

GFWC-Charlotte

2022

GFWC MI 2022

Club of the Year

Southwestern District

Category 4



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2022 Southwestern District Club of the Year – Category 4

We are honored to be the Club of the Year in Category 4 for our district. GFWC-Charlotte is the largest service organization in our small town of around 9,000 people. We are also the longest, serving our citizens for 135 years. Throughout 2022, our club was able to meet in person with service to our community, state, and nation with a wide variety of projects and with hours of volunteerism by our members. We are excited about our new members who vary in age.

GFWC Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention-Our local Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelter, **SIREN/Eaton Shelter**, is a non-profit agency that assists with emergency and transitional shelter, support services, and a 24-hour crisis line for women and children in Eaton County. We have a yearly fundraiser, **SIREN Holiday Tea** in November and we raised nearly \$5,000 for them. Applications for the **GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship** were taken to SIREN/Eaton Shelter and mentioned in our monthly newsletter. **Domestic Violence Awareness**-Information concerning **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month** was in our monthly newsletter to help spread the word about stopping this cycle of violence. **Child Abuse Month** was observed, and our club supports Suitcases4kids (gives children taken from homes by PS clothes) and Crosswalk Teen Center (after school center). **Cell phones** were donated to SIREN /Eaton Shelter.

Juniors Special Project-Advocacy for Children-Our club supports **Reading is Fundamental (RIF)** and has a \$750 line item in our budget. We distribute books and serve every 2nd grader in our two public elementary schools and St. Mary's Elementary School in the spring and fall. **Read to Me**-Our members were back into the St. Mary's elementary school and read to the students this fall after Covid restrictions were lifted. **Listen to Me Read**-Five of our club members go into 3 Elementary Schools and listen to students K-3 read. The program supports at risk students who aren't given reading support at home, and who need help with fluency of reading and comprehension. This fall was the first time back in two years and the ladies worked 22 hours with children. **Foster Care Support**-"Guardian Angels Suitcases 4 Kids" provides age-appropriate suitcases and backpacks filled with essentials such as clothing, hygiene products, underwear, etc. to children who are removed from their current living situation and placed into Foster Care. At the state level, we support **Bay Cliff Health Camp** with a \$100 donation and the same for **Guiding Harbor** plus volunteer hours. A basket was created and donated to the Guiding Harbor auction by two of our members. **Teen Dating Violence** information is available on our web site, or at SIREN. **Christmas Kiddies** is an outreach program for Christmas gifts given out Christmas Eve by our fire department to those in need. Members volunteered 16 hours wrapping gifts the Saturday before Christmas. **Operation Smile**-23 member's donated toothbrushes and toothpaste for international distribution totaling \$280. **Crosswalk Teen Center**, an after-school program, is supported with

\$100 a year. Our club supports graduating seniors by holding a **Senior Tea** in May and giving out scholarships. This event includes work from 42 members, 100 hours and \$2,146.

Arts and Culture-The **GFWC-Charlotte Chorus** which began singing in 1976 and this year performed at three club meetings plus the local Rotary and three facilities for senior citizens. A special honor was singing at the GFWC Michigan Convention in April in Grand Rapids. Members of the choir contributed 775 volunteer hours. The **Arts & Crafts** started back up after two years off with Covid. A **mini trip** group enjoyed a theater production at Cornwell's Dinner Theater and on another day traveled to Frederik Meijer Garden and Sculpture Park. On another trip they learned about the history with a tour of Fort Custer Cemetery, the VA Medical Center, Military Post, and Military Museum in Battle Creek. In the spring the mini trip destination was the Governor's Mansion Museum in Marshall with a guided tour. All members and guests can go on the trips. A Charlotte celebrity, **Jeremy Davis** shared his wedding cake decorating business and his claim to fame on Good Morning America and the Food Network at a meeting. Bob Hoffman from Fox 47 News, **Good Neighbors**, and Morning Blend was our speaker at guest night meeting, and he was so impressed with our group that he came back to Charlotte and taped a segment for his Good Neighbors show which aired in February 2023 highlighting many of the contributions the club does in our town. **Town Hall** is an organization that raises funds for the Lansing Symphony in the amount of usually \$25,000 per year. Four members are on the board and some others attended the lecture series and luncheon which is held in Bath at Eagle Eye Banquet Center to over 300 people.

