



# COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## AWARDS, CONTESTS, and GRANTS

 Visit [www.GFWC.org/Membership/Club-Manual/](http://www.GFWC.org/Membership/Club-Manual/) for updates and more information.

### THE GFWC COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF GFWC.

Since the 1950s, this program has provided GFWC clubs with a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of their communities. GFWC's longest standing project, it benefits clubs by increasing membership opportunities, developing leadership skills, and creating public awareness of club activities and GFWC. By aiming to meet the needs of individual communities, the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award provides a platform for enhancing relationships between clubs and their communities.

Club projects that help make your community a better place to live are "community improvement" projects and are eligible for national recognition and reward.

#### IDEAS

It is nearly impossible to provide recommendations for project ideas because the project should be tailored to your community's specific and unique needs. Consider the following suggestions:

- Every club is capable of creating a Community Improvement project.
- Almost any project can be turned into a Community Improvement project.
- Projects should address a specific need within the community.
- Establish partnerships to address your community's need, assist with leadership development, and raise your club's and GFWC's profile within the community.
  - GFWC partner organizations
  - Professional or other membership organizations
  - Government entities
  - Other nonprofit organizations
- Deem your Community Improvement Project as an ongoing community effort that lasts as long as the community-need remains.
- Reference the Advancement Guides (Communications and Public Relations, Fundraising, Leadership, Legislation and Public Policy, Membership, and the Women's History and Resource Center) in the *GFWC Club Manual*.



#### 2014-2016 GFWC COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD CHAIRMAN

**Della Gowan**  
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**The GFWC Community Improvement Program Award aims to enhance the lives of our neighbors around the world by meeting community specific needs, and elevating our clubs' status within those communities.**



GFWC awards a total of \$19,360 to state and national winners of the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award.

**PROJECT ESSENTIALS**

- Identify and define community need.
- Describe the project selection process.
- Explain how your club engaged community support.
- Define how project is financed.
- Identify media support and process in which it was obtained.
- Recount how you overcame obstacles.
- Provide a list of collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups, and professional organizations.
- Describe club's continuing role in the project.
- Explain the project's long-term effect on the community.
- Identify results and successes.
- Describe how the project influenced changes in your community, i.e., increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc.
- Focus on content.

**CALENDAR****JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, 2016**

State Community Improvement Program Award Chairmen must obtain three judges that are not GFWC members.

**MARCH 1, 2016**

Club entries must be sent via mail, postmarked no later than this date, to State GFWC Community Improvement Program Award chairmen.

**MARCH 5-15, 2016**

Club entries are judged at state level.

**MARCH 20, 2016**

List of first, second, and third place state winners are due to GFWC. GFWC will issue checks to winning state clubs after award winners are announced at their respective State Conventions. Allow a minimum of five business days for processing.

**APRIL 1, 2016**

State chairmen submit first place entries to GFWC, Attn.: Community Improvement Program Award, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990.

**SPRING 2016**

State awards are presented at respective State Conventions.

**APRIL 2016**

National judging at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**JUNE 2016**

National Community Improvement Program Awards presented at GFWC Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

**AWARD RULES**

- Projects **MUST** be accomplished during the program period: January 1, 2014-December 31, 2015.
- Club entries must be sent to your State Community Improvement Program Award chairmen, postmarked no later March 1, 2016.
- All entries must include completed Community Improvement Contest Entry Form.
- Project notebooks containing narrative description(s) and supporting materials must not exceed seven pounds in weight nor measure more than 15"x 20" in size.
- Clubs and State Federations must adhere to deadlines and important dates. (See Calendar)
- All monetary awards must be used to further the community improvement initiative.
- Each state's first place entry—which is sent to GFWC—becomes the property of GFWC and will not be returned. The national winners' entries will be housed in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.
- Projects involving two to six GFWC clubs qualify as joint entries and must adhere to the following:
  - Only one entry form shall be submitted, with all club presidents signing the single form.
  - Clubs involved in joint entries are not eligible to submit individual club entries.
  - Joint entries selected as national winners send one representative to the GFWC Annual Convention.
- Clubs that have previously won this national award must submit an entirely different project entry for consideration in 2016. Winning projects that have been expanded will not be considered.

