member maintains a scholarship at the Jennings County Foundation, The Todorovich Family Scholarship.

2nd Place –Munster Junior Woman's Club

This club of 57 members reported on 8 Projects, with \$2,250 donated dollars, 6 donated hours and \$650 in-kind donations. During the club monthly meetings –members were educated by guest speakers from NWI Action Agency, Silverstray, Shelter 91, La Rabida, Hair for All, Operation Child, and Operation Charlie Bravo. The club has been a longtime supporter of Tradewinds, an organization that serves people with special needs by empowering them to realize their full potential. Another club project is The Indiana Dunes Learning Center. In October, the club participated in book drive and collected 576 books!! The club also supports Planting Possibilities, a registered 501(c)3 with the mission to provide employment, job skills training, and fulfilling volunteer opportunities for adults. Another organization the club supported was The Blind Social Center (TBSC) that provides a meeting place where blind and visually impaired individuals come together in a supportive and inclusive environment. One member's personal connection to the Little People Community and their special needs prompted a club donation. The club also supported Project Loose Change out of Evergreen Park, IL.

3rd Place - GFWC Northwest Indiana Women's Club

This club of 23 members reported on 5 Projects, with \$2,750 donated dollars, 425 donated hours and \$450 in-kind donations. The club offers five \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors from local high

schools. Service to others is the theme of the scholarships. Five club members attended the 2024 State Convention. They learned new information about GFWC and its hierarchy, the CSPs, the Advancements, special projects and Affiliates. The club's book club is in its second year and is going strong. A Club Member works at the Tri-Town Learning Center, assisting those pursuing their high school equivalency diploma. She educates the graduates on job skills and career readiness skills, resume building, and job search tactics. She also speaks publicly to community groups about adult education, goal-setting, job search strategies, interview skills, and promotes educational opportunities for lifelong learning. She came to the club with a need. The club donated graduation caps with tassels, a small individual gift for each graduate containing inspirational goal journals with a pen, and cake and supplies for a party. One club member is a teacher in a contained special education classroom. She maintains a "Treasure Chest" out of her own pocket that contains learning and behavior incentives for the children to pick from with "money" they have earned throughout the week for good behavior and actions. She put in an appeal to the club for help to purchase more items for the Treasure Chest. At the club's Christmas Party, members voted to each bring \$20 for this teacher to have an opportunity to purchase additional items she needs for her classroom. The Treasure Chest teaches budgeting to the children, as well as money management, saving money, counting money and anticipation.

Honorable Mention- GFWC IFC Progress Club of South Bend

This club of 17 members reported on 3 projects, with \$3,875 donated dollars and \$364 in-kind donations. The club holds a Book Club Meeting every month, each participant has the option of reading the chosen club book or one of their own selection. They were surprised to find some difficulty in locating some of the more esoteric books that were recommended, despite the plethora of digital and loaner libraries available. This challenge often sparked additional conversations about the accessibility of rare or specialized literature, and members would exchange tips on how to find these elusive titles. Members have donated books to Better Books and charities. Better Books facilitates donations with bins placed in convenient spots around town, you can fill up with gas and donate your books in one stop. Club Crawl is a program designed to increase awareness and engagement within the community, giving members a chance to interact with the public and share the club's mission and activities. The interactive setting of the library provided a lively atmosphere, conducive to conversations about the club's ongoing projects and initiatives.

Small Clubs

1st Place –GFWC IFC Lowell Woman's Club

This club of 13 members reported on 6 Projects, with \$370 donated dollars, 277 donated hours and \$720 in-kind donations. This club continues to provide a \$250.00 scholarship to a graduating senior from a local high school. The club co-sponsors a Dr. Seuss birthday party with their local library and its sister branches. The club donated magazines and books to be sold at the local library's book sale. The proceeds were given to the Friends of the Library. They also donated items to support The Friends Rummage Sale and donated a cookie tray during National Library Week. The members donate to the North West District Healthcare Professional Scholarship as well as also donating money collected during fundraising efforts at 2024 Northwest District Convention. Annually, the club donates to the county 4-H group for their "Exploring Through Books" competition. The club was contacted by their local trustees' office regarding the need of a family who was unable to purchase school supplies for their two children. The club was provided a list and was able to help by purchasing everything needed on their list.