Civic Engagement and Outreach-At a meeting speaker DeLisa Fountain, Director for the Department of Neighborhoods, Art, and Citizen Engagement with the City of Lansing. "**Engaging Citizens for Neighborhood Development**" DeLisa shared what she does to bring neighborhoods in Lansing together. Members donated **glasses and hearing aids** to Charlotte Lions Club.

CIP Project supported the 200+ teens who use the **Crosswalk Teen Center**. The club collected donations of art supplies and 6" corn or flour tortilla shells and delivered to Crosswalk on May 18, 2022, with 30 members participating and giving \$300.

Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center services needy people in the county and our members are encouraged to donate to this non-profit organization and this year our members gave \$2,664 in-kind. We gave over 2,500 pairs of socks to the Center and SIREN. **Mobile Meals, Inc.** is a program started by GFWC-Charlotte in 1971 and 35 members volunteered 1168 hours to deliver hot meals 365 days a year to homebound adult residents of Charlotte who qualify. Meals are made at our local hospital and club members make up the board of seven, coordinating and administering the program. Fourteen Club members volunteer their time at **Sparrow Eaton Hospital**, in a variety of ways. Some volunteer at the "Gift Basket" the hospital's gift shop; serve on committees, are greeters, or just provide a smiling face. Six members contributed 910 hours of service. Members contributed \$490 to **Heifer International** and our club budgets \$50. Five members **crocheted mats for the homeless** putting

in 164 hours and donated them to our local Housing Authority.

Education and Libraries-Arts and Nursing Scholarships-We donate \$100 yearly to the scholarships awarded by GFWC MI and applications are made available at the high school, the hospital, library, and on our website along with Facebook posts.

GFWC-Charlotte Senior Scholarships-We have awarded a competitive academic scholarship to a Charlotte High School graduating senior each year since 1969. In 2022, the club awarded one \$1000.00 scholarship and two \$500.00 scholarships by a drawing at the 75th Annual Senior Tea with over 230 people attending. Articles and pictures were placed in our local papers and the club's newsletter. **Tea and Tomes** is our club's book group which meets monthly from September to May except December discussing a selected book. There are 29 members contributing 335 hours. One of the Tea & Tomes members takes **used books** that have been contributed to every meeting to sell and collected \$154.45 in 2022. The money is given to the library for use of the conference room. Since reinstating **Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)** in 2008, we have 18 active members literally reading hundreds of books. **Michigan Education Foundation**-Announcements were made at meetings and in our newsletter in the fall encouraging our members to apply for a scholarship. Our club has a line item of \$50.00 with 2 members contributing 77 hours. The **MYLead** Conference at MSU had one student attended and four of our members worked registration for 15 hours and club paid \$185 for the student's fee. **Mini Trips**-one of our members organized many mini trips to Calhoun County with 42 members participating totaling 276 hours. At a meeting Valerie Van Heest, the President of the **Michigan Shipwreck** Research Association who has written six books and regularly presents at libraries and museums on the shipwrecks of the Great Lakes and is an inductee in the Women Divers Hall of Fame shared her program, Lost & Found: Legendary Lake Michigan Shipwrecks. At the **Christmas Tea** on December 2, 2022, member Brynda Filkins gave a special reading to over 70 ladies titled, "If You're Missing Baby Jesus," based on a true story written by Jean Gietzen.

