



Bits & Pieces

GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club

December 2024

Volume 15, Issue 10

Next Meeting: December 19, 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lisa DeRitter

Fran Gialanella

As Co-Presidents of the Woman's Club, we are thankful to be an important part of this group. As an example, the November program and guests from the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office were a hit and provided so much great information and engagement of our members. It was an important presentation of fraud, but we will definitely have to invite them back again for another of their many presentations they tell us are available.

As we near the end of the year, we wish you the happiest of holidays. In addition to looking forward to our December holiday party, it is also a time to work on those project reports. Keep in mind that recording our work is such an important part of what we do all year for our community. Know that there are people within our club and at the district level willing to help with content and formatting. The project reports should be submitted to the respective chairs as soon as possible as they will be due to the president for review and completion by **no later than January 13, 2025**.

There are also many needs at this time between the upcoming holidays and the cold winter weather. Please do whatever you can to help. Many opportunities to volunteer both time and/or goods exist, some of which are included in this Newsletter which we hope you are reading regularly.

Hope to see you in December and maybe some 'ugly sweaters' as well.

Fran and Lisa

2024-2026 VTWC Leadership

Executive Board

Co-Presidents	Lisa DeRitter, Fran Gialanella
First Vice President	MJ Palmer (Programs)
Second Vice President	Fran Janusko (Fundraising)
Treasurer	Judy Phillips (Ways & Means)
Recording Secretary	Donna Maher
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Hibbert
Federation Secretary	Maria Dorsey (traditionally outgoing President)

Committee Chairs

Communications	Maria Dorsey (Facebook and Media)
Internal Communications	Karen Breese (Newsletter “Bits & Pieces”)
Membership	Joan Danaher, Marie Flores

Department Chairs

Advocates for Children	
Birth Haven	Rosetta Patterson
Dulce Esperanza	MJ Palmer
Ginnie’s House	Donna Maher
St. Jude’s Ranch for Children	Dee Garbarino
Arts Performing & Arts & Culture	Dee Garbarino
Civic Engagement & Outreach	Debra Piccirillo
Veterans & Military Support	Debra Piccirillo
International Affairs	Lisa Mills
Birthday Bags	Arleen Hill, Judy Phillips
Benny’s Bodega	Lisa DeRitter
Project Self-Sufficiency	Marie Flores
WAFO (Warwick Area Farmworkers Organization)	MJ Palmer
Domestic Abuse & Prevention	Lisa Murphy
Education & Libraries	Valerie Seufert
Environment & Conservation	Vacant
Health & Wellness	
Blankets with Care	Karen Szepietowski
Comfort Pillows	Reba Burrell
Vial of Life	Rosemarie Guidice
Special State Project (The NJ Children’s Alliance)	Fran Gialanella
President’s Scrapbook	Nancy Speruta and Maryann DiCola

2024-2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

2024

December 19 VTWC Meeting — Holiday Party

2025

January 8 - Highlands District Council Meeting—Blairstown

January 20 - NJSFWC Day of Service—VTWC hosting at Senior Center

January 23 - VTWC Meeting—Program: ‘What is the Scenic Byway Project?’;
Puzzle Exchange

February 27 - VTWC Meeting—Annual Cookie Baking and gifting project for The
Homestead Nursing Home

March 12 - Highlands District Performing Arts Festival

March 27 - VTWC Meeting—A presentation related to Women’s History Month

April 9 - Highlands District Spring Conference and Achievement Day

April 24 - VTWC Meeting—A speaker attached to the SSP NJ Children’s
Alliance; activity for Ginnie’s House

May 5-7 - NJSFWC Convention—Atlantic City, NJ

May 22 - VTWC Meeting—Activity Fair in support of any of our charities

June 6-9 - GFWC Convention—Atlanta, GA

June 11 - Highlands District Council Meeting

June 26 - VTWC Meeting—Installation of new members who have joined the
club since the last installation.

