

AAUW Annual Report

Community Service Initiatives

Mary Ann Boylan – Community Service Initiative Liaison

2022 -2023

Court Watch – Ann Pinna, Chair

Court Watch observes court proceedings related to domestic violence. Recent changes require members to inform the County Clerk the date, time and judge they wish to see. Some cases are monitored in front of a judge while others are viewed virtually in a special viewing room in the Court House. Of the eight member team, five are active monitors and one is the data recorder. Ann Pinna attended the Family Service Walk for Domestic Violence at the Galleria and made a contribution on behalf of the Court Watch Team.

Days for Girls – Sabashnee Govender, Judy Longacre, Co-Chair

Our Days for Girls team sent 25 completed kits and 25 extra washcloths and soap to the Days for Girls International center, to be sent to Cuba. Locally, 90 hybrid kits were donated to Kingston and Middletown high schools, the Redeemed Christian Church food pantry in Poughkeepsie and Day One. Data on the needs of our community is being collected in order to be better prepared for future distribution.

Extending Girls Horizons – Peggy Kelland, Chair

Peggy Kelland and Gwen Higgins in partnership with the Dutchess County Girl Scouts present events in leadership and S.T.E.M to girls in grades 6 – 12. Meetings are held at the Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls, NY.

Events this year included:

- Map and Compass Workshop – held at Bowdoin Park
- International Games – cooperative games, shared math and word board and card games
- Woodworking – project was making string art plaques
- Girl Scout Journey “A-Maze” – Thirty two Girl Scouts participated in an all-day exploration of social relationships; friendship circles, bullying and more through large group games, small group discussions and journaling.
- New Cuisine – Twenty three girls prepared historical, regional and international dishes followed by a buffet of fourteen different dishes.
- Special agent – The topic of this event was forensic science experiments and crafts.

Leading to Read – Betty Harrel, Chair

Leading to Read books and book kits were delivered to the Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center, AgriBusiness Child Development Center in New Paltz, Holy Light Pentecostal Church, Arlington High School Reading Program, Astor Poughkeepsie, Astor Red Hook and the Vanderbilt homeless shelter this year.

A \$3,000 grant was received from the Norah Roberts Foundation and a donation of bags was received from Adams Fairacre Farms. Grants from Stewart Holiday Match and Holiday Helping Hand were also received. The Holiday Helping Hands Grant provided books for children living at the Hudson River Lodging shelter. The books were wrapped by Leading to Read members and distributed at the shelter's holiday party in December.

The Leading to Read group made bookmarks to be distributed along with free books at the Poughkeepsie Central School District Community Day. The committee is setting up "to go" packets to be distributed at community venues. The group continues to search for new places to donate books for school age children.

Staatsburg Firehouse, where Leading to Read has storage space, has run out of room. Leading to Read is looking for a new home and has been following up on a number of places.

STEM Math Buddies – Barbara Van Itallie, Chair

Math Buddies is loosely connected with Literacy Connections, modeled after their Book Buddies program. A new Book Buddies Coordinator corresponds with Barbara and is in charge of background checks and orientation for all Book Buddies. Three Buddies continue to volunteer at two elementary schools in Poughkeepsie this year. Plans are being made to meet and review this year's progress and discuss ways to find more volunteers for the next school year.

As Community Service Liaison, I performed the following duties:

- Contacted initiatives before the monthly Board meeting to see if there were any updates/issues they needed to communicate to the Board
- Forwarded any communications from the Board to the initiatives