2nd Place – GFWC IFC ESO Regional Readers

This club of 7 members reported on 5 Projects, with \$388 donated dollars, 12 donated hours and \$150 in-kind donations. Because this is an ESO club they have many members who love reading and some members submit their list of books to the state ESO Chairman for certificates they receive at the State Annual Convention. Many members are "Friends of the Library" and members who read hardback books share with others or donate their books to local libraries. Club members support the District's Healthcare Professional Scholarship. One lucky high school senior or person returning to further their education in Healthcare receives a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the District. Some members donate to their local Public Broadcasting Company to help them continue to share educational programs. This past year the club was approached by one member who knew of a first grade class at local Elementary School that was in need of school supplies, such as new books, activities and learning tools. The items were purchased on the class Amazon page. The club also sponsored the grandson of one of its members, who had entered the school "Read-a-thon".

3rd Place –GFWC Highland Woman's Club

This club of 5 members reported on 1 Project, with 15 donated hours and \$30 in-kind donations. Members wanted to help their local branch of the Public Library. For National Libraries week they created bookmarks to be given out to different age groups. They had florals for the ladies and solids for gents, with beading and tassels and images for youth. The 140 bookmarks were placed on a raffle table for anyone who entered the raffle to take. Along with bookmarks they donated 80 pencils to be used at the computer stations. They put together several treat bags, filled with snacks, juice boxes and a small toy, to give to the children who came and entered into the library activities.

Environment Chair-Sandy Cortelloni

Large Clubs

1st Place- GFWC Northwest Indiana Women's Club

This club held a Garden Party meeting in which the guest speaker gave a compelling talk about Monarch butterflies. The program explained their migration patterns and general habits, as well as how important the monarch is to our environment. This club has been collecting and crocheting plastic grocery bags to make mats for the homeless. This year they make about 15. They had a speaker at one of their meetings to discuss many different ways to conserve resources. They collected 44 pounds of pop tabs and over 52 pounds of plastic bottle caps to donate for different causes community projects. Members celebrated Earth Day by wearing green to their meeting. They donated biodegradable sponges and earth friendly cleaning products and gave a demonstration on how to crochet the plastic mats. Members drink water from a dispenser and bring reusable cups to their meetings to avoid the use of plastic water bottles.

2nd Place – GFWC Fayette County ESO

14 club members recycle. They report spending about 2 hours bi-weekly preparing, sorting and putting items out for collection. Several members support their local humane society. At our December meeting we voted to donate \$100 to the local shelter in Fayette County. Two members support the NWF, \$125; one the WWF, \$75; and one the Galapagos Conservancy, \$100; Nature Conservancy, \$50; Arbor Day Society, \$50; Audubon Society, \$50. One member met twice with an attorney from The Nature Conservancy of Indiana. They discussed the many programs within TNC and the advantages of her continuing her twenty-four-year membership. He viewed her property and they talked about her conservation efforts and

the possibility of donation of her woods to TNC. During his visit, another club member had a celebration of life that evening, so the attorney helped make sandwiches. She turned him into a volunteer. Two members are now the coordinators for collecting plastic bottle caps for recycling. One collects caps in Connersville from other club members, her church, and her sorority. The two members coordinate getting them to Richmond, where the other member delivers them to the newly established RE Hub. The club used to weigh the bags of caps, but since so many are collected, we no longer bother. Each bag weighs between ten and fifteen pounds and they take more than four bags a month. The hub takes not only caps, but many other items that are not recycled by cities. The club members distribute information about the items they take and any donations are delivered to the Hub. The Hub was established by the leader of two high school Green Clubs and is now a not for profit. We are doing everything we can to spread the word about the Hub. The Hub is often donated useable items. One member purchased 5 used three-ring-binders to use with organizing GFWC Materials. Again this year we continued to collect broken Christmas lights for recycling. They are taken at the RE Hub! Several members donate items to Goodwill and St Vincent DePaul to keep them out of landfills and to provide money for their many programs. Another member donates puzzles, household items and clothing to the Senior Center Thrift Store. Several members collect plastic grocery bags and gives them to another member. She then meets with a group at her church and they cut the bags into strips and weave them into water resistant mats to be used by the homeless. Reusing bags that will never decompose in the landfills serves two purposes.

