

Arts and Culture Community Service Program 2023

Cary Woman's Club

The focus of our Arts and Culture CSP has been to introduce our members and the wider community to the arts and culture opportunities in our community, and to showcase the artistic talents of our members. Our community also benefits from the volunteer work of our members in various arts-related exhibitions in our monthly meeting space, the National Register Page-Walker Arts and History Center, a restored historic 1868 railroad hotel.

Cary Gifting Tree

Our club has an ongoing partnership with the local nonprofit, *Note in the Pocket*, that provides two weeks of school clothing for students, working with public school counselors who identify students and families who need these services. The tree provided awareness of *Note in the Pocket* and the great work they do as well as highlighting the community involvement of The Cary Woman's Club with the added bonus of serving as a club membership recruitment tool. During 2023, *Note in the Pocket* has provided clothing for over 8,500 children and family members, through clothing and financial donations. The Arts CSP partnered with *Note in the Pocket* for a fourth year to help them raise funds for their very important work to "clothe children with dignity and love", with a total 4 year contribution of \$10,620.45.

As an active member of the Cary Community, our club has participated for many years in the *Cary Gifting Tree* project at Christmas, where non-profits, organizations, schools, and families participate at the cost of \$50 each and decorate one of 120 Christmas trees that line Academy Street and the Downtown Park for the month of December. This year, due to the popularity of the project, the Town of Cary instituted a lottery system; and the Cary Woman's Club was lucky enough to win a spot through the lottery. Our club was assigned a highly visible location adjacent to the popular large fountain in the Downtown Park.

As residents walk up and down the street, they not only enjoy dazzling Christmas trees filled with creative decorations, but they learn a little about Cary's local organizations and their work in the community. The Town of Cary provides abundant opportunity for the trees to be seen by the public by scheduling frequent Heart of the Holidays Events such as a parade and town tree lighting ceremony and a contest for the public to vote for their favorite trees. To encourage broad participation in the project, links were provided to our Cary Woman's Club Membership page, a site to vote for their favorite tree, and a URL where they could donate to Note in the Pocket via the unique donation website.

Copying the traditional Angel Tree concept, Cary Woman's Club filled our tree with "Pocket" ornaments that have a unique website/URL on the back that links to a *Note in the Pocket* donation site where Cary Woman's Club is credited for the donation. Visitors to the town and citizens could take a pocket home and then donate to *Note in the Pocket* with their choice of needed items, such as a long-sleeved t-shirt for \$10, a hoodie sweatshirt for \$15, or a winter coat for \$35. Public donations to our annual Holiday Gifting tree (plus additional member donations) resulted this year in funding a complete two week school wardrobe, including coats and shoes for each of 12 children who did not have appropriate clothing in order to attend school on a consistent basis.

While laminated pages (4 up) of “ornaments” were provided by *Note in the Pocket*, the Arts CSP designed the rest – a fabulous two-sided candy cane striped bow for the top with streamers going down the sides, red decorative covering with bows and snowflake stickers to camouflage the wooden base, and two signs that invited people to take one of the ornaments. A team of 7 club members met to cut out the “pocket ornaments” and attach a red sparkling pipe cleaner to each of the 200 pockets, preparing them to be hung. 9 club members decorated and hung an initial supply of pockets in time for the December 2 town events, but in the weeks following, additional members monitored the tree and replenished ornaments. *Note in the Pocket* received 58 donations totaling \$1705 from the tree and \$620 additional donations from our members at other times of the year.

Members: 39 Hours: 61 In-Kind Donations: \$282.00 Dollars Donated: \$2325

Cary Woman’s Club Arts Festival

Because our club meets monthly in the Page Walker Arts & History Center, we have the perfect backdrop for our club Arts Festival each January surrounded by the arts exhibits on two floors of the historic hotel. This year, the exhibit during December and January showcased unique and colorful quilts made by the African American Quilting Guild which featured one of our Woman’s Club members. So our Arts Festival is a total Arts immersion experience! Our Arts Festival is simple as it consists of visual and creative arts and literature submitted by our own members. In 2023, 10 members submitted more than 20 entries in the categories of photography, quilting, crafts, literature, and painting, and each described the “story” related to their entry. Twelve category-winning entries were submitted to the District VI Arts Festival and won eight awards. Winning entries from the District VI competition were submitted to the GFWC-NC State Arts Festival where one member’s watercolor won 2nd place!

Members: 39 Hours: 123 In-Kind Donations: Dollars Donated:

Page-Walker Holiday Decorations

Housed in a restored 1868 railroad hotel, the Page-Walker Arts & History Center offers visitors views of regional art exhibits in two distinct galleries. The Environment CSP of the Cary Woman’s Club, in conjunction with the Friends of the Page-Walker, decorate the Center for the December holidays. The Town of Cary hosts many events at the Page-Walker throughout the holidays so the fruits of this project are enjoyed and viewed by hundreds of visitors. One of the highlights is the hand-crafted swags fashioned from beautiful local live greenery from the adjacent gardens, created by our Cary Woman’s Club member.

Members: 2 Hours: 11 In-Kind Donations: Dollars Donated:

Arts Leadership, Donations, and Volunteers

Our members belong to the NC Museum of Art, and volunteer and donate time and resources there.

Members: 2 Hours: 45 In-Kind Donations: 5 Dollars Donated: 65



November 21, 2023

Cary Woman's Club Members prepare "Pocket" ornaments for the Cary Gifting Tree Project

HEART of the HOLIDAYS

The Gifting Tree Project
 First Saturday in December - New Year's Day | Downtown Cary



PLEASE TAKE

one of the Pocket Ornaments on this tree if you would like to contribute.

Your gift helps ensure that every child who needs it has the confidence necessary for school success with appropriate clothes to wear. Also, a "Note In The Pocket" placed with these clothes provides a message of love and encouragement.

Secure Donation URL is: <https://bit.ly/3DaukPM>

 Cary Woman's Club is a non-profit that gives back to the community with support and service. You can also find the donation link on our website along with other information about our club

<https://carywomansclub.org>

Cary Woman's Club won a Town of Cary Lottery for an opportunity to buy one of the Christmas Trees that decorate the town along the streets and in the newly opened Downtown Cary Park. We teamed with Note in the Pocket to produce and prepare the ornaments that encourage passers-by to make a donation benefiting Note in the Pocket.

November 30 through Month of December 2023
 Cary Woman's Club Decorates our Cary Gifting Tree and replenishes ornaments throughout the month to benefit *Note in the Pocket*

