

GFWC

Bitterroot Woman's Club

2023



Est. 1914

We are celebrating more than 100 years of community improvement in the Bitterroot Valley through dedicated volunteers and their service.



GFWC

THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS (GFWC) IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED VOLUNTEER WOMEN'S CLUBS

Who we are



Bitterroot Woman's Club Foundation

In 2021, a Foundation was formed and granted 501(c)3 tax status that enabled the club to raise additional funds.

This increases our charitable impact in the Bitterroot Valley and surrounding areas.

We are women who want to make a difference in our community, our state and our world.

In all 50 states and more than a dozen countries, GFWC clubwomen are mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, doctors, teachers, and community leaders, working locally to create global change. Although there is considerable diversity in our ages, interests, and experience, clubwomen are united by dedication to community improvement through volunteer service.

With "Unity In Diversity" as its motto, the General Federation of Women's Clubs offers a strong umbrella of programs and encourages its clubs to expand their reach in a rapidly changing society.

Accomplishments of GFWC include: establishing 75% of the country's public libraries, supporting the first child labor law, developing kindergartens in the public schools, and working for food and drug regulation.

Our "Women's Crusade for Seat Belts" program resulted in more than one million car seat belts being installed during a single year.

What we do



Some of our Projects

- Books for Babies resource folder- this is a joint project with the Bitterroot Public Library and Bitterroot Health
- Distribute W.H.A.L.E. child safety project kits
- Provide scholarships for Bitterroot Valley high school seniors
- Maintain flower planters on Main Street in Corvallis
- Supporting veterans through multiple projects
- Provide decorated pumpkins for local nursing home residents
- Support for the Bitterroot Humane Association
- Made Valentines to send to local nursing homes
- Helped support kids craft day at the Darby Library
- Created tie blanket kits for the Darby Library patrons to make and give to Bitterroot Humane Association
- Support Speech and Drama competitions as judges
- Provide cookies for the Corvallis Tree Lighting
- Provides desserts for the Corvallis School District Staff Luncheon
- Deliver Valentine cookies to Shut-ins
- We help serve strawberry shortcake for the Bitterroot Community Band performance at the mansion
- We donate our time and funding to numerous local charities and projects

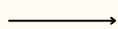


Fundraising

- Annual Pie and Plant Sale at the Memorial Day Parade in Corvallis
- Craft shows/ Garage sales
- Flower Power plant sale
- Online Internet Auction
- Functions at local eateries/breweries



Social Media



Meetings

Our general meetings start in September and Run through May. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30am

The GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club currently has 30+ members. We meet in homes, public buildings, restaurants, churches and libraries.

Volunteer service with GFWC encourages women to develop leadership skills, exchange ideas, and form lifelong friendships!
Dues are \$35.00 per year

For more information email:
gfwc.bitterrootwc@gmail.com

Or Call
Sarah Fryer 406-544-9269
Linda Stephani 406-961-3496

Check us out on Facebook at:
GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club

Overview of Projects



Our members participate in the projects, programs, and fundraisers that appeal the most to us. Some projects involve very little time or work, others may require more. Please feel free to choose what you would like to spend your time doing. We appreciate our volunteers and know that you will have a great time helping to provide support in our communities.

Here is a list of projects we have participated in over the years. We do not have every project, every year.

September

- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- The Darby no-sew dog cat tie blanket kit project is a great opportunity for visibility within the Darby community. Our members purchase fun fleece materials to donate to this project. We get together and put the labels on the front to complete a kit. When the patrons front the library receive the kit they can take it home and make the Tie blanket the perfect size for a dog or cat crate. This blanket is then donated to the Bitterroot Humate Associations
- Fall Meeting - Great Falls



October

- Fall Meeting - Great Falls
- We will be dispersing the W.H.A.L.E. kits to local preschools, daycares and doctors offices in Ravalli County. We have a pre-made kit that enables parents to provide information on their child on a sticker that affixes to the child's car seat. If there were an emergency where the parent could not communicate any information regarding their child the emergency responders are trained to look for this information and use it for the benefit of the child. This was a past GFWC Montana State President's Project.



- We decorate pumpkins for nursing home residents. You can decorate a pumpkin using your glue gun, fabric, ribbons, sequins, jewels, and anything else you can think of that you can decorate a pumpkin with. This is a fun project whether you have artistic talents or not! We either get together to do this project or during Covid we made them ourselves and dropped them to the chairman and she delivered them to the nursing homes.
- Craft fair at St. Mary's in Stevensville is a fantastic opportunity to meet others within the Stevensville community. As a group we collect items from our members for this craft fair and a few members sign up for times to sell the items at the table. This is just as much a membership opportunity as it is to help sell items.



