



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET
Annual Reporting January 1 - December 31, 2020

Prepared by: HEATHER LAPORTE	Club: YORBA LINDA WOMAN'S CLUB	
Number of Members: 111	District: ORANGE	Area: C
Club Position: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN CHAIR		
Reporter's Address:		
City: Yorba Linda	State: CA	Zip:
Email:	Phone:	

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Yorba Linda Woman's Club was founded in 1912 by a group of progressive women seeking to better themselves and following in the footsteps of Jane Cunningham Croly, our founder. They focused upon furthering their education and being more involved in the community. Aided by these forward-thinking women, Yorba Linda became the beautiful, well-respected city it is today – “*The Land of Gracious Living*”. Our club Mission Statement is: *We are a diverse organization working to promote civic, philanthropic, cultural, and educational interests within our community through the spirit of volunteerism.* Today, Yorba Linda still has a small-town feel with over 100 miles of trails used by dog walkers, hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Our club supports the City of Yorba Linda as it continues to improve and embrace the many recent changes in our city: low-income housing, infrastructure, including our new Cultural Arts and Public Library campus and Town Center, and technology including our city's interactive website and government transparency.

Project Title: For the Love of Too-New Babies

Hours: 1,823 Donated: \$500 In Kind: \$2,000

The Yorba Linda Woman's Club supports the Threads of Love charity which normally focuses on supplying sixteen North Orange County hospitals with handmade items for their Neonatal Units. This year due to Covid, the hospitals only accepted items through mid-March. We were also not able to use our city donated facility after that time.

Our most popular item is what's known as the Lovey Doll— it's made of flannel and designed specifically to help nurses prop tiny newborns, protecting their fragile skin while delivering the parents bonding scent to babies too small to be held. Additionally, we make bereavement gown sets, covers for the incubation beds to protect the baby's eyes while adding visual stimulation, flannel blankets, knitted and crocheted blankets. Our specially designed vests protect the tubes and medical devices attached to the babies while giving the appearance of infant clothing. All items provided to a child are theirs to keep and can be kept for use at home.

During 2020, the twelve Yorba Linda Woman's Club Threads of Love team members spent 800 hours and made and delivered approximately 2,000 items—an astounding number! This could not be achieved without the extensive time and labor offered by many non-club women. Each month we hold a three-hour “workshop” in our clubroom, preparing the fabric sets to send home with our sewers and log in the completed sets as they are returned ready for delivery to the hospitals. The majority of their time is spent sewing at home. Although this is a club project, we also welcome the support and assistance from many seamstresses who are not club members. These dedicated non-club member

women contributed an additional 800 hours and made an additional 2,000 items this year. A significant amount of fabric and sewing supplies (including sewing machines) are donated to this project by our members and people in the community.

For a number of years, CHOC Children's Hospital in the City of Orange has invited Threads of Love participants to a lovely lunch as a thank-you for our support. They give us a tour of their neonatal floor and we hear heart-felt testimonials from grateful parents who received our made-with-love items for their little ones and from the many staff who work daily with these babies.

In addition to contributions from Yorba Linda Woman's Club members, the members share the Threads of Love story at local churches, Elks Clubs and other philanthropic groups seeking additional funds or fabric for this wide-reaching cause. We look forward to continuing this project after Covid leaves us.

Project Title: Who Needs a Mask? Hours: 1,840 Donated: \$0 In Kind: \$4,000

This year, Threads of Love was approached by our usual hospitals to make fabric masks. In February and early March, the hospitals did not have enough personal protection and the need was great. The nurses we had been working with for the last fifteen years begged for help.

Fabric and helpers came out of the woodwork. We had donations of fabric, which was wonderful, but elastic was very hard to find. We sent out the word that we needed elastic and clothing manufacturers from Los Angeles and friends across the country came to our aid. We put together kits that could be picked up and dropped off from the president's patio. We followed Covid rules as carefully as we could. We received over \$2,000 in donations from the public and \$2,000 in donated materials.

Our president delivered to many of our hospitals. The nurses met her in the parking lots for their deliveries where many tears were shed. The word spread and we were soon supplying local senior centers and other facilities. All in all, we donated over 12,000 masks.

Project Title: We've Got Your Back Backpack Program – Giving Children Hope

Hours: 93 Donations: \$0 In-Kind: \$1132.00

Club members provided "hands on" assistance for Giving Children Hope with their efforts to provide resources to serve vulnerable children and families: 1) "We've Got Your Back Backpack Program - packing backpacks and 2) Family Client Food Distribution - prepping food stations and distribution food to families at the Giving Children Hope facility. The volunteer time was utilized for cleaning and packing over 200 backpacks as well as sorting through 3,200 pounds of food for distribution. These programs help to ensure children and families have a weekly stable food source. Due to the 2020 Pandemic, volunteering efforts at the GCH facility were paused for the remainder of the year. However, an on-line volunteering opportunity became available during the summer and one YLWC member volunteered time to assist with translating Family Surveys from Spanish to English. These surveys were instrumental to Giving Children Hope's continued support in identifying specific needs of families who benefit from GCH programs.

During February and in the Fall, the members worked with Giving Children Hope to coordinate donating 158 boxes of cereal and 38 boxes of snacks (over 500 individual snack items) for their Family Client Food Distribution. The request for kid friendly cereal/snacks was a specific request from families and brought miles of smiles especially during the time of the Pandemic.

Yorba Linda Woman's Club began volunteering in July 2018, continued throughout 2019, and the early part of 2020. Although 2020 brought many challenges, the club continued to support with "hands on activities" and donations of cereal/snacks. We look forward to extending our partnership as we look to 2021.

Project Title: Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA)

Hours: 139

Donations: \$250 Walmart Grant

In-Kind: \$1506.59

BACA works in conjunction with local and state officials, to assist and protect innocent children as they are drug through the court litigation process with their abusers. It's their mission to send a clear message to all involved that these children are part of their organization and they are trained to provide a physical presence, as well as emotional assistance to these wounded children by embracing them with an established, united organization.

Each child is given a denim vest or jacket, with a BACA patch sewn on the back and a teddy bear. This helps to make them feel comfortable and like family as they sit in the courtroom with their designated representative from BACA.

On November 14, Santa from BACA, picked up 167 bears, including 70 made by our Sew Kind group, and 81 jackets/vests.

I was very pleased with the support I received from club members and would recommend continued support of this worthy organization.

Project Title: Crittenton Home for Children

Hours: 260

Donations: \$0

In-kind: \$3,614

Crittenton Services for Children and Families continues to adapt and provide critical support services that proactively address the needs of the youth and families they serve. At its core, the mission is one of building resiliency in order to help achieve permanency, stability, safety, and well-being. They remain committed in helping to break cycles of generational system-involvement and hope to make a positive impact in healing childhood trauma within the communities.

This year the Sew Kind group faced a challenge of being able to continue their projects. With the Covid restrictions in place, starting in March we could not meet for our usual monthly workshops. After a couple months the members were given the opportunity to come by the Chairman's front porch to pick up items to be sewn, and then return them when finished and then pick up more work. This procedure worked very well and the ladies worked very hard getting lots of the items sewn. Items donated to the Crittenton Home were 360 Christmas stockings, 166 baby blankets, 151 baby bibs, 71 Teddy Bears, 93 Bags for Belongings, 10 lab robes, 75 crocheted items and 36 miscellaneous items.