



JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB OF POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND

2022-2024 Newsletter

The G.F.W.C. Jr. Woman's Club of Pocomoke City, founded in 1950, is a small nonprofit volunteer club, which is a part of the larger international organization; the General Federation of Women's Clubs, founded in 1890, and dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. GFWC members, *Living the Volunteer Spirit*, work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement, and work toward world peace and understanding. The GFWC Jr. Woman's Club of Pocomoke City actively supports our community through local schools, libraries and programs, museums, churches, families in need, shelters and food pantries, and businesses. The club participates in town celebrations and activities. The Junior Woman's Club is the proud sponsor of the Miss, Jr. Miss and Little Miss Pocomoke pageants. Since 1956, this is the largest and most time-consuming project of the year. The Junior Woman's Club depends on the support of our local businesses and our community for this event to be a success. The monies raised from this event fund 2 scholarships presented to graduating seniors from Pocomoke High School. Most recently the contest has been held in the historic Marva Theater in Downtown Pocomoke City. Miss, Jr. Miss and Little Miss Pocomoke are representatives for the town of Pocomoke during their yearly reign, participating in community events and parades.

The Junior Woman's Club often participates in the Spring and Fall Festivals, 4th Fridays, Easter Egg Loop during the downtown events, and prepares over 500 S'mores for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The Club has donated to the Pocomoke Recreation Department, provided eggs and candy for the Pocomoke Fairgrounds Easter Egg Hunt along with paints, and volunteers for the annual Halloween Pumpkin Painting celebration for local children. The annual Santa Breakfast is held at a local church with free breakfast, crafts and pictures with Santa for local families. The Junior Woman's Club often supports the local schools: Pocomoke Elementary School - The club donated school supplies for teachers and children, provided puppet shows for Family Reading Day, supported the Walking Club, and American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart. Pocomoke Middle School - The club supported the Future Warriors program, sponsored character scholarships for 8th graders, provided reward fidget toys for students and held an After School Program for Jr. Miss Pocomoke contestant preparation. Pocomoke High School - The club provides 2 annual scholarships for graduating seniors, donated items to the



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Warriors Closet and athletic gear to the Bracing Wounded Warriors project, supported the Boys and Girls Club and sponsored students to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation Conference.

In support of our local library, enrichment items were purchased and donated to the children's programs; and new books are donated in honor of each new baby born to club members. We continue membership and support of the historic Costen House Museum, where we have held several special events over the years including our 50th Anniversary celebration, and we look forward to celebrating our 75th Anniversary there in the future. The Junior Woman's Club has donated enrichment toys and blankets and towels to the otters at the Delmarva Discovery Museum. Supporting community churches, the Junior Woman's Club has donated funds toward mission trips, Vacation Bible School, collected coats, created Blessing Kits of hygiene items and stuffed backpacks. Continuing their community support, Gifts cards were purchased and donated to local families after they experienced a fire, a tragedy or illness. The Junior Woman's Club adopted local families for Thanksgiving and provided these families with boxes filled with everything to make a successful Thanksgiving dinner. At Christmas time the Club adopted 3 families and purchased gifts (toys and clothing) for the children and gave the parents gift cards to Walmart for personalized shopping of wants and/or needs. We participated with the WBOC Bless Our Children program to help provide local children with Christmas gifts. The Junior Woman's Club has sponsored a room in the women and children's wing at the local Samaritan Shelter. We provide linens when needed, donate cleaning supplies and toiletries, share leftover food supplies from our club functions and donated toward their new playground.

For Valentine's Day, members who are teachers had their students make Valentine cards which were taken to the residents at Hartley Hall nursing home and flowers to the staff and to use as decoration for their Valentine Party. Advocates for Children is the special project of the GFWC Juniors throughout the Country and Maryland takes pride in all the Junior Clubs participation. The Junior Woman's Club donated and supported on the Maryland state level to Tremendous Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Baby blankets and hats were donated to local hospitals and toiletry items were donated to the House of Hope. Globally, the Junior Woman's club supported and donated to St. Jude's, The March of Dimes, Soles for Souls and The Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child project.