3rd Place – GFWC Munster Jr Woman's Club

Members collect aluminum cans and take them in for recycling. It is not only good for the environment; it is an easy project that pays! This year we had 13 members turn in cans and one member took them in for processing. We received \$120 for the cans which we donated to Humane Indiana. Our club collects can tabs with proceeds going to Riley House. Pop tabs are collected instead of the entire cans for two reasons. First, the tabs are cleaner, and they take up less space than an actual can and second, the tabs are made of a higher quality, high-grade aluminum and are worth more. This year we collected tabs and turned in 10 pounds at the GFWC convention. All our members participated.

Small Clubs

1st Place- GFWC IFC ESO Regional Readers

Our members are from a generation where recycling wasn't a fad, it was a way of life. We recycle plastic grocery bags at stores with receptacles. And all members recycle cardboard boxes, glass and plastic bottles and other items that their trash pickup company will allow. We even recycle electrical items at our town designated areas. Members choose to go paperless whenever possible. Each choice is a tree saved and a street less littered. With raising grocery prices some club members plant gardens. Some members added to the previous year's plantings, while some started with starter plants from local nurseries or made their own starters from seeds they collected from the past year. They shared the "fruit of their labor" with neighbors and family members. Club members enjoy their Butterfly and Hummingbird gardens. When we have our Annual Flower sale, we try to choose flowers that are "fluted" and grown with the Butterflies and Hummingbirds in mind. Some members set out bird feeders, bird baths and Hummingbird feeders filled with sugar water. During the hot summer months the bird baths are a welcome site for squirrels and birds. Money raised from the Club's Mother's Day flower sale is divided so that half is donated to a local Humane Society.

2nd Place – GFWC IFC Lowell Woman's Club

Our club supports "Light the Night," which is a fundraiser hosted by the Lake Dalecarlia Women's Club. Our club maintains an annual membership with the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District. We disperse any new literature the district composes and volunteer to help with projects or events held. We are also published in the sponsorship section of their newsletter. Some members of our club volunteered at our local library for "a day full of all things nature." Members also volunteered by posting advertisements/posters throughout the community. Our club recognized National Recycling Day and went out in nature for walks to pick up trash and items left behind. Our club donated \$100.00 to two different humane societies, in Hobart and Crown Point. A hazardous waste drop-off is conducted at our local middle school. Several members brought items such as old batteries, motor oil and paint.

**ESO
Chair-Tric Heepe**

1st Place-GFWC Fayette County ESO

One member serves as the state ESO Chairman and Administrator. She prepared the 2023 Reading List, (by searching the NYT Best Sellers List, Amazon list, new books listed in the COSTCO magazine, and using recommendation from the state readers) had it printed and distributed it to members by snail mail and electronically. She maintains the records for all state participants. She receives reports from readers, tallies their number of books read and points earned. She then figures the number of certificates earned and mails them (unless it is close to the State Convention so certificates will be presented in person). For readers whose total number of books read reaches a century mark, she purchases the corresponding century awards from GFWC Marketplace and presents them annually. Her expenses include the century awards, large envelopes, printing of the Reading List, and postage.

She prepared 130 certificates for 23 participants.

Our club chose books for discussion during the club year. We read and discussed "The Maid by Nita Prose. The discussions were lively. Some members enjoyed it and others, not so much. The club also read "Poldark". Three members liked it well enough to read "Demzela", the second in the 9-book series.

2nd Place GFWC Progress Club of South Bend

The club holds a Book Club Meeting every month, each participant has the option of reading the chosen club book or one of their own selection. This practice not only fosters a love for reading but also strengthens the bonds among club members as they share their perspectives and insights. The variety of books chosen enriches the discussions, often leading to lively debates and a deeper understanding of different genres and authors.

We were surprised to find some difficulty in locating some of the more esoteric books that were recommended, despite the plethora of digital and loaner libraries available. This challenge often sparked additional conversations about the accessibility of rare or specialized literature, and members would exchange tips on how to find these elusive titles. The club also participated in donating books to Better Books charity drop bins.

