



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET
Annual Reporting January 1 - December 31, 2020

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Number of Members: 105	District: De Anza	Area: D
Club Position: 1stVP/Dean		
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Environment

In Southwestern Riverside County, in 1980, a small group of ten service-oriented women met and founded the Temecula Valley Women's Club. They chartered CFWC/GFWC that same year and incorporated in 1981. A lot has come about since the Club's origin; TVWC was uniquely challenged in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic. The year started with enthusiasm for our continuing projects with our community partners and we were excited to start new projects. But like the nation and the world we were asked to stay home indefinitely. We could not imagine in this time of more need we would have to shut down. A few club members took the time to investigate virtual ways to continue to meet and work with our community as well as each other. We taught ourselves new technology and in March two committees held their first Zoom/Virtual meeting with eagerness and success. We taught each other, and since then have not missed a General or a Committee meeting this year. All through this difficult year our group of diverse women have continued to honor the original goals of our founders' intent to improve the education, ethical and cultural life of the community.

The Environment Committee's mission is to promote environmental appreciation and protection. We support awareness of our natural resources and development of sustainable habits that enrich our community. We work to preserve, maintain, and restore our natural resources and contribute to the humane treatment of animals, both domestic and wild.

Project Title: "Arbor Day/Tree City USA" Hours: 8 Donations: \$0 In-Kind \$0

The "Tree City USA" program is sponsored by the Arbor Day foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest service and the National Association of State Foresters. It is designed to recognize cities for their commitment to effective urban forest management which includes planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. In 2017/18 TVWC actively worked with the City of Temecula, CA. to apply for the designation. The City was awarded "Tree City USA" designation and held its first Arbor Day celebration in 2019. TVWC and the committee partner with the City of Temecula yearly for this ongoing project's celebration. This year started with communications and planning with the City. We had the date, time and place all on the calendar for April 25, 2020, but of course it was canceled due to the Pandemic. Also in our plans this year was a meeting with Murrieta's City Council to propose and support the City in acquiring Tree City status. Like the Arbor Day celebration, this goal is postponed until we recover from the effects of Covid-19, and can meet with the City of Murrieta at the appropriate time.

Project Title: “Rose Haven Heritage Garden-Pond Renovation” Hours: 17 Donations: \$500 In-Kind: \$45

The Rose Haven Heritage Garden is a gem of a site in Temecula, maintained by local Rose Society members and friends. The pond was installed 10+ years ago and was in need of much repair to continue to support the water life that depended on its balanced operation. The Pond was in need of a new electrical service filtration system, new liner and a waterfall feature. While the repairs were in progress the water life in the pond were carefully housed in water pods on the property until the projects' completion. The total repair cost for the Pond's repair was \$43,000. Our members were gratified to see the effects of our contribution to the pond's repair at a docent lead tour provided to us by our project leader after the repairs were completed. The renovation contributed to the continuation of a healthy habitat for water lilies, numerous other water plants, fish, birds, bees, bugs and turtles were preserved for anyone to visit and enjoy into the future at this safe public garden.

Project Title: “Help Us Grow” Hours: 3 Donation: \$100. In-Kind: \$0

Environment donated \$100 to purchase a Donor Brick to commemorate this distinctive, special year. The Donor Brick is engraved with: **Temecula Valley Women's Club, November 2020**. Our members felt that this unique year is a rarity. We all made adjustments and growth in this pandemic year and felt that memorializing it and the progress of TVWC within the year was appropriate, while supporting Rose Haven's endeavors to build community connections for families and children's education through nature. The Garden's planned 24 ft. walking Labyrinth path encircled with 220 engraved Donor Bricks at the garden's entrance is open and accessible free for all to use for a meditative walk in a lovely garden habitat.

Project Title: “Kitten/Puppy Supplies” Hours: 5 Donations: \$300 In-Kind: \$0

This year our members voted to donate funds to purchase kitten and puppy food for Animal Friends of the Valley shelter. Every Spring the shelter is inundated with homeless and abandoned kittens and puppies. The need for food, blankets, pet supplies and volunteers is continuous throughout the year. Animal Friends of the Valley's is a non-profit 501c3 organization, dedicated to promoting humane care of animals through education and a humane, proactive animal services program. They are committed to preventing the suffering of animals and to ending pet overpopulation in the cities they serve. They also offer animals for adoption and provide animal services to their city partners.

