

Cary Woman's Club 2023 Fundraising Report

The Cary Woman's Club has a reputation in our community for helping to fund local relatively unknown nonprofits and projects for people in crisis. And we are committed to continuing that tradition of focusing on local citizens who may be homeless, recovering from various addictions, victims of domestic violence, food insecure, elderly or physically or mentally challenged in some way. Rather than send off funds to a distant P.O. Box, we prefer to make personal presentations of funds and supplies needed by these members of our community. These personal connections also help us to become aware of other needs these people might have where we can be of assistance.

"Silent Volunteer" Fundraisers

Our usual practice of sharing our time and talents traditionally involves lots of meetings, a focus on fundraising, getting together to work on projects, and personally delivering support and cheer to the less fortunate in our Cary and Wake County community. We did all of that this year, but we also have a "silent volunteer" fundraiser. It is our club's two bank investment accounts that act as our "silent fundraisers" generating dividend income for various projects and community grants. These funds are managed by our Board of Trustees. No volunteer hours, no planning meetings, no expenses for supplies, this is the easiest money we raise, and it is dependable, although the amount varies from year to year. This year our Maynard Fund (originally funded by the sale of land that had been donated to our club) generated \$4000 for grants and the Scholarship Fund (started by a large donation from our members) provided \$5000 for scholarships for a mature woman attending Wake Tech, and two high school students who are attending UNC Chapel Hill. The Maynard Fund grants went to InterAct, Read & Feed, Kingswood Elementary School (a Title 1 School), and funds to Adopt a Family through the Caring Place that provides temporary housing for homeless families.

Volunteer hours: 20 Dollars: 9000 In-Kind: Members: 39

Pecan Sale

Since the 1970's the Cary Woman's Club has been known for its annual Pecan Sale fundraiser, with fresh current year pecans falling from the trees about Halloween, and in our customers' holiday pies by Thanksgiving! Our annual Pecan Sale generates income for our operating budget including \$250 for each of our 5 CSPs (Community Service Programs). Each year we surpass the previous year's sales, because of word of mouth from our customers. This year

we sold 888 pounds of delicious pecans (plain, honey roasted, praline, and 3 kinds of chocolate), which generated a profit of just over \$2000. With this money, plus our annual dues of \$90 (about half of which goes to District and State GFWC), our Operating Budget for the year is funded, with any leftover funds transferred to our Grants program.

Volunteer hours: 280 Dollars: 2000 In-Kind: Members: 39

Craft Fair

One of our long time members (48 years) and a 3-time Past-President of our club, suggested that we enter the Craft Fair at Glenaire Retirement Community where she is a resident. Club members agreed and we spent the summer having Crafts workshops, which she hosted at Glenaire, starting each workshop with coffee and pastries. We had a fantastic time, and it was a wonderful way to get better acquainted with each other, outside of meetings! After 6 workshops, we had made lots of crafts: snowflake wreaths, wreath bows, oyster shell Santa ornaments, holly bag clips, quilted scissors holders, organza bags of rescued Heritage Daffodil bulbs, hand made scented soaps and body butter, painted tiny decorative bird houses, and many quilted items. We estimated that we could make a profit of at least \$1000.

Then Glenaire had to cancel their Craft Fair and we had to re-group! It was a traumatic time, but we applied for several other Craft Fairs, and were accepted at one, where we sold about half of the things we had made (with the Glenaire audience in mind) and cleared a profit of \$1483. We are now storing the extra items and hoping to have a booth next year at the Glenaire Craft Fair. We will have more workshops to make more items and form more close friendships. This was a great learning experience, and we enjoyed making “lemonade out of lemons”!

Volunteer hours: 242 Dollars: 1483 In-Kind: 425 Members: 39

Pocket Tree Fundraiser for Note in the Pocket

Our club has formed an ongoing partnership with the local nonprofit, Note in the Pocket that provides 2 weeks of school clothing for students who are homeless or have lost their housing, and do not attend school because they do not have appropriate clothes to wear. Note in the Pocket partners with public school counselors to identify the students who need services, and this year they have provided clothing for over 8500 children! In the past, our members have had events where we worked together in a group to help sort and fold clothes that are donated, or we have purchased underwear or collected needed items and delivered them to the Note in the Pocket warehouse.

For the last 4 years our club has participated in the Cary Giving Tree project at Christmas, where nonprofits and organizations decorate one of 101 Christmas Trees that line Cary's Academy Street and the Downtown Park for the month of December. Residents walk up and down the street, enjoying the decorations throughout the month. This is a festive way to let the community know about local organizations. Each year, (copying the traditional Angel Tree idea), the Cary Woman's Club has made and hung "Pocket" decorations on our tree with a url on the back, so citizens could take Pockets home and then donate to Note in the Pocket, their choice of needed items such as long sleeve t-shirt for \$10, hoodie sweatshirt for \$15, or a winter coat for \$35. The Town gave us a perfect tree location near the downtown fountain, a popular gathering place. The pocket ornaments disappeared rapidly off the tree, and we had to replenish them twice during the month. We hung a total of 200 pockets on the tree, and donations totaled \$2325 for Note in the Pocket. We love this partnership.

Volunteer Hours: 37 Dollars: 2325 In-Kind: 22 Members: 39

Cash and In-Kind donations from members

*Individual donations directly to Feeding Friends at Kingswood Elementary and for Note in the Pocket. \$325.

*Individual Donations to Scholarship Fund. \$500

*Generous Member donations of cash and gift cards for InterAct (domestic violence services), The Caring Place (homeless working families). \$1060

*Art supplies for our Craft Fair and monthly bingo prizes \$80 value

*Clothing collections for Note in the Pocket (school clothes) \$300 value

*Buckets of cleaning supplies and linens (bedding, towels) for Oxford House, a network of houses for people in recovery from addictions. \$400 value

*Potted excess plants from Pollinator Garden to sell at Lazy Daze to fund new garden plants \$90 value

*Food drive and household items for Dorcas Ministries Thrift Shop \$635 value

*Snacks for USO at Raleigh Durham Airport \$85 value

Volunteer Hours: 308 Dollars: 1885 In-Kind: 1590 Members: 39