Small Clubs

1st Place-GFWC/IFC ESO Regional Readers

Most of our club membership enjoys reading. We enjoy a wide range in topics. Since our club was chartered as an ESO club in 2006 our members have been committed to education and literacy as well as community improvements. We have members dealing with different needs but we all have one common thread, which is our pleasure in reading. Of course we are concerned with our communities and try to make improvements wherever and whenever possible but reading and books are our way of learning, decompressing and revitalizing. Club members love sharing and recommending books to each other. Some members may read one to two books a week, while others only have time for one book a month; we all enjoy reading for relaxation and knowledge. Members find their reading material by way of actual books, Kindles or listening to audio versions. We are different personalities who like historical, religious, fiction, mystery and nonfiction books. We encourage members to share their list of books with the State ESO Chairman, but only a few actually take the time to do this. Those who do, enjoy receiving the certificates at our State Convention. Club members anxiously await the newest state ESO Reading list that is brought back by our club president who shares it with club members.

Fundraising
Chair-Susan Stevens, Dianne Kowalski

Large Clubs

1st Place- Munster Junior Woman's Club

This Club not only hosts 2 fun, entertaining social fundraisers for friends and the public. They also are helping the environment minimizing waste with collecting clothes, household items, books,... for resale AND funded their Police Department with Autism awareness -Ben's Blue Bags.

2nd Place - GFWC Northwest Indiana Women's Club

Hosting 2 Bunco fundraisers a year is a lot of work and manpower. Kudos to this club. Superbowl squares for raising funds for college scholarships is brilliant. Well Done.

3rd Place – GFWC Fayette County ESO

Candy, flowers and tea party are all of my favorite things and many others too. This club keep busy with many different fundraiser and were very creative.

Small Clubs

1st Place- GFWC/IFC ESO Regional Readers

The manpower and talented cooking of all those ladies to create so many cookies is beautiful. Not to mention the many hours of standing while baking for such a long time. Members also working with all those plants at their plant sale – these women are hardworking hustling babes – Well done ladies!

2nd Place - GFWC/IFC Lowell Woman's Club

The various ways of fundraising while Partnering with other groups not only increases your donations but also great exposure for their club.

3rd Place – GFWC Hearts and Hands

Working smarter and not harder is this clubs goal. Who doesn't love Ham and Pies for your many holidays. Helping a local business and profiting for your club at the same time – brilliant.

Health and Wellness Chair-Judy Kappes

Large Clubs

1st PLACE: GFWC Fayette County ESO

Healthy Fayette County Project: This club continued with this project from last year and made improvements and additions. There is a proven link between a healthy community and a prosperous community. They have incorporated a monthly Art Stroll in their downtown area ending at the Whitewater Valley Art Association. Members man the registration desks and wear their GFWC shirts at the Art Stroll. They arranged for entertainment and displays and did chalk art on the sidewalk near the art association. They encourage walking, dancing, and any other type of physical movement. They also wrote a grant proposal for \$2000 to pay for ten hours from Healthy Places in Design. They have had two Zoom meetings with them and are planning a community wide workshop for early in 2025. They are getting their name out there and leading an effort to build a coalition to improve their community health. This project

showed creativity, community awareness and community involvement of the members of the club and residents in Fayette County

5 members 654 hours \$2000 donated \$45 in-kind

2ND PLACE: GFWC Northwest Indiana Woman's Club

Breast Cancer Project: Club continues to take advantage of talented ladies who cut, sew and stuff heart-shaped pillows for breast cancer patients. Colorful patterned cotton fabric was donated, and more than 125 pillows were constructed, stuffed and donated to the Pink Ribbon Society in Northwest Indiana. This Society delivers them to hospital patients that have undergone breast cancer surgery. These pillows help relieve pain from pressure in the surgical area. The smile on patient's faces is more than words could express. The pillows are decorative as well as useful and provide a pop of color to otherwise sterile chemo bays and hospital rooms. This club's continued work on this project shows creativity, great concern and is most impactful to those affected by breast cancer.

5 members 230 hours \$350 donation in-kind

3rd PLACE: Munster Junior Women's Club

Chicky Project: Was initiated as a heartfelt response to support a member of their local community, a long-time Panera employee, affectionately known as "Chicky". She tragically lost her home and car in a devastating fire. During September and early October Club members wrote personal notes of encouragement and many included donations such as gift cards or cash. When club members delivered the gift, Chicky was moved to tears and reminded of how much others care. This project had a significant emotional impact on members and working on it strengthened the bond among members as well.

