



### **History of Community Projects, Inc.**

Community Projects, Inc. is a non-profit, non sectarian women's volunteer organization. It's primary functions is to raise monies through sales in it's Thrift Shop and to donate these monies to worthy causes within Napa County. Since its incorporation, over 11,745,543 has been returned to the community. The organization had it inception in 1941 as the Napa Chapter of the British War Relief. The group met at the old Chamber of Commerce building to sew and prepare "Bundles for Britain". Surplus donated merchandise was used to open a Salvage Shop on Main Street, which was soon moved to what was then called the Triangle Building on Calistoga and Pearl Streets. Through newspaper ads and word of mouth, the Salvage Shop did a brisk business.

After Pearl Harbor, the group re-organized as the Napa War Relief, Inc. and money-making activities were expanded to include teas and luncheons and publication of a War Relief Cookbook. By the end of its third year of existence the group had given almost \$10,000 to war relief of various kinds. When the war ended, the group moved to 1116 Fourth Street and the name was changed to Community Projects, Inc. Thus began the years of growth and the expansion that has made it the unique organization that it is today.

In 1950 the first Christmas bazaar, "Fancy Fair," was held at the old Elks Hall. The group gave \$5,000 the largest single financial contribution, towards a new swimming pool at Napa High School. In the same year, the members were asked to form and auxiliary for Parks Victory Hospital. In addition to the usual auxiliary activities, fruits and vegetables were canned for use at the hospital. Also, in 1950, Community Projects, Inc. assumed sponsorship of the Napa Community Blood Drive, now called the North Bay Blood Bank.

In January, 1956 the Franklin Street building was purchased and, in the following year, the Fancy Fair was moved to the Napa Town and Country Fairgrounds. With the opening of Queen of the Valley Hospital in 1958, functions of the hospital auxiliary were greatly expanded and Associated memberships were formed. Junior Associate memberships were organized in 1962.

An addition to the Thrift Shop was completed in 1980 and opened for business in January, 1981. In March of 1988, Queen of the Valley Hospital began recruitment for it's own volunteer organization. That same year, the members of Community Projects, Inc. voted to disband its Associated and Junior Associate memberships, thus ending 30 years of being the volunteer organization at the hospital. In March, 1990, the membership voted to discontinue its one-day-a-year "Fancy Fair."

June 15th, 2016 Community Projects, Inc. celebrated 75 years of service to Napa County.

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