A CHRISTMAS POEM

Written by Helen Steiner Rice

**1st printed in VTWC newsletter
in December 2003**

Shared by Barbara Fimia

*Christmas is more than a day at the end of the year,
More than a season of joy and good cheer,
Christmas is really God's pattern for living
To be followed all year by unselfish giving...*

*For the holiday season awakens good cheer
And draws us closer to those we hold dear,
And we open our hearts and find it is GOOD
To live among men AS WE ALWAYS SHOULD...
But as soon as the tinsel is stripped from the tree
The spirit of Christmas fades silently
Into the background of daily routine
And is lost in the whirl of life's busy scene,
And all unawares we miss and forego
The greatest blessing that mankind can know...
For if we lived Christmas each day, as we should,
And made it our aim to always do good,
We'd find the lost key to meaningful living
That comes not from GETTING, but from unselfish GIVING.*

Written by Helen Steiner Rice



**MERRY AND BRIGHT
HOLIDAY PARTY
DECEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING
MJ Palmer, Program Chair**

*Merry and Bright
Holiday Party
December 19th
6:30 pm*

We are planning a simple, cheerful holiday party during our December meeting. A hot chocolate bar will be available. If you would like to bring something to share, the signup sheet is here:

[Merry & Bright Holiday Gathering - December 19th 6:30pm](#)



Feel free to wear **festive attire**. The **Holiday Gift Exchange** will be the same format as last year. Everyone who wants to participate brings a nice gift, costing \$20-\$25. We get in a circle, place our gifts down and then play music as we walk around the circle. When the music stops, the gift in front of you is the one that is yours!

Warwick Area Farm Workers (WAFO)
Volunteer Opportunities
MJ Palmer



Volunteers are needed at the **WAFO Food Pantry**, especially someone who can help input member visits to the food pantry database as they come in. This type of volunteer is needed for any food pantry day, **Tuesdays 4-7pm, Thursdays 4-7pm, and Sundays 10:30am-2:30pm**. If you do not feel comfortable with computers and just want to help with the food distribu-

tion, you can volunteer on Tuesdays and Sundays.

The food pantry activities take place at The Alamo Community Health Center, 888 Pulaski Highway, Goshen NY. If you can help with the food pantry, please contact Jobeth Leon, Outreach Coordinator, Sun River Health jleon@sunriver.org.



Jobeth is still in need of tutors for the **Homework Club**. The tutors need to commit to as many weeks as possible from now until June 2025. Homework help is on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30pm at the St Peter's Lutheran Church in Pine Island. The club follows the academic calendar. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jobeth. The location of the Homework Club is St. Peter's Church, 70 Little York Road, Warwick, New York.

Many thanks to our members who donated and delivered turkeys for the WAFO Thanksgiving meal. In addition to the communal meal at St. Peter's, many meals were delivered to the camps where the single men live.

Thank you, members, for your kindness and generosity!

Warwick Area Farm Workers (WAFO)
Christmas Store
MJ Palmer



For those who are not familiar with this event, it is a significant undertaking for WAFO. **Over 130 families shop for holiday gifts in the store that is filled with new, donated items.** In the past, VTWC members have helped with many of the tasks related to the store including the collection and tagging of Christmas gifts. Children's activities are done in the lower level of the church while their parents shop during their appointed time. On the last day of the program, help is needed to clean up.

If you can help with the store this year, the schedule/sign-up sheet is here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GgbvQ1VHIBvwG_fNMev-xgd7CP_bh4Yqc3gGxq_mwNg/edit?usp=sharing

We will use our assigned budget to purchase many items for the store. If you or your friends and family members would like to donate new items for the store, a list of needed items is provided on the next page, Page 8. Thank you to everyone helping with the store and donating items!

