



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
*Annual Reporting January 1-December 31, 2021*

Chairman: Lea LeBlanc & Jill Selders		Club: Temecula Valley Woman's Club	
Number of Members: 81		District: De Anza	Area: D
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Environment Committee			

In Southwestern Riverside County in 1980, a small group of ten service-oriented women met and founded the Temecula Valley Woman's Club. They chartered CFWC/GFWC that same year and incorporated in 1981. TVWC was uniquely challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. The committee meetings were held by Zoom, and then outdoors in a favorite private rose garden, open to the public.

The Environment Committee promotes environmental appreciation and protection. We support awareness of our natural resources and development of sustainable habits that enrich our community. Our committee works to preserve, maintain, and restore our natural resources, and contributes to the humane treatment of animals, both domestic and wild. The following projects reflect the commitment to this mission.

**Project Title: "Help Us Grow" with Rose Haven Heritage Garden. Hours: 3 Donation: \$2,000 In Kind: \$0**

Rose Haven Heritage Garden (RHHG) is a private, nonprofit (501c3) garden, open to the public. A \$500 donation (matched by a member) was made for the new gazebo. The old gazebo was falling down. A \$500 donation (also matched by a member) was made to the Peace and Friendship Garden. White and yellow roses will surround a display of Peace Poles sharing 6 messages of peace in 6 languages. This project is part of a monumental, international movement to promote peace and friendship around the world. There are more than 250,000 Peace Poles on every continent and in almost every country in the world. The Environment Committee was able to be part of spreading the message of peace by donating to this special gem. Both the gazebo and the garden areas are dedicated to the community for the appreciation of the beauty of the environment and sequestering carbon.

**Project Title: "Rose Haven Garden Volunteer & Improvements" Hours: 62 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$460**

Volunteers supported Temecula Valley Rose Society with in-kind donations, photography talent, and preparations for a two-day fundraiser celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event included a plant sale, ukulele concert and story reading as well as a basket raffle and educational presentations. Throughout the year, volunteers could help with rose pruning and garden cleanup. Funds raised for the RHHG were approximately \$2,000.

**Project Title: “Tree of Life Garden” Hours: 46 Donation \$0 In-Kind: \$0**

The fruit and vegetable garden within RHHG was all weeds, overtaking the entire area. Club women donated cardboard. It was laid down with a 4-6” layer of mulch on top. The cardboard and mulch kept the soil intact and the weeds at bay. Then fruits and vegetables were planted and prepared for teaching gardening techniques to families in the community.

**Project Title: “Soil Farm” within RHHG Hours: 325 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$110**

To bring awareness of the importance of composting for the environment, members saved food scraps in buckets then covered with mulch. When full, they dropped them off at the site. A member brought loads of coffee grounds, garden clippings, and weeds. Pond scum from RHHG was added to the mix that was composted into rich soil. Four 4’x4’ composting bins have been in process since June 15. Two of them are curing and will be ready to use in planting in the Peace and Friendship Garden.

**Project Title: “Environmental Movie Group” Hours: 75 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$0**

This group met on Zoom once each month to discuss a movie they watched about the environment. The Project Lead chose the movie and facilitated the discussion. This activity was well attended, fun, educational and entertaining. The discussion was valuable and helped to form friendships around environmental issues.

**Project Title: “Park Explorers” (with Health and Wellness) Hours: 42.5 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$0**

The Project members explored different parks and appreciated the environment on hour-long walks two times each month. It was intended to provide an outdoor experience with nature, exercise, and social engagement. It was not well attended.

**Project Title: “Healthy Eating” (with Health and Wellness) Hours: 210 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$0**

This was a Zoom discussion group focusing on plant-based eating. The Project Lead chose a movie that provided education about how what people eat affects the planet and our health. There was discussion about the movie during the Zoom. After the discussion there was a creative, simple cooking demonstration using no animal products. It was learned that in order to benefit health and decrease impact on the environment, people must put in the effort individually by eating more fruits and vegetables and less animal products. Eating plant-based foods can save water, reduce our carbon footprint, save animals, and save ourselves the misery of poor health. Members learned that plant based eating has one of the greatest impacts people can have on the environment as well as their health. As a result, members began to make incremental changes to their diet and cooking.

