



**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**  
**CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**  
*Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2023*

Chairman: Jan Rodgers		Club: Ebell Club of Irvine	
Number of Members: 16		District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Environment Chair			
Reporter's Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]		State: [REDACTED]	Zip: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]		Phone: [REDACTED]	
<b>Environment</b>			

The City of Irvine was incorporated in 1971, evolving from a working ranch to a “model city” as planned by the Irvine Company. Three years later in 1974, the Ebell Club of Irvine was founded and federated with the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international organization dedicated to improving local communities through volunteer service in the following areas: Advocates for Children, Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness.

In the last 52 years, the City of Irvine has grown to over 309,000 residents and has been named the safest city of its size for more than 17 years. It includes the Orange County Great Park, Pretend City Children’s Museum, Irvine Art Museum, 2 universities and a junior college. Most residents are college graduate; the Irvine Unified School District is highly regarded; and the population is a diverse mixture of cultures. As the population of the city has grown, the number of volunteer organizations has also multiplied. Many of these have with a single mission, such as CHOC guilds, Friends of the Library, and Families Forward.

Our club offers volunteers a diverse approach to volunteering and has held steady over the years averaging about 15 energetic members who are proud to be federated and making a difference in the Irvine community.

**Project Title: Recycling    Hours 130    Donated \$ 0    In Kind \$ 0**

In 2023 our club members have continued to recycle both plastic and glass bottles as well as aluminum cans. We collect recyclables at home and from friends and family members. Once a member has a couple of large trash bags full, she drops the recyclables off at the Recycling Chairman’s home. The chair sorts the containers and counts the items for her records. The light-weight bottles are separated from the heavier plastic containers and counted out into bags of 50 to get a nickel back per bottle. The heavier weight plastics bottles like Gatorade will bring in more than a nickel when recycled by weight, so they go into a separate bag. Cans are also all counted into sets of 50 to be turned in, earning 5 cents per can. Recyclers will only allow 1 bag of counted bottles and one bag of aluminum cans per visit; therefore, the chair hits the recycling centers multiple times a month. The money raised through recycling goes into a fundraising account for the club’s philanthropic projects, such as purchasing fabric, thread, and batting to make “cuddle quilts” for a domestic violence shelter. In 2023, we earned \$245 by helping our planet!

**Project Title: Botanical signs    Hours 10    Donated \$ 0    In Kind \$ 0**

In 2006, the Ebell Club of Irvine began working with the Irvine Company and the City of Irvine to provide botanical signs along the newly opened Jeffrey Open Space Trail, a one-mile-long stretch of park running adjacent to Jeffrey Road. The park has a wide cemented path for walking and riding bicycles, as well as a natural foot path meandering throughout the length of the park. This park/trail is now 3 miles long and is beautifully planted with grasses, shrubs, border plantings, and trees.

Over the years the Ebell Club of Irvine has worked with the park landscape manager to identify plants for signage and then collected funds for those additional signs. In 2023 we added 7 new signs (paid for in 2022), bringing the total installed botanical signs up to 95. The city will begin construction on a bridge over the 5 freeway this year which will eventually add length to the trail. We have already collected money from 8 sign sponsors for additional signs.

**Project Title: Newsletter Articles      Hours 8      Donated \$ 0      In Kind \$ 0**

Caring for our environment has many components. It is so easy to just continue as we always have which may mean wasting our resource or harming our planet. To better educate our members about the importance of conserving water, about recycling food waste properly, about not putting animal and plant waste into trash going to a landfill, and about conserving electricity, one member wrote a series of short educational articles for our monthly newsletter. She challenged each of us to do our best to protect the environment.

**Project Title: Penny Pines      Hours 12      Donated \$ 68      In Kind \$ 0**

Penny Pines is a CFWC project that focuses on the need to support reforestation efforts in our national parks. Each club year our chair creates a container to pass around at every club general meeting. Members donate their loose change or more to collect at least \$68 over the course of the year. Every January we send a check for \$68 to the U.S. Forestry Service to plant an acre of seedlings to help the reforestation of the Cleveland National Forest. This project has become even more vital with the increase in wild fires.

**Project Title: Santa Ana Zoo      Hours 6      Donated \$ 39      In Kind \$ 0**

For years the Ebell Club of Irvine has looked for ways to support our local Santa Ana Zoo. We receive their newsletters and look for ways we can help. In March we once again became a Zoo Parent by “adopting” an ocelot. We select a different animal each year. One member, who maintains a zoo membership, visits the zoo several times a year to see what might be an appropriate project for us. This year we did not find any hands-on way to contribute. But we will be on the lookout again in 2024.

**Project Title: Sheldrick Wildlife Trust      Hours 5      Donated \$ 50      In Kind \$ 190**

For over 40 years, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, known as the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, has been the leading conservation organization in East Africa. A field focused organization, they seek to protect, preserve, and conserve Kenya’s wildlife and habitats. They are best known for their work to protect elephants, operating the most successful orphan elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in the world. Our club has donated \$50 to “adopt” an orphaned baby elephant for the last 10 years. This year our adoptee is Kinyei, a 4-year-old female orphan. In addition to a club sponsorship, we encourage club members, family members, and friends to support the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. In 2023, our efforts produced 3 additional orphan sponsors. One club member also shopped at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust online store as a way to support their work.