The Environment-Zach Contan, the MSU FRIB Outreach Coordinator was a very entertaining speaker for Senior Tea in May. The facility is the third best in the world where they study nuclei in the \$730 million underground facility. Members are asked to put **Recycling** items in Ziploc bags and return to our recycling chair. We collect used ink cartridges for our Community Library, pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Lansing, batteries, and old cell phones for SIREN/Eaton Shelter. In the area of the environment, we provided "**Kind News**", a monthly newsletter published by the Humane Society, to elementary classrooms. A line item in our budget supports two classrooms and members provided financial support for 12 more for a total of \$350. Members of the **Beautification Committee** volunteered 148 hours planting, watering, and weeding the 21 urns and the entrance to the city parking lot flower bed, the **City Welcome Sign** along with **Charlotte's Dean Park Garden**. In the garden there is a painted GFWC emblem on a large rock. The **U.S. Veterans Memorial Park** was first established in 1921 and

our club has been maintaining it for several years by weeding, mulching, planting flowers and general cleaning with 4 members volunteering 35 hours of labor. A mini trip traveled to the **Leila Arboretum** in September and from that trip the ladies were interested in Dahlias so one of our members arranged for a **Dahlia Class** with her master gardener husband and had 13 attend. Another mini trip ventured to a local 3-acre backyard of flowers and then took a tour of **Southern Exposure** gardens in Battle Creek.

Health and Wellness-"A Women's Health Experience". We encourage our members to live a healthy lifestyle, exercise and to take care of themselves by focusing on a health theme or tip at our meetings and in our newsletters. **Focus on Women's Health**-We have two members from the local hospital who provide us with reading material concerning women's health issues at our monthly meetings. **Go Red for Women's Heart Health**-Club members were encouraged to wear red to our first Friday meeting in February, which is National Wear Red Day for Women's Heart Health. Health information was shared at the meeting and in our newsletter. **Women on the Move**-At our local AL!VE health facility we have a notebook where our members can record their time on the inside walking trail, a class, use the workout equipment or enjoying the spa. Thirteen members reported with 1,686 hours of activity. Sparrow Eaton Hospital provides healthy meals to our **Mobile Meal** residents every day of the year. Jessica Doman spoke on **Holistic Health** in February, Helen Johnson, President of **Sparrow Eaton Hospital** and GFWC member shared information on the services provided and in September two ladies from **Canine Companions for Independence** along with their dogs explained the history and dog training involved.

Communication and Public Relation-Our monthly newsletter, **The Club Communicator** and our **GFWC-Charlotte website** inform our members of club activities. Our Facebook page is a valuable tool for showing the public what we do in words and pictures. We belong to our local **Chamber of Commerce** and the yearly dues are \$70. **GFWC-Charlotte in Action Banner** is displayed at many projects and events. **GFWC Club Signs**-We make our presence known in the community by having GFWC shield road signs posted at two city limit entrances. Our members are proud to wear our **GFWC logo pins** and clothing. **Publicity Chairperson** regularly writes articles and submits pictures to the local paper. One of our members serves as our **EARS** monitor. She reviews "News and Notes", **EYES**, the **GFWC MI website**, along with the **National GFWC** homepage. We wear **name tags** at all meetings. **The Club Brochure** is made available at all meetings by our membership chair to guests and is always available to members. In the fall every member receives a **Club Booklet** which includes all the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of each member plus the Collect, the years programs, officers and board meeting dates, historical dates of club, and all the websites of both local and State, imembers and Facebook page address. The club uses the **imembers** data base system which besides keeping all current information of members is a valuable tool for email

members and registering them for meetings and events. We have a total of 1701 volunteer hours in Communications and Public Relations.

Fundraising and Development-SIREN/Eaton Shelter and GFWC-Charlotte Holiday Tea was held in November with over 220 people, entertainment, silent auction, raffles, super raffles, and a table decorating contest made for a festive afternoon. We had 30 members working 472 hours and donating \$7,621 in food and goods. The club made \$4861 and donated the same amount to SIREN. In the spring and fall we sold **Terri Lynn, Inc.** candies and nuts and raised \$714. In the spring we partnered with **Culvers** and earned \$127.50 with 3 members working 9 hours. In July and October, we teamed with **Dairy Queen** and brought in a total of \$750 with 2 members working 6 hours. In the fall we collected 2,500 pairs of **shoes** for a company that sells them to micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Thirty-two members work 110 hours and made \$1,000.

