

Over a Century of Community Service

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut (GFWC/CT) is a non profit volunteer service organization with a presence in the state since 1897. The clubs that are members of GFWC/CT dedicate their time to their communities, choosing projects as the need presents itself. Members are always welcome. Over the century and more, the accomplishments statewide are impressive.

The first annual meeting was held in Waterbury, CT in 1898 at which time it was determined a focus of effort was needed in sanitary conditions in local schools, free kindergartens, women on school boards and increased access to the arts for women and children.

In the 1920's, GFWC/CT proposed the idea of a "People's Forest" and the state federation set aside funds and purchased 2,954 acres of land in Barkhamsted, which was given to the state of Connecticut and the Connecticut Forestry Association.

During WWII, the members across the state donated to UNESCO and United Nations Relief Funds as well as provided facilities for WACs at Bradley Field., and participated in the "Buy a Bomber" campaign which resulted in raising \$149,000.00 and the purchase of 6 hospital planes.

In the 1960's, the Enfield club creates the Writer-Reader Conference in Suffield to give aspiring authors the opportunity to interact as they study their craft. This conference later becomes the Wesleyan Writers Conference, still held annually in Middletown at Wesleyan University and still supported with Scholarships by GFWC/CT.

In the 1980's, the organization supported the education of teens on drunk driving; they raised thousands of dollars for a robot that taught the dangers to children and created a documentary film on the subject that was aired on Public Television.

In the recent years, the organization has raised funds for Connecticut Canine Search and Rescue, helped renovate a women's wing at Rocky Hill Veteran's Hospital, and helped to establish 5 Veteran's Oasis Centers at Community Colleges and continually supports the GFWC signature project of Domestic Violence Awareness. While accomplishing all of the above, clubs continued to support their own communities with local projects and events.

The organization, throughout its history, has determined a need and found a path to the solution. The area of interest may vary, but the commitment to community service never wanes.