18 members 12 hours \$450 donation in-kind

HONORABLE MENTION: GFWC/IFC Progress Club of South Bend

Breast Cancer Awareness Project:

One member was deeply concerned about Breast Cancer and made the decision to raise awareness. She planned an event over three months "Honoring Those We Have Lost, Celebrating the Survivors, and Supporting Those Still Fighting." Fifty or so people attended, She supplied over \$2000 worth of merchandise, canvas bags, water bottles, pink bracelets, socks, pink ribbon pins. Gigantic screens flashed pictures of anyone known to have dealt with the disease, while letting us know their status. Pink was the dominant color for all the table decorations and attendees wore a bit of pink. The bling was everywhere. It all contributed to making it a joyous occasion amidst the sadness of those lost. Speakers provided information, and a nurse was especially helpful in detailing symptoms and new

treatments that many were unaware of, medicine has made progress but there is much left to do. This project showed creativity. It also impacted the attendees by providing Breast Cancer awareness information and remembering those who have fought the breast cancer battle.

4 members \$2105 donation in-kind

Small Clubs

1ST PLACE: GFWC/IFC ESO Regional Readers

Indiana Wish Project: Some members of this GFWC Club also belong to the Loyal Order of the Moose and assisted with “Indiana Wish” in raising funds for children with cancer to send them and their families to Disney World each year. These members put in time and energy to help raise money from a Wine and Canvas event and a charity bingo. Because of this, two children and their families were treated to the Disney World Trip. This a very impactful in the lives of the children with cancer and their families and showed a lot of creativity as well as the volunteer spirit.

2 members 24 hours \$4934 donated

2nd PLACE: GFWC Fayette County ESO

Healthy Fayette County Project: This club continued with this project from last year and made improvements and additions. There is a proven link between a healthy community and a prosperous community. They have incorporated a monthly Art Stroll in their downtown area ending at the Whitewater Valley Art Association. Members man the registration desks and wear their GFWC shirts at the Art Stroll. They arrange for entertainment and displays and did chalk art on the sidewalk near the art association. They encourage walking, dancing, and any other type of physical movement. They also wrote a grant proposal for \$2000 to pay for ten hours from Healthy Places in Design. They have had two Zoom meetings with them and are planning a community wide workshop for early in 2025. They are getting their name out there and leading an effort to build a coalition to improve their community health. This project showed creativity, community awareness and community involvement of the members of the club and residents in Fayette County

5 members 654 hours \$2000 donated \$45 in-kind

3rd PLACE: GFWC Eggleston Club

YMCA PROJECT: One member volunteered her time to assist three days a week to help with fitness exercise classes at the YMCA. The “Y” is the only place in the county where fitness equipment and facilities exist. So they provide a very important role for our county. There was an unexpected change in the way monies were distributed for 2024 by the County Council so Eggleston members volunteered time and donations to help

keep the YMCA's doors open. They got behind family, neighbors and friends to also contribute to the "Y". Eggleston. Eggleston members helped with kids programs, parties, and many other activities wherever they could be of assistance.

The new YMCA Director presented a program at a Eggleston club meeting on what opportunities are available at the "Y", membership options, what they are planning for the year, and what the club members can do to volunteer.

8 members, 800 hours \$500 donated, \$400 In-Kind donated.

HONORABLE MENTION: GFWC/IFC Lowell Woman's Club

Share The Love Project: Members were involved in many volunteering efforts in their community. They reached out to the elderly community members as well as nursing homes and opportunity centers with various events. They saw a need in their community and filled it.

5 Members 425 hours \$20.00 in kind

Junior Special Project: Advocates for Children Chair-Rene Sims

Large Clubs

1st Place- Munster Junior Woman's Club

Munster Junior Woman's club participated in 9 projects advocating for children in critical areas like education, healthcare, and safety. A portion of the \$4922 donated by the club went to organizations that help special needs children and Operation Smile. In addition to donating money to Logan's Love, the club hosted an event to provide sensory kits for all town police cars that the officers can use when helping kids dealing with trauma. Several club members participated in the events giving over 200 hours of their time.

2nd Place-GFWC Hearts and Hands Club

Hearts and Hands participated in 3 events. Each one focused on a critical need for children related to safety, healthcare, and helping children who have special needs. The club had great participation from members who have 22 hours of their time and \$700.00 worth of items for //beacon Bags and a Sensory Garden.

