

AAUW Annual Report

Community Service Initiatives

Liaison, Vivian Rose
2020 – 2021

This year was a unique one created in part by COVID-19, however AAUW women met the challenge with resiliency and creativity.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions observed by AAUW and partner groups (Girl Scouts, local school districts) and the venues utilized, the following community services were unable to hold any events during this time: Extending Girls' Horizons, Girls' Live Your Dream Conference, and STEM-Math Buddies.

Other community initiatives such as: Court Watch, Days for Girls, Leading to Reading, and The Mothers' Project were able to adapt and move forward – in fact, they thrived! (Please see respective reports.)

Some highlights of this year:

1. **"The Education Collaborative"** is under consideration as a new Community Service Initiative. It was conceived by member Sabashnee G with the mission of supporting women earning their High School Equivalency (HSE). A committee included – Sue Doyle, Diane Jablonski, Linnea Masson, Vivian Rose, and Lori Scolaro. Scholarships, community resources, grants, and mentorships are being researched. Status is currently on-going with plans for Board review in June or September 2021.
2. **The Mothers' Project**, under the leadership of Kay Bishop, is launching the "Baby Blanket and Diaper Drive-Thru." It is scheduled for June 7th at Sun River Health. Its purpose is to support new mothers who struggle more than ever for lack of supplies caused by unemployment and the pandemic. It is our hope that this will become an annual event.
3. **BabyVision of Poughkeepsie Donation**. Considering the above, I realized that these same moms have not had the luxury of a traditional "Baby Shower" nor the beauty of a family gathering upon arrival home from the hospital (due to pandemic restrictions). I contacted Mr. Shah, CEO of BabyVision. He and his family pledged to donate baby clothes and supplies. It our hope that this will also become an annual event.

As Community Services Liaison:

- Contacted our Community Service Leaders monthly before each Board meeting to ask for updates/issues to bring to the Board and shared feedback.
- Wrote articles for The Branch Newsletter.
- Oriented new members and forwarded their names to our Initiative Leaders
- Met with President Monique Jones, Margaret Nijhuis, Betty Harrel, and Barbara Durniak to update 2020-2022 AAUW Poughkeepsie Strategic Plan.
- Met with President and Treasurer Pat Luczai to review funding requests.
- Served on new DEI Committee launching the Book Discussion Group.