**GUIDELINES FOR STATE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS**

- Rules are determined by your State Federation.
- All club entries are submitted directly to your State Federation and must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2016.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

### PROJECT SELECTION – 25 POINTS

- **Community Need:** Community issues that were considered in the project selection phase and how the needs were addressed
- **Selection Process:** Methodology used in choosing the project

### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – 50 POINTS

- **Community Collaboration:** Partners involved in your community improvement project, specifically those organizations and/or government agencies that you created and/or improved working relationships
- **Plan of Action:** Plan details, execution, and efforts, including documentation such as photos, letters, project plans, news clippings, etc.
- **Persistence of Effort:** Obstacles encountered and how challenges were addressed

### PROJECT EVALUATION – 25 POINTS

- **Degree of Success:** Specifics of your achievements; including how the effort differed from what was originally envisioned; criteria used to measure success, and future plans for the project
- **Permanence of Achievement:** Long-term project effects on the community
- **Changed Attitudes and Practices:** Increased community awareness and impact on community

## AWARD-WINNING PROJECTS



In response to the kidnap and murder of a community member by her spouse, the **Covina Woman's Club** (California) formed the Domestic Violence Action Coalition to address domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. The coalition grew from thirty members to more than 100 from throughout California and beyond.



The **GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club** (Wisconsin) partnered with thousands of local volunteers to create Imagination Station, a 15,000 square foot, custom-designed playground. Built to foster the healthy physical, cognitive, social, and psychological development of children with varying abilities, Imagination Station is the first of its kind in the U.S.



To give back to military men and women for their dedicated service, the **GFWC Bethel Women's Club** (Connecticut) helped to establish safe spaces on college campuses for returning veterans. These Vets OASIS centers help veterans make the transition from combat zones into civilian life by allowing them connect with one another, share experiences and struggles, and plan for their futures.

**GFWC COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD****AWARDS**

GFWC awards a total of \$19,360 to state and national winners of the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award.

## GFWC NATIONAL AWARDS

First Place	\$5,000
Second Place	\$3,500
Third Place	\$2,500
Fourth Place	\$1,500
Fifth Place	\$500
International Affiliate Award	\$500
Juniorette Award	\$250
<b>Total National Monetary Awards</b>	<b>\$13,750</b>

## GFWC STATE AWARDS

First Place	\$50
Second Place	\$35
Third Place	\$25
Total per state	\$110
<b>Total for 51 State Federations</b>	<b>\$5,610</b>

One member representative from each winning club will have the following expenses covered:

- Roundtrip transportation to attend the GFWC Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.
- One night's lodging at the GFWC Convention hotel and ticket to attend the award ceremony.



**GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**

# Community Improvement Program Award

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD ENTRY FORM/COVER SHEET 2014-2016

<b>CLUB AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b>	
State Federation	Date
GFWC Club Name	District
Number of Members	Number of Members Involved
Type of Entry ( <i>Check one</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Joint   ( <i>If a joint entry, please list all participating clubs with presidents' signatures on the reverse side of this form</i> )	
Project City	County
Population Served	
Type of Community ( <i>Check one</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban	
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	
1. Briefly describe the project.	
2. Describe the reasons for selecting the project. What community issues were considered while selecting this project?	

3. Describe the community collaboraton, plan of action, and the obstacles encountered while working on this project.

4. Outline permanent results achieved, both tangible and intangible. Was the project successful? What are the long-term effects of the project on the community?

**STATISTICS**

Total Monies Raised for the Project	Total Volunteer Hours	
Project Chairman	Phone	- -
Email		
Club President	Phone	- -
Email		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code

**Club President's Signature**

**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2016**

- Make two copies of completed form and accompanying materials. Send one to the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award State Chairman and keep one for the club's files.
- Don't forget to include your GFWC Community Improvement Program Award activities in the appropriate program area on the GFWC Reporting Form.