3rd Place-GFWC/IFC Progress Club of South Bend

Progress Club of South Bend participated in one project on advocating for children's safety from violence. They helped organize a gala, and

made a \$400.00 donation to Mama's Against Violence. The club members also donated over 50 hours to assist with the event.

Honorable Mention-Fayette County ESO

Fayette County ESO participated in the National Day of Service and donated meals in a bag to families in need to help address food insecurity. Four club members gave 6 hours of their time and \$221.00 in food items.

Small Clubs

1st place-GFWC/IFC Lowell Women's Club

Lowell Women's Club participated in 9 projects focused on Advocating for Children. Their projects addressed critical needs related to food, healthcare, and safety. They also focused on children with special needs. For one of their projects, they partnered with the local American Legion to have a larger impact. All of the club members participated in the projects, donating 172 hours and \$2750.00. The club directed some of their financial efforts to Riley Children's Hospital and Heifer International.

2nd Place-GFWC/IFC ESO Regional Readers

ESO Regional Readers participated in 7 projects and address critical childhood needs including healthcare and education. The club partnered with the Loyal Order of the Moose and Hobart Moose for several projects promoting community engagement. The club donated over 1000 hours of time and over \$8000.00 to a variety of projects and organizations, including Riley Children's Hospital.

3rd Place- Highland Woman's Club

Highland Woman's Club participated in 3 projects to help children and donated \$42.00.

Leadership Chair-Marianne McCombs

Large Clubs

1st Place- Munster Junior Woman's Club

GFWC Convention Attendance: President attended the GFWC convention in April, delivered donations, and engaged with other clubs.

- Local Leadership Roles: Members hold leadership positions in local organizations like Eades Elementary PTA, Munster Police, and Munster Civic Foundation.

- **Broader Community Leadership:** Members serve on boards and in executive roles for organizations like EEU, NWI Meals on Wheels, Indiana Dunes Learning Center, and the American Red Cross.
- **Leadership Roles:** The MJWC club has members who hold leadership positions in various organizations, including the American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, and the Indiana Dunes Learning Center.
- **Community Engagement:** The club actively supports local organizations through volunteer work, fundraising, and donations, exemplified by their involvement with Meals on Wheels and the Indiana Dunes Learning Center.
- **Organizational Collaboration:** The club maintains strong ties with organizations like the American Red Cross and EEU, fostering information sharing and potential future collaborations.
- **Organization Vision:** Provide educational and therapeutic horseback riding activities to those with special needs for an improved quality of life.
- **Member Involvement:** One Club Member is the Vice President of Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited, actively involved in design, promotions, planning, and leadership.
- **Community Service:** Three members serve on the Munster Police Department's Choice Council, contributing to crime prevention initiatives and community events.
- **Award Recipient:** An MJWC member and former club officer, Debbie, was named a finalist for the South Shore R.O.S.E. Awards.
- **Award Description:** The R.O.S.E. Awards celebrate exceptional front-line employees who consistently go above and beyond to make every interaction memorable.
- **Award Significance:** Debbie's recognition as a finalist reflects her remarkable dedication and the positive impact she has on customers and the club.

2nd Place- Hearts and Hands

Members Engagement: Members actively participate in monthly meetings, lead discussions, and collaborate on projects.

Leadership Development: The club emphasizes leadership development, providing opportunities for members to take on roles and participate in GFWC programs like LEADS.

Community Impact: Members contribute to the community through service projects and engagement with local organizations.

3rd Place: GFWC Fayette County ESO

Our club president reviews prior meeting minutes, prepares the agenda, and provides copies to the secretary before meetings. They also keep in touch with members who can't attend.

The Club vice-president, secretary, and treasurer prepare for meetings by depositing funds, maintaining records, and answering questions. They ensure clear records for future officers.

The club assisted with the Third Annual Celebrate Women event in March 2024. One member managed the event, while others obtained sponsors, set up, and participated. Eight members attended, and three helped clean up. One member contributed to the silent auction, and several purchased items. This collaboration with another community group awarded four \$1000.00 scholarships, 2 \$500.00 donations, and an additional \$1170.90 to the treasury. GFWC experiences helped members take on leadership roles in the event's success.

