

Women's Club of Madison, CT

***Founded in 1900, Federated in 1902
Celebrating over 125 years of community service!***

Women working with other women for the benefit of the community

*"In 1900, a tiny group of far-sighted and enterprising women, under the leadership of the first president, Mrs. Frank Dowd, joined forces to form the Fortnightly Club, now the Women's Club of Madison, Inc. The Club, open to all Madison women, has a membership of approximately one hundred women. It is a non-sectarian, non-political, non-profit organization. Its objective is to seek improvement in educational, cultural and civic conditions in the community, and on state and national level."*¹

Historically, the Club provided support to many areas within the Madison community, such as donating and decorating the Christmas tree on the green in town. When voting machines were introduced to Madison, the club took responsibility for instructing voters in the use of the machines. To support the Connecticut Valley Hospital, Club members provided hand-made favors monthly, cakes for birthday parties, and held an annual drive for Christmas gifts for patients.

The youth of Madison has always been a priority for the Club:

- In 1922, the Club established a declamation contest in in the High School, to stimulate interest in literature and poetry, and help students develop skills for speaking in front of an audience.
- When Club members learned that high school girls were participating in team competition without uniforms, they organized a toothbrush sale to raise funds to help purchase athletic uniforms for one of the teams.
- For many years, an award was presented to an eighth-grade student for outstanding participation and accomplishment in the Middle School music programs. This award, which included a savings bond was presented in the name of the Club's 11th president, Grace Miner Lippincott, who was a prolific poet.

Every two years, the Club embarks on a “Community Impact Project” (CIP.) These projects have varied in scope. Some examples include:

- Raising funds to install cable tv within the Madison Public Schools.
- Contributing funds for new ambulances, on at least three separate occasions
- Town-wide CPR classes.
- Thermal imaging equipment for the fire department.
- Defibrillators for a town building.
- Initiating and supporting a program that focused on the importance of installing reflective, identifying numbers on all structures, to assist emergency responders. (This later becomes a town ordinance.)
- Donating towards the installation of a heating system at Meigs Point Nature Center.
- Contributing funds to purchase of “Jaws of Life” equipment for Madison Hose Company #1.
- Raising funds to furnish rooms at both the Madison Senior Center and Madison Ambulance.

Throughout the year, the Club finds numerous ways to make a difference in the community. Some examples include:

- Providing Halloween goodies to the children of Madison at the town sponsored “Trunk or Treat.”
- Collecting “letters to Santa” and making sure they are delivered properly and replied to in a timely fashion.
- Creating and distributing over 2000 afghans to area organizations and emergency personnel over the past 25 years, thanks to the Club knitting group.
- Collecting donations for an orphanage in Nepal.
- Supporting the Madison Food Pantry.

The club also offers women the opportunity for socialization and fellowship, through activities such as a walking group, a book group, a conservation group, periodic social gatherings, just to name a few.

One hundred and twenty-five years of continuous public service by dedicated Club members following in the footsteps of those farsighted enterprising women of 1900.

1: From notes recorded and submitted by Marie Scanlon 1976 (provided by club historian Josephine Morkriski, December 2024)