General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts
Lynne M. Stader, President

Community Improvement Program Award 2018-2020

The **GFWC Community Improvement Program Award** is a national recognition of an outstanding project and given at both the state and international level.
Every club can submit one of their projects completed in 2018-2019 for consideration.
Prizes are $25, $35 and $50 in state and $1000- $5000 internationally!

What do you do that impacts the community most positively, extensively and permanently?What are you most proud of?

- Projects are judged on development, planning, collaboration, execution and results.
- Select a project to impact your community most comprehensively, work out a plan, involve lots of folks, even other organizations, and see it through.
- We all do good works all the time. This doesn't need to be different than what you are already doing, it just needs to be specially written up and submitted for consideration.

Recent Massachusetts projects involved:

- Work with the homeless
- Provide town message board
- Establish a Repair Cafe
- Support to young prom goers.

Project Essentials:

- Identify and define community need.
- Describe the project selection process.
- Explain how your club engaged community support.
- Define how project is financed.
- Identify media support and process in which it was obtained.
- Recount how you overcame obstacles.
- Provide a list of collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups, and professional organizations.
- Describe club's continuing role in the project.
- Explain the project's long-term effect on the community.
- Identify results and successes.
- Describe how the project influenced changes in your community, i.e., increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc.
- Focus on content

Judging Criteria:

- **Project Selection** – 25 points

Community Need Assessment: Community issues that were considered in the project selection phase and how the needs were addressed
Selection Process: Procedures, plan of action used in choosing the project

- **Project Development** – 50 points

Community Collaboration: Partners involved in your community improvement project, specifically those organizations and/or government agencies that you created and/or improved working relationships

Plan of Action: Plan details, execution, and efforts, including documentation such as photos, letters, project plans, news clippings, etc.

Persistence of Effort: Obstacles encountered and how challenges were addressed

- **Project Evaluation** – 25 points

Degree of Success: Specifics of your achievements; including how the effort differed from what was originally envisioned; criteria used to measure success, and future plans for the project

Permanence of Achievement: Long-term project effects on the community

Changed Attitudes and Practices: Increased community awareness and impact on community

Award Rules:

- Projects MUST be accomplished during the program period: January 1, 2018-December 31, 2019.
- **Club entries must be sent to your State Community Improvement Program Award chairmen, postmarked no later March 1, 2020.**
- All entries must include completedCommunity Improvement Contest Entry Form.
- Project notebooks containing narrative description(s) and supporting materials must not exceed seven pounds in weight nor measure more than 15"x 20" in size.
- Clubs and State Federations must adhere to deadlines and important dates. (See Calendar)
- All monetary awards must be used to further the community improvement initiative.
- Each state's first place entry—which is sent to GFWC—becomes the property of GFWC and will not be returned. The national winners' entries will be housed in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.
- Projects involving two to six GFWC clubs qualify as joint entries and must adhere to the following:
    - Only one entry form shall be submitted, with all club presidents signing the single form.
    - Clubs involved in joint entries are not eligible to submit individual club entries.
    - Joint entries selected as national winners send one representative to the GFWC Annual Convention.
- Clubs that have previously won this national award must submit an entirely different project entry for consideration in 2020. Winning projects that have been expanded will not be considered.

Use the 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual Community Improvement Program Guide available on the GFWC website for more information- http://www.gfwc.org/.