Three members attended the GFWC Indiana South East District Convention. The district president, who was ill, had her advisor prepare the call and program for the vice-president. Two club members led The Pledge to the Flag and gave the luncheon prayer.

Four members attended the 2024 GFWC Indiana State Convention. They participated in activities, learned, and shared experiences. One member won in the Photography Contest, and another in the Art Contest. They updated the club Brag Board with one member speaking about the poster to convention attendees.

One member is active in the Grapevine Parliamentary Electronic Unit, a virtual parliamentarian club, serving as treasurer. She attended 11 monthly meetings and participated in at least one hour of parliamentary training by a retired professional registered parliamentarian. In addition to the \$12.00 annual dues, she pays \$97.00 to the National Organization of Parliamentarians and \$12.00 to the National Electronic Unit. She applies the knowledge she gains by assisting her club president with following Roberts Rules of Order and also helped the District President, State EC, and Region President when asked.

A member joined a local art association, found it unfair, and wrote an article about parliamentary procedure.. She attended meetings, carried Roberts Rules of Order, and interjected at illegal activities. Though unpopular, she helped demand order and joined the Bylaws Committee, helping rewrite them. Despite ignored suggestions, she prepared a script for the incorrect presentation of the bylaws when the Executive Director attended. Her leadership improved the meetings, as intended. She bought books for officers and the library and wrote a basic script for the president.

A member audits the local Eastern Star chapter's accounts, using GFWC skills. It takes her 10 hours.

Another member audits her sorority, saying it's not too involved, taking about 2 hours. She credits her GFWC training.

Honorable Mention-
GFWC North West Indiana Woman's Club
GFWC Progress Club of South Bend

Small Clubs

1st Place- GFWC Lowell Women's Club

Organization Champions: Members host monthly meetings, discussing topics or inviting speakers. The club donates to the speaker's cause.
Members: 13 Hours: 20 In-Kind: \$100.00 Dollars Donated: \$250.00

NWD: Two members serve on the Northwest District board, maintaining records and planning meetings. The club hosted the district convention.
Members: 7 Hours: 75 Dollars Spent: \$250.00

Many Hats: Members volunteer for various organizations, sharing project ideas and community information.
Members: 11 Hours: 700 Dollars Spent \$500.00

This is EZ: The club files necessary forms to maintain its 501c3 status and raffle licenses.
Members: 13 Hours: 50 Dollars Spent \$75.00

Oops: The Club carries liability insurance to protect members and guests.

2nd Place- GFWC IFC ESO Regional Readers

Our club has sponsored four GFWC LEADS graduates. In 2024, we applied for a fifth, who got in and is already using her skills in her work and as a leader. She even chairs her state and district. We're proud of her and hope she'll lead GFWC.

Many of our LEADS graduates are dedicated to keeping the club active and leading by example. Some have served as district, state, and regional officers, while others have implemented their training as club officers. They collect educational information and share it with members, contributing to the club's growth and success.

**Legislation and Public Policy
Chair-Peggy Lykins**

Large Clubs

1st Place GFWC Munster Junior Woman's Club

This club continues to have two members attend and participate in the Munster Town Council. They also are continuing their work with the police department in the Munster Night out Against Crime. They are an integral part of this event. Members work the polls and encourage all members to vote.

2nd Place-GFWC Fayette County ESO

In 2022, one member established "Coffee with the Mayor." This started as a monthly meeting where all citizens are encouraged to attend and talk about any issues they have. In 2024, the meetings were changed to bi-monthly. Our member always attends and has proven to have the ear of the mayor. She takes this opportunity to advise him of our clubs' efforts to improve the community. She is responsible for inviting guests to the meetings. In 2024 guests were a local legislator and the Executive Director of the Indiana Arts Commission. The mayor's office seats 18 and all seats are filled at each meeting! She advertises the meetings at club meetings, and in articles in the local newspaper. All members report voting in the 2024 elections. One member is away at university. She forgot to get an absentee ballot, so she drove 2.5 hours each way to return home to cast her vote. We wish more citizens were this dedicated.

Small Clubs

1st Place- GFWC/IFC ESO Regional

Our club's newest member is a precinct committeeman whose minimum duties are that she shall assist the precinct committeeman's political party in voter registration and to assist the voters of that political party to vote on election days. A member was appointed Commissioner for the Economic Development Commission for the City of Hammond, IN. The Commission is an advisory body for the City Council and was established to provide reasoned recommendations to the City Council on matters of Economic Development. In addition, all members are encouraged to vote in every election.

