



The Mystic Woman's Club Who are We and What do we Do?

The Mystic Woman's Club (MWC) began in 1968 with ten women. The first major fundraiser - goal of \$15,000 to build a beach pavilion - now the Mystic YMCA. In 1969 the MWC joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and remains part of this organization today.

The Mystic Woman's Club opened a Thrift Shop in 1969. The thrift shop, located today at 165 S. Broad Street, Pawcatuck, across from the Stonington HS, is the club's primary source of fundraising and generates anywhere from \$10,000 - \$14,000/year. Occasionally the shop sells thrift shop items on eBay. All money made from the thrift shop is given back annually to the community by way of Grants. See Grants donation list.

Besides running a thrift shop the MWC has taken on projects *, some of which continue #, such as:

- Civic Improvement Program which benefited the Mystic River Park to restore fencing and gates toward the children's playscape *
- Habitat for Humanity for which the MWC took the leadership role among the Connecticut Women's Clubs in supporting the 1998-2000 GFCW/CT project which was building a house with Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern CT. *
- Signed up for an Adopt-a-Highway project with the State Highway Department. Crews of six to eight members clean litter from Noank/Ledyard Road. #
- A Military Whist Card Game Fundraiser benefits various organizations. #
- An annual Poinsettia Sales Fundraiser in early December with proceeds going to the Groton and Stonington Home heating relief funds #
- We continue a long-standing commitment to fund college scholarships for graduates of our three local high schools. #
- We annually award a \$1,000 scholarship from the Phelps Scholarship Fund at our annual Installation Banquet. Funded to a members' child or grandchild. #
- In 2005 the club submitted and was granted official 501c3 non-profit tax-exempt status #
- Members walk annually in support of the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation's (TBBCF) annual fundraising walk across Southeastern CT. #
- Assisted the state GFWC/CT project, Vets Oasis, by helping with starting a Vets Oasis Center at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. *
- Participated in the Warm Up American Project, in which members knitted squares for afghans which were donated to community agencies that serve needy clients. *
- Biennial Tag Sales benefiting the Grant Donation #
- Biennial Raffle of MWC members handmade Quilt #
- Cookbook full of MWC member recipes #

The General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. GFWC was founded in 1890 and trace their origin back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman's club.

GFWC has a remarkable history. Some of GFWC's accomplishments are:

Spearheaded a campaign that resulted in the passage of the FDA; Unanimously passed a resolution against child labor; Supported legislation for the eight-hour workday; Advanced maternal education -resulted in the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921); Founded over 474 free public libraries & 4,655 traveling libraries, therefore, credited with establishing 75 percent of America's public libraries; Supported the ERA and continues that support today; Participated in the conference to form the United Nations; began a relationship with CARE and crusaded for Seat Belts Program.

With nearly 100,000 members strong in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement, and work toward world peace and understanding.

The MWC is a member of the GFWC/CT organization and works on and supports state projects as well as local projects.