



GFWC Big Rapids Newsletter



December, 2020

"Words have no meaning until they are put into Action."

Hello Ladies,



Unlike November, December has arrived with a beautiful, sun shining day. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It is now okay to put up your Christmas decorations. Although, I know a few started early. I want to thank those who helped put up the mitten trees, cute idea with several trees. It has been a huge success. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our Christmas party this year. We hope to be able to have a "winter" party in a couple months.

Thank you for your generous donations to the Women Vets and the Wise family. I hope you have a safe and healthy Merry Christmas and that in 2021 we will be able to get together more.

Miss your hugs!!

Ann

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others.” – Bob Hope



Unfortunately our annual Christmas Party has been postponed due to the Covid concerns.

Stay tuned, we hope to gather for a celebration in the near future.



**Sending our care,
concerns and hugs to:**

Judy Irvin

Mary Sue Hansen

Jennifer Houttiker

Carl Boroff

Bruce Fredrick



Good News!

Carrie Franklund & Beth Martz are both expecting new Grandbabies. It is great to share happy news!



Our Next meeting will be
Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021
6:30pm Big Rapids Elks

We will be at the Elks where we will be able to practice social distancing and encourage everyone to wear a mask if possible. The business meeting will start at 6:30 since we will not be able to serve refreshments.

For those who are not able to attend in person, you will be able to attend via ZOOM. The link will be emailed to you.

Please bring any of the following:

Can Pull Tabs

Batteries for recycle

Quarters or check for Heifer International

Ongoing Collection of Recyclable clean pop cans or bottles to help the Big Rapids Scouts camp fund — Drop donations at Sue Johnson's office

Collecting Items for **Happy Birthday Bags**: Cake mixes, frosting, candles, napkins, birthday cards and disposable 9"X13" pan.

Collecting items for the **Foster Child Suitcase project**: books, flashlights, night lights, plush animal, blanket, suitcases or duffle bags.

Any Operation Smile projects that you have completed.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAGS!

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP is creating Happy Birthday Bags to be given to family clients at Project Starburst. The purpose of the Happy Birthday Bag is to be given to a family who has an upcoming birthday, so they can have a special party to celebrate at home. We are in need of collecting items to create the bags. Each bag will contain the following items:



Cake Mix

Frosting

Candles

Birthday napkins

Disposable 9" X 13" pan

A Birthday gift bag large enough to hold the mix, candles, frosting and napkins..

At our January meeting we will create some Birthday Cards to include but if you have any you would like to include, bring them.



Honoring Carl Boroff

**Carl was presented a
Quilts of Valor Quilt to
honor his service
to the U.S.**

Congratulations, Carl!





**ENVIRONMENT
CSP MEMBERS
Had A Fun,
Creative Evening
in order to bring
joy to others.**

Floral Designers are:

Christa Eling, Carrie Franklund, Ann Stellard,
Sue Johnson, Joyce Iltis & Linda Telfer

60 Arrangements were created by these talented women. The Fall arrangements have been delivered to our special friends and residents of our local nursing homes who do not have family close by.

The Christmas arrangements' will be delivered as we get closer to Christmas.

Thanks you to our GFWC members for bringing smiles and joy to so many people in our community. This is what GFWC is all about!



FESTIVAL OF MITTEN TREES

Pictured:
Health & Well-
ness Members:
Sue Bean,
Ann Stellard,
Vickie Vogel,
Melanie Henry,
Mary Bechaz



The trees went up and the mittens, hats, and scarves kept coming! Many children will enjoy extra warmth this year. We even received a \$150 donation to purchase more.
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED!



Have you noticed the beautiful Christmas Urns that the gals of our Environment CSP have created in the Post Office garden and Riverwalk garden?

They are beautiful and will brighten the gardens all winter. Thank You!



ONGOING DONATIONS :

Greeting Cards for all occasions

Children book donations of nearly new books

Bottle and Cans for BR Scout Fund

Pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Used batteries for recycle

Foster Child Suitcase items

Used shoes for Soles for Souls

Quarters or check for Heifer International

Plastic grocery bags to be crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless



UPCOMING PROJECTS:



Happy Birthday Bags for Project Starburst clients. Collecting cake mixes and all the ingredients to create a Birthday party.: cake mix, frosting, candles, disposable cake pan, birthday gift bag. Bring donations to January meeting.

Operation Smile Kits: Dee has distributed kits . Project runs from November thru April

Foster Child Suitcase project: Collecting books, flashlights, night lights, plush animal, blanket, suitcases or duffle bags.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES:

Project Starburst : Looking for a volunteer to pick up a weekly Friday evening donation of breads, etc. from Panera

Looking for help assisting in the pantry or shopping

Contact Diane Long at 231-79-5342 br@projectstarburst.org

Our Brother's Keeper: Looking for volunteers to assist at the dinner hour with guests—no cooking required

Other opportunities may be available on an as needed basis

Contact Lila Ecker at 231-629-8033

