



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
*Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024*

|   |  |                            |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Chairman: <a href="#">Marcia Daniels</a>  | Club: <a href="#">GFWC Woman's Club of Indio</a> |                            |
| # of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 CFWC Yearbook): <a href="#">113</a>         | District: <a href="#">De Anza District</a>       | Area: <a href="#">D</a>    |
| Club Position: <a href="#">Health and Wellness Chair</a>                              |  |                            |
| Reporter's Address: <a href="#">P.O. Box 1503</a>                                     |  |                            |
| City: <a href="#">Indio</a>   | State: <a href="#">CA</a>                        | Zip: <a href="#">92202</a> |
| Email: <a href="mailto:Health@womansclubofindio.org">Health@womansclubofindio.org</a> | Phone: <a href="#">818-235-7625</a>              |                            |
| <b><a href="#">Health and Wellness</a></b><br><b>GFWC Community Service Program</b>   |  |                            |

Founded in 1912, the GFWC Woman's Club of Indio (WCI) ignited growth and innovation in Indio. It began when ten visionary women formed the Altrurian Literary Club (meaning "selflessness in service to others") in a rugged desert town dominated by male railroad workers and ranchers. These pioneering women met under the full moon so their horses could safely guide them home and transformed their club into a force for community improvement through volunteer work. In 1916, they established Indio's first circulating library and later joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1924, our member Dr. June McCarroll advocated for the "White Lines Measure" for painted highway centerlines, which gained statewide support. Today, WCI remains committed to making a meaningful difference in our community and addressing Indio's evolving needs. From scholarships and literacy initiatives to historical preservation and health and wellness advocacy, we honor the legacy of our founding sisters. Over 112 years have passed since our club's founding, and the world has changed; however, our goals, drive, and commitment to making a difference remain the same and are stronger than ever.

**Project Title:** **Making a Difference at Shelters**      **Hours:** **363.5**    **Donated:** **\$5,495**    **In-Kind:** **\$0**

**Back to School at the Mission and Galilee:** Recognizing the critical need for educational resources among disadvantaged families in the East Coachella Valley, our club proudly partnered with the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) and the Galilee Center (GC) to support their annual back-to-school drives. These vital initiatives provide thousands of children with new backpacks filled with essential school supplies, ensuring they start the school year prepared and confident.

Our club launched a two-month school supply drive, collecting thousands of items such as notebooks, folders, pencils, markers, and more. Generous donations from club members allowed us to purchase additional supplies, ensuring a significant contribution to the larger efforts led by CVRM and GC. Beyond collecting supplies, our members actively volunteered at both organizations, sorting and packing backpacks with care and dedication.

On giveaway days, club members joined forces with community volunteers and staff to distribute the backpacks, witnessing firsthand the joy and relief on the faces of children and their families. This hands-on experience reinforced the importance of our efforts and the profound impact they have on the lives of local students. Through this project, we not only supported education but also demonstrated the power of collaboration in addressing community needs. By investing time, resources, and compassion, our club helped empower the next generation, ensuring that every child in the Valley has the tools to succeed.

Springtime Holiday Fun Baskets For East Valley Children: In 2024, our club proudly partnered with the Galilee Center in Mecca and the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) in Indio to bring joy and hope to children in the East Coachella Valley. These extraordinary nonprofit organizations provide essential services, including safe shelter, emergency meals, and support programs for migrant farmworker families and unhoused individuals, positively impacting thousands of children each year.

To celebrate the spring season, our club members created and delivered 300 holiday fun baskets filled with thoughtful and exciting surprises. Each basket contained toys, books, puzzles, art supplies, sports equipment, bubbles, a healthy treat, sweet snacks, and a cuddly stuffed animal. Over several weeks, members worked tirelessly to collect, sort, and assemble the baskets, ensuring each one was a delightful package of joy and care.

Once completed, our members delivered the baskets to the Galilee Center and CVRM, where the dedicated staff distributed them to deserving children. The smiles and excitement these baskets brought to the kids and their families were deeply heartwarming, reminding us of the importance of community-driven efforts to spread happiness and hope. By creating these holiday baskets, we not only brightened the season for hundreds of children but also reinforced the power of collaboration and compassion in creating meaningful change.