Project Title: “AFV Deck the Halls” Hours: 30 Donations: 0 In-Kind: \$20

Throughout the year the members collect Holiday decorations, stuffed animals and wrapped gifts to be used to deck the Lobby and hallways of Animal Friends of the Valley's shelter. The shelter stores them for us to use each year. When we arrive we sort decorations, place trees and decorate the trees along with office spaces as needed to create a holiday spirit for the visitors, staff and animals at AFV. This year we put up 4 trees when usually we average 6-8 but due to the Pandemic the shelter has limited the movement of visitors. We leave with a smile on our faces knowing that our gift of holiday cheer will help spread a little joy. This year that joy was needed even more the usual.

Project Title: “Personal Habitat Certification” Hours: 8 Donations: 0 In-Kind \$160.

This year the committee initiated the National Wildlife Federation's “Garden for Wildlife” certification program. This project was especially effective because it could be done in this time of isolation and it also compliments and supports CFWC's President's 2020-2022 goal of saving the Honey Bees. It also is a replenishing resource for other wildlife such as butterflies, birds and amphibians-both locally and along migratory corridors. Wildlife habitat gardens are havens for local wildlife by providing five simple habitat resources; **1. Food:** native plants provide food eaten by a variety of wildlife. Feeders can supplement natural food sources. **2. Water:** All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding i.e. birdbath. **3. Cover:** Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and places to hide from predators or hunt for prey i.e. bushes, trees, rocks. **4. Places to Raise Young:** Wildlife need resources to reproduce, and nourish their young i.e. Ponds, birdhouses, trees. **5. Sustainable Practices:** Maintain your yard or garden in natural ways to ensure

soil, air and water stay healthy and clean. By turning our yards, balcony container gardens, schoolyards, work landscapes, or roadside green-spaces into certified wildlife habitats we add pollinators that are so vital for a healthy ecosystem. Our members qualified online at the NWF website, where qualifications are given in more detail. There is a one time, \$20 application processing fee, which also directly supports the NWF and our members receive a certificate. It is an ongoing goal to get all member's gardens certified and we have presented an invitation to the entire TVWC membership to help us toward the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge within the certified habitat project.

Project Title: "Conservation Educational Movie Group" Hours: 212.5 Donations:0

In-Kind: \$35

With the goal of further educating our members and creating an opportunity to keep members connected during the Pandemic, they created two Environment themes for us to watch on Netflix and Disney channels. Each movie averaged one and a half hours and each discussion meeting was an hour long. The first theme for the Summer months was Oceans, which consisted of: Chasing Coral, Mission Blue and Disney's Oceans. The second theme for the Autumn months was Animals which included: California Mountain Lions, Disney Nature's Growing Up Wild and Naledi, A Baby Elephant's Tale. The committee prepared questions and data for each meeting. We had the first two weeks of the month to view the movie and on the third Monday of the month, we met at 1pm on Zoom for our discussion meeting. Fifteen members participated in this project and TVWC members were invited to join in. The project was well received and may become an on-going project.

Project Title: "Environmental Education Field Trips" Hours: 70.5

Donations: 0 In-Kind: \$42.00

In February, prior to the Pandemic notification an outing was planned to kick off a new year of our committee and allow us to get to know each other better. It also allowed us to take advantage of a "free to Seniors" tour of San Diego's Safari Park. This tour was not only a day of good exercise it was also an educational tour of the animal environments and enlightenment of the endangered and protected wild life of the world.

Another environmental outing was a Kayaking outing at Lake Skinner in Winchester, CA. Our group of seven members exercised while viewing nests, water habitats of fish and fowl such as white herons, eagles, and seasonal ducks and birds. Members shared their knowledge of the various animals with each other while enjoying a beautiful day outdoors.

In 2020 the Committee continued community outreach efforts by publishing articles and activity/project pictures for the Club Website Newsletter and Facebook Page.