MJ

Items	Details
Flatware sets	Low-cost boxes
Towel Sets	Three piece or single large towels
Blender	Simple models
Crock Pot	Simple model
Rice Cooker	Simple Model
Sheet Sets	Double, single and queen at max-no king size
Sweatpants for women	Sizes S, M, L
Sweatpants for men	Sizes S, M, L
Sweatshirts for men	Sizes S, M, L
Work gloves	Men
Toys	Nice Dolls; trucks; Lego sets; soccer balls; arts and craft sets; STEM sets; no stuffed animals please
Games	Candyland; junior monopoly; uno; card games; headbands
Blankets	All sizes
Children's Clothes	All sizes
Teenager clothes	Boys and Girls, soccer jerseys, jeans,
Dish Sets	
Pots or pans	Does not need to be a set
Tool sets	Individual or tool sets
Shaving kit sets	
Bed Linens	All sizes, twin, queen
Make Up/Nail Polish sets	
Hair Dryers	
Kitchen Baskets	Gift basket with all things for the kitchen
Art sets	
Perfume	
Hair items for girls	
Men's Heavy Pants	
Jackets for men	
Jackets for women	
Small Grills	
Griddles	
Toasters	
Toaster Ovens	

DASI
Lisa Murphy

For December, food donations will go to Benny Bodega. The club will alternate months between DASI and Benny Bodega.

In addition to the food donations, we are collecting DASI Safehouse Holiday Gifts. If you would like to donate, please bring an unwrapped gift to the December meeting (we will wrap the donations at the meeting). A list of items requested is below. If anyone purchases an item or items, please let me know so I can provide an updated list to the club. The gifts and/or donations will be dropped off to DASI on Friday, December 20.

Thank you,
Lisa

FROM KIMBERLY PRENTISS OF DASI:

We have one family for holiday gifts:

Mom - Size Large
Girl 11 - Size Adult Medium
Girl 16 - Size Adult Small
Boy 12 - Size Adjust Medium

**There are several single women that would enjoy and
asked for a comfy pair of pajamas:**

1 Woman - Size Small
4 Women - Size Medium
1 Woman - Size Large
2 Women - Size Extra Large

FUNDRAISING

Fran Janusko

Heaven Hill

Maria Dorsey received the check from Heaven Hill in the amount of \$4,030.00 for our participation in the Pumpkin Festival. Thank you to all those who volunteered in this event to make it so successful for our organization.

Script Card Gift Program

The RaiseRight Gift Card orders were sent in on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 and will be given to members who ordered the cards as soon as I receive them.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Fran

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Linda Hibbert

4th Quarter 2024 Correspondence

- 10/02/2024—Letter from Earth Angels asking for our support again this year.
- 10/22/2024—Letter from Project Self-Sufficiency asking us to participate in their Season of Hope.
- 11/16/2024—Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving card from Project Self-Sufficiency.
- 11/2024—Pedals for Progress asking for donations.
- 12/2024—Family Promise asking for donations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Judy Phillips

In the event you need to mail me a check, my mailing address is:

128 Lake Pochung Road
Sussex, NJ 07461

(The address in the yellow booklet is my physical address.)

Our Venmo username is: **@VernonTownship-WomansClub**

Please be sure to use the funds that have been budgeted for your committee. That budgeted money is there to spend from now until June 30, 2025. Any unused funds go back into the checking account and get reallocated for next year's budget.

Thank you!
Judy

BIRTHHAVEN

Rosetta Patterson

I purchased assorted sizes of diapers and four packages of assorted women's panties. My friend, Mildred Nunez, donated a case of diapers as well as a baby blanket. Our club members donated six bibs. Karen Rothstadt and I bought the Moms at Birthhaven nine pajama sets and nine sweaters. All of these items were delivered to Birthhaven on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

The Birthhaven team was thankful for and appreciative of all donations.

Rosetta

PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Marie Flores

Thank you to all who donated to Project Self-Sufficiency's Season of Hope Toy Fair. On Monday, December 2, I delivered ten \$10 Walmart gift cards and four \$25 Marshalls gift cards along with multiple donations from club members.

