

**Cary Woman's Club  
Civic Engagement and Outreach Narrative for 2023**

The focus of the Cary Woman's Club this year in the Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP has been on providing moral and physical support to fragile children, military members and veterans, and recognizing the important contributions of local firefighters to our community.

**Myra's Angels Foundation**

Children deserve a stable and safe home environment. Unfortunately, many children experience neglect, drugs and abuse in their home and must be removed for their safety. So many homeless and foster children are left without support, transitioning to a new place with a trash bag containing a few items or nothing at all.

Myra's Angels Foundation provides support and hope to these vulnerable homeless and foster children in Wake County by providing a backpack filled with basic essential items such as toiletries, clothing, a blanket, a toy, and comfort items. These few but needed items enable a smoother transition for the children. Myra's Angels goal is to minimize the tremendous psychological and emotional stress by providing the children something they can call their own. In January and February, members of the Cary Woman's Club made 24 no-sew, kid themed, 4' x 5' double fleece blankets to be included in the Angel Bags. Each soft, cozy blanket will provide comfort and warmth to a child during a difficult stressful transition in their life, as they are moved from place to place.

**Volunteer Hours: 144      Dollars:                      In Kind: 288                      Members: 24**

**Wreaths Across America**

Each December, during the hustle and bustle of the holidays, Wreaths Across America asks us to slow down and reflect on the sacrifice our fallen veterans have given to secure our nation's freedom. This includes the fight for American Independence from the Revolutionary War to the present conflicts throughout the world where our troops are deployed. In large and small cemeteries across our country and abroad, these fallen veterans are recognized with a wreath laying ceremony the week before Christmas. The Cary Woman's Club donated three live evergreen wreaths with red bows for the ceremony honoring our local heroes in Cary's Hillcrest Cemetery. After listening to several inspiring speakers and recognizing all branches of our armed forces, members of our club carried one of 150 wreaths to a veteran's grave, said a prayer and the veteran's name and placed the wreath at the grave.

Volunteers are asked to “say their name” of each of the veterans while laying the wreath to honor their legacy of duty, service, and sacrifice. By inviting all members of our community to attend, especially schools and scouts, our youth are being taught the importance of honoring those who serve and have served our country.

**Volunteer Hours: 10**

**Dollars: 51**

**In-Kind:**

**Member39**

### **USO support**

Several members of our club have military backgrounds and are regular monthly donors to the USO. In addition, each year our club collects assorted snacks and delivers them to the USO Lounge at the Raleigh Durham International Airport, where a lot of service members travel through in getting to their next assignments. These snacks and phone gift cards are a reminder to the service members that they are appreciated for their service.

**Volunteer Hours: 32**

**Dollars: 480**

**In-Kind: 625**

**Members: 39**

### **Recognizing First Responders- Cary Firefighters**

Serving as a firefighter is more difficult and dangerous than ever. Fire fighters put their lives in harm’s way every day, responding to 911 calls which could be a fire, medical emergency, accident or any other life-threatening situation. While not responding to emergencies, our brave men and women are involved in the community by speaking in school and civic organization events, teaching everyone the importance of fire safety. The Town of Cary firefighters have been instrumental in making Cary one of the best and safest towns in North Carolina and the United States. This spring, The Cary Woman’s Club expressed our gratitude by delivering bagels, cream cheese, fruit and other healthy snacks to The Town of Cary’s fire station #1. That morning the firefighters were busy cleaning and inspecting their trucks for an important upcoming inspection. They were delighted and amazed by the variety and amount of food delivered. There was enough for all shifts to enjoy. We were honored to recognize in some small way the tremendous amount of work, risk and personal sacrifice our local firefighters take to make our community safe. We are grateful to have these brave men and women serving our town.

As reported by our Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP Chair, “The impact that Cary firefighters have on our community is personal to me. Three months ago, my husband felt a tightness in his chest. One minute after hanging up with the 911 operator, I could hear the sirens from fire station #1 coming down my street. At least four firefighters arrived and immediately took his

temperature, pulse, oxygen level, blood pressure, administered baby aspirin and prepped him for the paramedics. They stayed with him until the paramedics arrived and were able to turn over all medical information and status. My husband survived his heart attack with the assistance of our dedicated first responders.”

**Volunteer Hours: 10**

**Dollars:**

**In-Kind: 230**

**Members: 39**

### **Center for Volunteer Caregiving & InterAct**

Our club learned about the Center for Volunteer Caregiving in 2022 and provided holiday care bags for their Senior clients. Their mission is to help older adults and adults with disabilities in Wake County to live as independently as possible. The organization gets funding from Wake County and from donations. We wanted to learn more about their services, so the speaker at our March meeting was their Director, Elaine Whitford. As many of our members are “seniors”, it was very interesting to learn about their free services of assisting with grocery shopping, light housekeeping, rides to Drs. Appointments, etc. Some of our members may even sign on as volunteers. The club also approved a grant of \$891 for them to update their hardware and software.

InterAct is a private, nonprofit United Way agency that provides safety, support, and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault. In the past the Cary Woman’s Club has supported them in various ways. This year InterAct applied for and received a \$250 grant from the Cary Woman’s Club for their domestic violence program.

**Volunteer Hours: 35**

**Dollars: 1141**

**In-Kind:**

**Members: 39**