Meetings

Monthly Meeting -
Presbyterian Church
Hamilton @ 10:30am

November

- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- We maintain the barrels in front of the business on Main Street in Corvallis. During this time of year we decorate the barrels with pine boughs, ornaments and a cute wooden snowman or penguin. Some years we create a new wooden accented meet at the Corvallis Post Office and decorate the barrels. This project is always greeted with thank you's and excitement from the community members watching us put them together.
- The Corvallis Bazaar is the largest craft fair in Ravalli County. As a group we collect items from our members to sell. This is a big craft fair which allows a lot of opportunity for volunteering for shifts at the sale.

December

- The Corvallis Tree Lighting is an annual event that we participate in. We collaborate with the Corvallis School district, The Corvallis Civic Club and the Corvallis American Legion. We ask our members to donate cookies for the enjoyment of those attending the Christmas Tree Lighting. A few help set up, serve cookies, and clean up.
- Christmas Party
- Speech & Drama Tournament (Stevi) Judging opportunities
- We help facilitate a kid's craft day at the Darby Public Library. The Darby librarian provides an opportunity for children to come in during a 3-hour period to create crafts or ornaments centered around a Christmas theme. We are a group that provides craft items and works a station where the children can come by and create their work of art.



January

- Club Reports Due
- Speech & Drama (Corvallis)
Judging and information hostess opportunities
- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- We create homemade Valentine's for a segment of our community who are often overlooked. In the past we have sent them to some of our elderly care facilities' would like to expand to first responders, nurses, or teachers this year.

January
Club Reports
Due

February

- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- We will begin to collect gift certificates and or items for our online auction fundraiser which will happen in April. We need overall club participation to make this a profitable fundraiser . There are a multitude of different ways to volunteer for this project.

March

- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- We will continue working on our online auction fundraiser during this month. We will be putting up flyers around the Bitterroot Valley to advertise for the online auction.
- We can fulfill our need for flowers and plants with our Flower Power Fundraiser. We order our items and receive 50% of all orders back to the club placed during a certain time period. Orders can be placed in Person from our chairman or online and delivered right to your home.



April

- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- This month will be the culmination of all the work we have put into our online auction fundraiser! After the auction is over we will need a few people to help distribute items to the winners. Some will be mailed, members can also help with this portion of the project.



May

- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- We maintain the barrels in front of the businesses on Main Street in Corvallis. During this time of year we plant flowers in the barrels and place American Flags with them. We meet at the Corvallis Post Office and receive instruction on how to complete this project. This project is always greeted with thank you's and excitement from the community members watching us put them together.
- We organize the annual pie and plant sale at the Memorial Day parade in Corvallis. Some members make homemade pies others grow plant starts. We sell our items before and after the Memorial Day parade in Corvallis.



June

Pay Dues \$35.00
Submit to Linda
Stephani

June

- Monthly Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hamilton @ 10:30am
- Pay Dues \$35.00 Submit to Linda Stephani
- The nonprofit Fair is a recruitment event put on by a group within the community. We have been on the committee to create the fair and also have had a booth promoting our club at the fair. There are multitude of ways to participate in this event.

July

- The Bitterroot Community Band puts on a concert every year at the Daly Mansion. During intermission of the concert we help serve strawberry shortcake to the concert attendees.
- We participate in the 50 mile garage sale as a fundraiser. We collect gently used items from our members to sell during the Bitterroot Valley Event. There are a multitude of easy to participate in this event. In the past we have also sold hot dogs, drinks and individually packaged desserts. The committee will decide on the volunteer needs and advise.





August

- The Corvallis Staff Luncheon is a historical annual project. As we welcome back to staff members we decorate the tables and provide the desserts for staff. This is during the school provided luncheon on their teacher work day before the students arrive back to school for the year. We meet in the Corvallis High School gym and decorate the tables. We also set up all the desserts on the tables. The food service staff provides lunch for the School District staff and our members.



We have certain projects that do not have a specific time of year that they need to be completed



- Books for Babies is a project in conjunction with the Bitterroot Public Library that benefits all babies born at Bitterroot Health throughout the year. We get together once or twice during the year to put together a resource folder for new parents. This folder includes a board book for the new baby to enjoy. We normally meet in the community room at the Bitterroot Public Library and assemble the folders.
- We support veterans throughout the year in various ways. We keep you advised of opportunities to help.
- We occasionally help maintain Summerdale Park in Corvallis. We have planted trees or flowers in this cute little pocket park. We will let you know if there is an opportunity for a project.
- Marcus Street Safety Project is a new project this year. We would like to help get flashing lights, and perhaps an electronic speed limit sign installed for public safety. This project could include helping write letters, attending community meetings and gathering signatures. We will continually update you on our progress.
- We can recycle our mascara wands through the Wands for Wildlife Program. We collect clean mascara wands and send them to a group who reuses them to help rehabilitate wildlife.