Helping Feed Hungry in Our Community: Food insecurity is a significant issue in the East Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) in Indio and the Galilee Center (GC) in Mecca provide safe shelter, emergency meals, and food packages to those in need. CVRM currently serves over 130,000 free meals each year and provides additional groceries monthly to hundreds of individuals and families. Similarly, GC serves thousands of free meals annually and runs a unique weekly distribution program for food baskets and boxes, supplying essential groceries to hundreds of families. These groceries include items such as beans, rice, fruits, vegetables, non-perishable milk and juice, soups, and nuts.

Once a month on a Saturday morning, our club members volunteer their time to prepare and serve food at CVRM. Our members also collaborate with GC staff and other community volunteers to sort and assemble food baskets and boxes. This Thanksgiving, eleven of our members participated in a special event at GC, where we sorted and assembled 700 food boxes. We are very grateful to be part of these essential "hands-on" programs that address the basic life needs of disadvantaged individuals in our community. Through our efforts, we aim to raise awareness of food insecurity and provide direct food assistance to individuals and families in need.

Decreasing Isolation for Nursing Home Residents: Isolation in nursing homes across the country is a serious ongoing issue that leads to numerous physical and mental health challenges. To address this problem locally, our club has adopted the Desert Mountain Care Center (DMCC) in

Indio. This nursing home typically accommodates 98 residents, two-thirds of whom are long-term care patients. Many residents have few or no family or friends to support them. We have several ongoing projects with DMCC aimed at reducing isolation among residents.

Our members meet several times a year to create colorful holiday cards for all residents. These cards are themed for occasions such as Valentine's Day, the Winter Holidays, and New Year's, and they are written in both Spanish and English. Additionally, some members maintain pen pal correspondences with the residents. For Mother's Day and Father's Day, we create special cards, and we also send flowers and balloons to the facility for the residents to enjoy. Once a year, our members donate puzzles, games, art projects, books, and clothing to the residents. Our club's successful efforts to decrease isolation have brought joy, conversation, and smiles to both the residents and staff at DMCC. Our initiatives have also been adopted as a model by other community volunteers working to combat isolation in nursing homes throughout Riverside County.

Thanksgiving Meals for Those In Need: The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) in Indio, California, provides safe shelter, emergency meals, and essential food and clothing supplies. Its programs aim to stabilize, uplift, and educate unhoused and disadvantaged people. Thanks to generous contributions from individuals, families, and businesses throughout the Valley, much-needed supplies and funds enable CVRM to serve over 130,000 meals annually.

Each year, CVRM hosts a special Thanksgiving Food Drive to gather supplies and food for Thanksgiving meals at the Mission. This event collects non-perishable food items and turkeys, milk, pies, paper plates, paper towels, napkins, utensils, and more. In November, our Club organized its own food drive, donating hundreds of items to CVRM's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Additionally, some members contributed funds to purchase extra food items for CVRM's Thanksgiving meal. We successfully achieved our goal of providing healthy holiday foods and environmentally friendly paper supplies to prepare and serve the Thanksgiving meal at CVRM.

**Project Title: FIND Food Bank National Day of Service Hours: 52.5 Donated: \$1,749 In-Kind: \$0**

Food insecurity is an issue that the Woman's Club of Indio takes seriously. No one should be hungry or worry about where or when their next meal will be. The Woman's Club of Indio dedicated 52.5 volunteer hours to the FIND Food Bank on Friday, September 27, 2024, in celebration of Feeding Indio Days and the GFWC National Day of Service, both aimed at combating food insecurity and hunger. Fourteen members and one non-member packed 450 bags of fruits and vegetables to be distributed at a mobile event in Indio on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Each bag weighed 10 pounds, totaling 4,500 pounds of onions, potatoes, apples, plums, and pears. Additionally, \$248.51 was donated to the FIND Food Bank by the Woman's Club of Indio. Whether or not this continues to be a signature project for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, it will remain a project for the Woman's Club of Indio. We feel strongly about ending food insecurity.

**Project Title: Girls Love Mail Hours: 2 Donated: \$500 In-Kind: \$0**

Making cards to be delivered to women who are newly diagnosed with breast cancer in an effort to raise their spirits and give them hope is a fantastic cause that affects people we will never see or meet. Contributing to the cause in both cards and a financial donation is wonderful and reflects the spirit of the Woman's Club of Indio: supporting others in need.