



## CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET

Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Faye Hopper	Club: Riverside Woman's Club	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 CFWC Yearbook): 81	District: De Anza	Area: D
Club Position: Program Chair		
Reporter's Address: 20658 Gelman Drive		
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<b><u>Education and Libraries Community Service Program</u></b> GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan, ESO		

The Riverside Woman's Club (RWC) was established in 1896 when eleven visionary women gathered in the home of Dr. Sarah Maloy, a local physician, to form the Woman's Club of Riverside. Our club's name was later changed to the Riverside Woman's Club, making us the oldest community service organization in Riverside. Some of our early accomplishments include the establishment of the Riverside American Red Cross Society, with one of our founders, Mrs. Hewitt, serving as its first president; securing funding for Riverside's inaugural public library; and launching the Riverside Community Players, whose productions were initiated by a club member. In 2024, we proudly celebrated the 128th anniversary of service and the 102nd anniversary of our historic clubhouse. As a diverse assembly of women, we are actively engaged in projects that aim to improve the lives of individuals within our community and beyond. Our initiatives include providing scholarships, giving Christmas gifts to developmentally disabled adults, donating to local food banks, serving dinner to our local firefighters, and delivering meals to women veterans experiencing PTSD, among many other efforts. Through these endeavors, the Riverside Woman's Club continues to honor its enduring "Legacy of Service," celebrating a proud history while forging a brighter future in the lives of others.

**Project Title: Books, Games and Fun!**

**Hours 120    Donated \$0    In-Kind \$700.00**

The Riverside Woman's Club takes immense pride in establishing the very first Little Free Library in the City of Riverside, a beloved initiative that has fostered a love of reading and literacy in our community since 2013. This project is sustained entirely by the generosity and dedication of our members. As members and their families finish reading books, they bring them to our clubhouse, where the books are carefully stored in bookcases until they are ready to be placed in the library. Restocking the library is a collaborative effort, with volunteers taking turns to ensure the shelves are always filled with fresh selections. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, children's books, classics, or even magazines, every item finds a new home, spreading joy and knowledge throughout the community. This year alone, we were delighted to distribute over 700 books and magazines to readers of all ages. Each book not only represents a story shared but also serves as a bridge connecting our Club to the broader Riverside community. In addition to its role as a literary resource, our Little Free Library is the site of our Geocache, named after our first president, Dr. Sarah Maloy. Visitors to the site can learn about the history of the Riverside Woman's Club and Dr. Maloy through this engaging global treasure-hunting game. Our members monitor the Geocache regularly to ensure it remains intact and replace it if needed. Our library also serves as a hotspot for Pokémon Go, a worldwide augmented reality game enjoyed by people of all ages. It's always entertaining to see individuals and groups gathered at the library, trying to locate the Geocache or battling to defeat the nearby gym in Pokémon Go. Often, while

immersed in these games, visitors take a moment to add or borrow a book, further enriching the spirit of sharing that our library promotes. Through these connections—whether literary, recreational, or digital—our Little Free Library continues to engage with our neighborhood and the broader world, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives.

**Project Title: Read Across America**

**Hours 120**

**Donated \$0**

**In-Kind \$0**

“Read Across America” week, celebrated annually in early March, encourages a love of reading and honors the birthday of the beloved children’s author, Dr. Seuss. This year, we had the privilege of volunteering as readers at two local elementary schools. The theme, Celebrating Diversity, provided a meaningful opportunity to share stories that highlighted the richness of different cultures and experiences. Readers could bring their own books or choose from a selection provided by the schools that aligned with the theme. The week was a delightful experience for both the adult readers and the children. One of our members even dressed as the iconic “Cat in the Hat”, much to the delight of the young listeners in her audience. Throughout the sessions, readers actively engaged with the children by encouraging questions and discussions about the stories, making the experience interactive and memorable. The students’ enthusiasm for being read to was heartwarming, and two first-grade classes went above and beyond by writing thank-you notes to our readers. Their heartfelt messages included comments like, “We loved your story about kids around the world,” accompanied by charming drawings of stick-figure readers and students. These thoughtful gestures deeply touched us and underscored the impact of this special event. Our members who participated in Read Across America are already looking forward to returning as readers next year, eager to continue inspiring a love of reading and connecting with young minds.

**Project Title: Time to Read Again**

**Hours 25**

**Donated \$0**

**In-Kind \$ 0**

Our members of the Book Club delved into a variety of captivating historical fiction novels this year, each offering a unique perspective on different times and places. To enrich our reading experience, the club leader thoughtfully prepared discussion questions that encouraged us to reflect deeply on the themes, characters, and historical contexts of each book. These discussions sparked lively conversations, allowing us to share diverse viewpoints and interpretations, which made our meetings both engaging and insightful. Though our Book Club is small, the intimacy of the group fosters a sense of camaraderie and allows everyone to actively participate in meaningful exchanges about the books we read. One of the unexpected joys of being part of the club is discovering books we might not have chosen on our own. Each selection broadens our horizons, introducing us to new authors, styles, and stories that leave a lasting impression. Being part of the Book Club has not only deepened our appreciation for literature but also strengthened the bonds among members, creating a shared space for exploration, learning, and connection.