



Who we are...

In 1974, several women in Orange Park Acres created the OPA Garden Club reflecting their interest in gardening. As Orange Park Acres grew, many of the newer women employed gardeners and interest in the OPA Garden Club waned. In 1983, the women of Orange Park Acres renewed interest in the organization, giving it a broader purpose beyond gardening. Since that time the organization has actively supported the Orange Park Acres community. In 1984, the organization formalized itself, applying for tax exemption and incorporating. Since then the bylaws have been rewritten and a clear mission has been developed; **Friendship, Philanthropy and Community.**

Over the years, many OPAWL women have generously contributed their time and effort to organizational functions and varied fund-raising projects. Such support and participation has made it possible for OPAWL to enrich individual lives, support special groups, and contribute to the community in the last several decades, OPAWL has contributed more than \$200,000 to the community for trail support and beautification throughout Orange Park Acres.

In 2012, OPAWL initiated a Santiago Canyon College Scholarship, awarded yearly to an outstanding female student. Also in 2012, the beautification of the entrance to OPA were brought to fruition with impressive monuments marking the entrance to OPA, now named the Pony Park. The Orange Park Acres Women's League recently celebrated over 32 years and still going strong. The mission of the organization—Friendship, Philanthropy, and Community—remains its significant focus.

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Friendship

At the heart of Orange Park Acres Women's League is the central theme of Friendship. There are many opportunities for our members to build lasting friendships. Everyone is welcome!

OPAWL's sections provide small group settings for members with common interests. Sections are formed for the following activities, however we are always open to adding new sections if there are enough interested members:

- Beginning Bridge to Advanced Bridge
- Monthly Bunco Nights
- Fiber Arts
- Travel
- Cooking and Baking
- Home and Garden
- Horseback Riding
- Kids and Family
- Reading/Book Club
- Walking

We also have many member socials and events throughout the year to bring members and their families together that contribute to the richness of the organization and life in OPA.

Philanthropy

Philanthropy is a core value of the Orange Park Acres Women's League. Over the years, many OPAWL members have generously contributed their time and energy to organizational functions and varied fundraising projects such as garage sales, themed parties, silent auctions, barn, home and garden tours, etc.

These activities have made it possible for OPAWL to help the local community, support special groups and enrich the lives of others. In recent years, the organization has been engaged in numerous philanthropic endeavors providing support to organizations such as:

- 4H
- The Orange County Zoo
- The Friendly Center
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Mary's Kitchen
- Beverly's House
- The US Military
- "Secret Santa" Program
- The El Modena High School Nature Center
- Santiago Canyon College Scholarship

It's hard work but it's all worth it!

Community

The Orange Park Acres community is the foundation for our organization. Our members actively strive to make Orange Park Acres a wonderful environment to live in. Here are just a few ways in which OPAWL members have contributed to the community:

- During the Christmas Season, the OPAWL displays wreaths along Orange Park Blvd, enhancing the community spirit in our area.
- OPAWL members have aided in the development and maintenance of the trails through the years, & the Pony Park, a commitment that continues this year.
- OPAWL takes care of friends and members by organizing meals & providing visitation & company to an ailing person.