The Project Self-Sufficiency team was thankful for and appreciative of all donations.

Marie

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Arleen Hill and Judy Phillips

This month, our club assembled 8 birthday bags for the Homestead Rehabilitation and Health Care Center for residents who will be having birthdays in December and January. Arleen and I, with the help of Kathy VanDerSluys, filled the bags with items such as cookies, home-made blankets, toiletries, stuffed animals, tea and, of course, their favorite, hot chocolate!

Arleen will deliver these gift bags later this month in time for their birthday celebration.

Judy

GINNIE'S HOUSE

Donna Maher

On December 3, I went to Andrea Reckter's home and delivered 33 Beanie Babies, 45 Teddy Bears and 38 Fleece Blankets. It was easier than delivering them to the Newton location. She said that 88 children will be attending the annual Christmas Party. I'd say we really came through!

Thank you everyone for your support and your kindness towards Ginnie's House and all the charities we are involved in. We are a great group of women and I am humbled to be a part of the Vernon Township Woman's Club.

Donna



EARTH ANGELS

Valerie Seufert

A big THANK YOU to all our members who have donated assorted greeting cards throughout the year! With all the cards and notepads donated, we were able to provide 80 packages of assorted cards, a note pad and new pen to Earth Angels for the seniors in Sussex County nursing homes and home bound. There were also many 2025 calendars donated and, along with the ones I purchased, I presented over 80 calendars for the seniors.

A big THANK YOU also to our members who helped me put the packets together; what a big help you were! Please continue to save and purchase cards for this worthwhile project. The seniors really appreciate them and look forward to receiving them each year.

Have a very happy holiday with family and friends.

Valerie

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Maria Dorsey

As Communications Chair, I am in charge of our Facebook page and also writing articles for the Advertiser. Even though they are submitted, the articles are not always printed.

Since I cannot be at every committee meeting or event, I ask the membership to provide photos to me, as well as to Karen Breese, for the newsletter. Our Facebook page has been the source of many new members and it is also a way to get the word out to the public to let them know the wonderful things our Club does for our community and beyond.

Thank you,
Maria

VERNON STREET FAIR

Arleen Hill

It may seem early to be writing about an event that comes in early September, but I have some information and thoughts to share about this event.

I am not going to be able to head the committee for the 2025 Vernon Street Fair. I have done it for five years and I am ready to pass the baton to someone else. At this point in time, we finally have a good system in place for what needs to be done to make our booth successful. I will share all of the information and walk you through the entire process.

It's a fun day and a great way to reach out to the community and let them see all the good things our club does.

Please give this some thought and remember I will help you with the entire process.

Thank you,
Arleen

Margaret Conti

Margaret is our special friend and likes to receive cards and small "gifts" from us. Any time you would like, send her a card to say "HI".

Margaret Conti
PafaCom, Inc.
543 East Garden Road
Vineland, NJ 08360

****Reminder:** The cost for Margaret's cards, gifts, etc. each month is the responsibility of the "friend" member. Our budget does not have any monies allocated to reimburse for postage, etc.



FEDERATION SECRETARY
Maria Dorsey



Please see the attached invitation for the January 8, 2025 Highlands District Council Meeting, hosted by the Blair Woman's Club of Blairstown, assisted by the Washington Woman's Club, with refreshments. This meeting is also Program Assistance Day when the Chapter Program Chairs are to report on 2 or 3 best programs of the last year.

There are four speakers, including Barbara McCloskey, Federation State President. In addition, the Blair Woman's Club held a Silent Auction in November and has remaining items that will be auctioned at the meeting; proceeds to benefit The NJ Children's Alliance, our Special State Project. Each attendee will receive a number at registration and is welcome to bid on auction items if they choose to do so.

