

Historian's History!



Visiting AWC's Road to Philanthropy

Traveling 56 Years! 1916 to 1962

Although there were many meeting relocations, name changes, along with AWC's wide commitment to libraries (Oct. newsltr), from its inception, Club members have constantly dedicated themselves to helping others in our community.

Did you know that our road started with these early projects?

- Provided a piano and playground equipment for Alamo Grammar School in 1916 -1922
- Sewing for the Red Cross was a 'major activity' in 1939
- Held a War Bond Drive with **final sum of \$16,175** - impressive amount in dollars of 1943!
- Purchased supplies and made **110 Christmas stockings** for service men (1944)
- Gave to Tuberculosis Seals
- Sponsored a Victory Garden Contest with **\$25 First Prize**
- Adopted a veteran of WWI and WWII (1948)
- Supported Crippled Children Easter Seals sale in 1948
- Christmas Bureau of Walnut Creek yearly donation (1961)
- John Muir Memorial Hospital fund drive
- Donated to bus for Lynn School for the Retarded, Danville/Walnut Creek ('62)
- Began donations to Penny Pines program (1961)

Photos from our Scrapbks



In 1939 a Sewing Section formed which met in homes on Tuesdays. They made dresses for the Red Cross to distribute abroad. That year they also funded an Alamo Grammar School child's two week stay at summer camp in Mendocino and provided **\$5** for Livermore Veterans; **\$1** to Cancer Control work and **\$1** for Christmas Seals. (After WWII this section became an AWC Arts & Crafts section.)



Many a newspaper article from 1939 onward list the number of garments sewn and whether or not they met their Red Cross 'quotas'. A typical news article from 1941 lists:

22 ladies' dresses, 2 children's dresses, 2 boys' shirts, 22 robes, 10 layettes, 3 baby garments, 2 dozen diapers, 1 child's robe 1 baby blanket.

In addition, they knitted: 4 ladies' sweaters, 5 men's sweaters, 9 children's sweaters & 3 shawls.

During WWII years the club headquarters became a canteen for supplies in case of emergency.

Members worked making clothes and rolling bandages. They organized first aid classes and they with their husbands manned the Air Watch Tower located at Alamo Grammar School. Members entertained servicemen from the Diablo Artillery Training Camp and from the 'camp at Rock City'.

In the 50's the donation of the Clubhouse and its outfitting occupied a lot of energy, but even so philanthropy efforts continued. In fact, members began outreach to new areas of needed community service during that time. In our archival clippings they note upping their fundraising to meet that increased demand and by the mid 1960's changed their mission to match their philanthropic aim! Carola Cordell (a past AWC president and AWC historian) explains in A Short History Of The Alamo Women's Club that its Bylaws were changed omitting wording that the club was a 'social center' and instead "*emphasizing its interest in philanthropic projects and civic improvements.*"

From inception the community benefitted from AWC's help and over time philanthropy support became even stronger culminating in AWC Bylaws' changes. Throughout, AWC shows depth, breadth and sustainability toward philanthropy that goes beyond our individual local lives into the larger community: **That is impressive.**

(Upcoming newsletter articles will cover history of current philanthropies.)

Vicki Koc, Historian