Leadership-Annually the **By Law Revision Committee** reviews the By-Laws and Standing Rules of GFWC-Charlotte. Our **Parliamentarian** attends all monthly board meetings, reviews the board and general meeting agendas, and stated minutes from both meetings. Each of our General Meeting and Board meeting **agendas** are prepared and emailed for the upcoming meetings. Our **Board Meetings** are attended by eleven board members who meet nine times a year. The **Name Tag Committee** of six distribute name tags before each meeting and collect after. We have a very effective **new member mentoring program** where a club member sponsor serves as the member's mentor for her first year. Members are also encouraged to serve on club committees in some way. We have a **brainstorming meeting** in May each year for all the members to make suggestions to the **Program Committee** for next years programs including possible speakers or program ideas. The committee meets in June and plans the meetings for the year. The four person **Nominating Committee** is responsible for recruiting members to fill elected officer positions. Our Vice President organizes the **Monthly Meeting Setup Committees**, and they plan and decorate the tables, set the room up and clean up after. We honored Julie Dartt at our Christmas Tea with the **MS. Federation Award**. The **Finance Committee** meets once a year to review the budget and plan for the next year. The **Financial Review** by Kim Capps had a perfect score. **GFWC MI State Conventions** – GFWC-Charlotte has three members who serve actively at the State level as GFWC MI Education Foundation Scholarship Chair, Arts & Nursing Scholarship Chair, Member-at-large Board Member, GFWC MI Advisory Board, MYLead Chair, Nomination Committee Chair and Head Teller. We have three members who serve on the **Southwestern District (SWD) board** as secretary, parliamentarian, and MYLead Chair. and we always have great representation at GFWC District and State Conventions and District Meetings. Two of our officers attended the **LEADS Day** in November.

Membership-Welcome Back Meeting - Our first meeting was in September 2022 and we welcomed new and old members for the start of our club year. Our president presented a slide show informing the audience of all the opportunities of our club. We honor our **past presidents and new members** at our Christmas Tea. Our **Membership chairperson** reports monthly to our board and general meetings. She receives new applications and forwards them on to the president. New members attend a **New Member Orientation** meeting with their sponsor in the fall where they meet with the membership chairperson, the president, and the club member in charge of the database. She is given our new member notebook, Yearbook, Pictorial Directory and advised of our many projects and lunch provided by the Membership Committee. Our membership is stored in a database - **imembersdb.com**. One of our members uses this system for all the work she does for our club. Our registration for monthly meetings is done through this system. As we strive to follow our Collect ("and may we strive to touch and know the great common human heart of us all") we created a means of helping our members called **Hand to Hand** for anyone who may need a helping hand. We provide transportation, meals, companionship and sometimes just a listening ear. Our **Remembrances** chairperson sends cards and notes to members recognizing significant milestones in life and messages of support during times of illness or sympathy for a loss. At the beginning of the club year, the president writes the **President's Letter** which welcomes each member of GFWC--Charlotte. It also outlines programs, speakers, and projects for the upcoming year. **Meeting Notifications** are emailed to our members with a reservation link for sign up to the meeting. **Thank You notes** are either written or emailed by each program representative to the monthly speaker. Each member of GFWC-Charlotte is given a **Club Booklet** which is a pocket size booklet with members name, phone and email addresses and meeting dates. Our **Annual Yearbook** has information concerning our club along with district and state appointments, committees, program topics, speakers, meeting chairs and committees, time of our meetings and place and is available to all members on our website. Each year we compile a **Memory Book** that chronicles our club year's accomplishments and activities, and it was brought to our monthly meetings. The chair is looking into a digital book. A **Pictorial** Directory is available online on our webpage. New members are given a printed directory. It has been our tradition to **honor** our deceased **Past Presidents** by donating a book in their memory at our community library. The library places a book plate in each donated book with the name and that it is a donation made in memory of a Past President of GFWC-Charlotte.

Women's History and Resource Center-1734 Society - GFWC-Charlotte has a line item to donate \$50.00 to the 1734 Society. **Club Historian Archives** - Our club's Historian continues to organize our club's 135-year history and began scanning documents and storing them on an external hard drive. Many of these will be emailed to the Charlotte Library to go on a public database available to the public.