Please note that the RSVP date is January 3. If you are interested in attending, please notify Fran Gialanella, Co-President, so that she can send in the registration form for the Club. Send your payment to our Treasurer, Judy Phillips, payable to VTWC. Please refer to Page 11 of this Newsletter for Judy's mailing address.

It will be an informative and fun meeting. I am planning on attending. Hopefully, some of you will join me. It is a great opportunity to meet and get to know women from your sister chapters in the Highlands District.

Maria

NJSFWC Day of Service
Elaine Hossfield

The Vernon Township Woman's Club is hosting the NJSFWC Day of Service at the Vernon Senior Center on January 20, 2025 between the hours of 10:00 am—2:00 pm. A truck will be coming between 2:00 pm—2:30 pm to pick up the items gathered from the district on this day.

At our Club's November meeting, membership voted on donating Baby Essentials for this project. Suggested essentials to donate for newborns and babies include:

Baby Wipes
Bottles and Bottle Cleaners
Diapers of All Sizes
Formula
New Pajamas
Teething Rings

Care Packages for Moms
Board Books (Spanish) for newborns, toddlers and pre-school age children
Educational and Developmental Toys

Please note, the last couple of items are suggested to assist parents in programs that are designed to prepare new and expectant parents by teaching them new skills and supplying resources whenever possible.

We will discuss further at the December meeting.

Thank you,
Elaine



BLANKETS WITH CARE

Karen Szepietowski

Below are the measurements for the blankets we donate to local organizations:



Chemo & Dialysis	28 wide by 45 long	(maximum 30 wide by 50 long)
DASI	36 wide by 60 long	(for beds)
Lap Robes	26 wide by 26 long	
Baby Blankets	29 wide by 29 long	
Rectangles	7 inches by 9 inches	

Thank you to the knitters and crocheters for all of the beautiful blankets brought to the November meeting.

A total of 16 blankets were distributed:

- 3 twin-size bed blankets to DASI
- 4 lap blankets to the Homestead Nursing Home
- 9 hospice blankets to the Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice

A reminder that I will be needing a project report from each of the knitters and crocheters who donated hand-made blankets for distribution through the Blankets with Care program during the 2024 calendar year. Project reports should include number of blankets completed; total hours spent making the blankets and the total cost of the yarn purchased. If donated yarn was used, note that as well.

Thank you,
Karen

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Karen Szepietowski

‘LET’S GET MOVING’ CHALLENGE

To all of the exercisers:

Please remember to report the number of hours spent exercising per each activity (i.e. walking, jogging, running, yoga, Pilates, Zumba, biking, swimming, etc.) during the 2024 calendar year on a project report.



Some Gentle Reminders

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Newsletter information due to Karen Breese by the 11th of each month.

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At each monthly meeting, we will be selling 50/50 tickets to our members at 8 for \$5.00

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At each monthly meeting, please remember to push your chairs back to their original spots under the tables before leaving.

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Review the NJSFWC Website at your leisure (information below).

NJSFWC Website

**The New Jersey State
Federation of Woman's Clubs'
website
is packed full of information.**

www.njsfwc.org

No log in is necessary.

PLEASE KEEP SAVING

(Ongoing collections)



Pop Tabs

They are found on soda cans, pet food, soup cans, etc.



Greeting Card Fronts

Please save the fronts of your recycled/used cards. This recycled card program is an ongoing program that provides teens with life and work skills.

Children's
DVDs
For DASI



Just for You Bags

Some items needed: Towel sets, pillows and pillow protectors, full sized toiletries and specialty feminine hygiene items and dish towels.



Greeting Cards



Valerie Seufert volunteers for the Senior **Earth Angels** in Sussex County. One of the projects she works on involves putting together packages of assorted greeting cards for each homebound senior for them to use throughout the year. All types of greeting cards are needed **except for Christmas**. We often get cards in the mail from organizations — these are great. Also, the Dollar Store has 2 cards for \$1.00 and packages of cards can also be purchased there. Any donations are appreciated!

This is an ongoing project.