2nd Place- GFWC Lowell Woman's Club

Several of our club members attend local Town Hall, Park Board, and Chamber meetings to stay current on public policies being discussed within our community. Members of our club stay informed by utilizing

GFWC.org website. Our members have signed numerous petitions and members have also donated money toward these causes to spread awareness. In 2024, we signed petitions for: Supporting Alzheimer's Patients & Caregivers during Brain Awareness Month, Disability Rights (the ARC), Protect Funding for Victims of Crime and Call to Action: Kids Online Safety Act. Our club promotes women and their right to be active voters. Our voice counts and we take every opportunity to encourage women to vote in every election. Several of our members work on the election boards and in many different capacities.

Membership
Chair-Sherry Dusko and Joan Canon

Large Clubs

1st Place GFWC IFC Munster Junior Woman's Club

Munster gained an impressive 6 new members from an open house held in August; three additional young women joined during the year. The club utilizes new and old media by providing new members with a binder of club activities, new directories, rules and pledge, committees, etc. Facebook is utilized to promote activities both internally, with a member page, and externally with a public page. Club members are active on social media which provides a "buzz" that has "contributed greatly to our ticket sales, collection drives, and sponsorships." Club activities are reposted on town sites and other pages to further promote its message.

Its annual banquet is planned by new members and included festive decorations and a purple "mocktail"

Number of members in the club: 57

Number of projects reported: 7

Total hours donated: 131

Total in-kind donations: \$400

2nd Place GFWC IFC Northwest Indiana Woman's Club

Northwest Indiana holds an annual Garden Party with outreach to potential new members.

The party was promoted through social media and 4 potential new members attended. Its annual Christmas party had a Grinch theme with ornaments, trivia, and door prizes awarded. A speaker from Munster Monarch City gave an interesting talk and two new members continued attending. Northwest Indiana hosted A Grinchy Holiday Christmas Party. Each member received Grinch ornaments, personalized with the event and year. There was also a Trivia game with prizes and door prizes.

Number of members in the club: 23
Number of projects: 2

3rd Place GFWC IFC Hearts and Hands

To foster connection and engagement our club utilizes a vibrant Facebook page where we celebrate completed projects, extend warm invitations to community members to join our meetings and highlight impactful GFWC initiatives. Our January meeting served as a welcoming orientation for new and prospective members. We illuminated the rich history, governance structure, membership benefits and diverse programs of GFWC, both at the state and national levels. Attendees were invited to subscribe to the weekly News and Notes and the Legislative Action Center. We welcomed 3 new members and we are dedicated to nurturing their involvement. Their presence reminds us how GFWC connects women through shared values and a passion for service.

Number of members in club: 16
Number of projects reported: 3
Total hours donated 60

Honorable Mention GFWC IFC Fayette County ESO

Fayette County works in conjunction with a local art association to assist in registering guests for its Art Strolls. Two members have joined the association and one wears her GFWC apparel to each meeting. Club members had a booth at the local airport event and advertised club activities by handing out tri-folds and engaging customers about its many projects. They have partnered with another organization to hold an annual Celebrate Women event that provides scholarships; their event table utilizes GFWC logo on printed items and scholarship certificates. Fayette County partners with local newspapers to publish special articles and print summaries of club minutes.

Number of members in the club: 16
Number of projects reported: 3
Total hours donated: 448
Total in-kind donations: \$35

Small Clubs

1st Place- GFWC IFC Lowell Woman's Club

Federation Day was celebrated on our normal meeting night with a potluck dinner and 2 club members participated in a "Famous Women Throughout the Decades" fashion show. This was shared on our Facebook page. Our club members promote our club and GFWC by wearing

labeled pins, shirts and jewelry to all meetings and events. Our club distributed business cards, pens, tri-fold etc. that display our club's contact information for potential members. Our secretary mails cards for birthdays and other events occurring in our member's daily lives. We had a membership table at our Barktoberfest fundraiser to answer questions and promote our club.

Number of members in the club: 13

Number of projects reported: 6

Total Hours: 1,002

Dollars spent: \$480.00

In-Kind: \$305.00