**Project Title: “Got Sneakers” Hours: 7 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$0**

Every year an estimated 600 million pairs of shoes go into America’s landfills. 100% of these shoes can be either recycled or reused. The TVWC Environment Committee participated in the California Federation of Women’s Club project “GotSneakers” to help keep sneakers out of landfills. Thirty-one unwanted sneakers were collected to be repurposed for those in need.

**Project Title: “Animal Friends of the Valleys Kids Camp” Hours: 16 Donation: \$1,000 In-Kind: \$0**

Animal Friends of the Valleys is a 501c3 nonprofit organization which provides humane, proactive animal services to five cities in the Temecula Valley. Of particular importance to the Environment Committee is the AFV’s Kids Camp Humane Education Program which helps foster attitudes of respect, compassion, and kindness toward animals. The shelter’s Kids Camp follows California Education Code 233.5,

providing the necessary materials and education to meet the state requirements for humane education. The TVWC Federated Committee Educational Grant of \$1,000 enabled AFV to offset the class registration cost for children of parents unable to meet the registration fee. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, millions have applied for unemployment which means most families cannot spend extra on outside educational programs. It was deemed imperative to restart the community educational programs for our local children facing isolation due to the pandemic. Every time a child learns responsibilities and compassion toward animals, the whole community benefits. Not only do these changes enhance the quality of animals' lives, in and out of the shelter, but also decreases animal cruelty and increases interpersonal relations.

**Project Title: "Covid Critters" Hours: 5 Donation: \$1,000 In-Kind: \$0**

Animals are feeling the stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, ten animal control officers from the local shelter, Animal Friends of the Valleys, responded to approximately 30,000 calls. In support of AFV's need for new equipment, TVWC disbursed \$1,000 to cover the cost of five animal catch poles, three snake tongs, and two feral cat dens. The animal catch poles, and snake tongs help prevent the animal officers from being bitten. The animal catch poles are humane and especially useful for catching large dogs. The feral cat dens help calm the cat's anxiety to aid in their transition and adjustment, giving them a safe space.

**Project Title: "Animal Control Appreciation" Hours: 10 Donation: \$ 0 In-Kind: \$400**

In recognition of their dedication on the frontline during the pandemic, members presented \$20 Starbucks gift cards, thank you notes and homemade baklava to AFV's Animal Control staff during Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week. The Starbucks gift cards were a change from the usual cake and punch party and were much appreciated by the officers since there could not be a group celebration due to the pandemic.

**Project Title: "Kitten & Puppy Supplies" Hours: 23 Donation: \$500 In-Kind: \$516**

The committee members voted to donate funds to Animal Friends of the Valleys to purchase kitten and puppy food, 12 handmade blankets and supplies. Every Spring the shelter is inundated with homeless and abandoned kittens and puppies. AFV maintains a pet food pantry which supplies the homeless, and people who have lost their jobs with food for their animals. They assist pet owners in keeping their pets during the Covid-19 pandemic, so they do not have to surrender them to the shelter.

**Project Title: "Cars for Canines & Kitties" Hours: 9 Donation: \$483.75 In-Kind: \$0**

A dinner fundraiser was attended by members to benefit the Animal Friends of the Valleys shelter. A Swarovski canine collar necklace was handmade by a member and donated for silent auction. Funds raised contributed to the building of the new onsite veterinary clinic.

**Project Title: "AFV Deck the Halls" Hours: 30 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$65**

It has become a tradition that the TVWC ladies decorate AFV annually for the holidays. The animal shelter stores artificial trees, ornaments, decorations, and stuffed animals for use. Ornaments were donated to add to the collection. Five trees were decorated throughout the shelter. One could see the excitement of the dogs, cats, and humans alike. It is such a joy to spread this holiday cheer!

**Project Title: "Casino Night Gift Basket" Hours: 5 Donation: \$0 In-Kind: \$203**

Committee members contributed toward zero waste items for silent auction baskets.