

COMMUNITY PROJECTS THROUGH TWO CENTURIES

20th Century:

- **1941:** CP formed as the Napa Chapter of British War Relief. Members sewed and prepared “Bundles for Britain.” Surplus donated merchandise was used to open Salvage Shop on Main Street, then to Triangle Building on Calistoga & Pearl Streets. An up-valley depot was located on Main Street in St. Helena.
- **1942** (Pearl Harbor): Group re-organized as the Napa War Relief, Inc. with fundraising activities including teas, luncheons & publication of War Relief Cookbook. After 3 years, the group had given almost \$10,000 to war relief.
- **1945** (WW II ends): Name changed to COMMUNITY PROJECTS, INC.
- **1950:** First Christmas Bazaar, “Fancy Fair,” held at old Elks Hall. CP donated \$5000 (the largest single donation) towards a new swimming pool at Napa High School. CP members were asked to form an Auxiliary for Parks Victory Hospital. In addition to usual auxiliary activities, members canned fruits and vegetable for use at the hospital. That year CP was asked to assume sponsorship of the Napa Community Blood Drive, which it helped staff for 55 years.
- **1950’s – 1970’s:** CP published 3 more cookbooks, the last one being printed in 1971. CP sponsored several events: Clyde Beatty Circus for 3 years; “Day at the Races” at Golden Gate Fields for 1 year; and the Annual Antique Show and Sale for 16 years.
- **1956:** CP purchased the 715 Franklin Street building for \$13,287.63. The Building originally was built as the Napa Plunge Bath in 1905; later it housed a Catholic Girls’ school as well as several churches.
- **1957:** Fancy Fair was moved to Napa Town and Country Fairgrounds; it featured numerous booths, including Books, Fancy Foods, House and Garden, Toys, etc., etc. CP members prepared and served lunch and dinner (Turkey Tetrazzini being a favorite!). Members sold raffle tickets citywide for the chance to win “Fancy Filet,” a donated steer.
- **1958:** With the opening of Queen of the Valley Hospital, functions of the hospital auxiliary were greatly expanded and CP formed Associate Memberships.
- **1962:** CP formed Junior Associate Membership for girls 16 to 18 years old.
- **1977:** CP bought the Beacon Service Station on the corner of Third and Franklin Streets for \$65,425.40 cash. The service station building was used as a “budget station,” where no item cost more than \$1.00.
- **Throughout these decades,** CP members volunteered at local golf tournaments, including the Kaiser International, the Anheuser-Busch, the Transamerica Senior and the Napa Valley Championship—all in an effort to add to the amount of grants CP could award.
- **1980’s – 2000:**
- **1980:** The service station was bulldozed, the “Annex” was built and the parking lot was paved.
- **1988:** Queen of the Valley Hospital formed its own volunteer organization, and CP members voted to disband Associate and Junior Associate memberships, thus ending 30 years as the hospital’s volunteer organization.

- **1990:** CP members voted to discontinue “Fancy Fair” and instead add a Fancy Fair corner to the Thrift Shop for the next few years.
- **1996:** CP initiated a one-day fashion event, which later morphed into “Puttin’ on the Glitz.” The merchandise for the “Glitz” consists of the best of high-end fashion items, including furs, tuxedos, jewelry and formal wear collected from donations throughout the year.

21st Century:

- **2002:** Lucille Trussell bequeathed her entire estate to CP, including her Victorian home, its furnishings, her clothing and monetary funds.
- **2003:** CP inaugurated a new two-day event, “Treasures of Christmas Past,” where the entire Thrift Shop is transformed into a Christmas wonderland. All things Christmas are displayed and offered for sale.
- **2008:** Rozaline Johnson Family Estate included CP as a beneficiary.
- **2014:** Earthquake!!! The Thrift Shop closed for one day while members cleaned up the mess the earthquake had created. The building suffered no major damage, and it opened for business the next day.
- **2017:** Fire!!! Many fire victims were able to resupply household items lost in the fire, which ravaged the Napa Valley and neighboring counties. The fire victims were especially grateful for the reasonable prices at the “Treasures of Christmas Past” event.
- **2019:** Fire!!! CP created a program through which a member would recommend a fire victim to be provided with a \$250 Thrift Shop gift certificate.
- **2020 -2021:** COVID-19 Pandemic!! In March 2020, the SHOP closed its doors in conformance with State mandates. The Board voted to continue paying its full-time staff during the months of closure. After consultation with Napa Public Health Dept., the Board voted to reopen the Shop on a limited basis. No member was assigned to work with the public; only the Shop staff interacted with customers. In May 2021, the Board voted to open on Tuesdays for receipt of donations only and to open the Shop for customers Wednesday through Saturday.

Fun Facts:

CP’s first phone number was 68W.

For Fancy Fair, CP members roasted turkeys, baked hundreds of apple pies from scratch, and stood on Napa street corners, selling raffle tickets while accompanied by Fancy Filet, the steer!

Closing:

Community Projects, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian women’s volunteer organization. Its primary function is to raise monies through sales in the CP Thrift Shop and to donate these monies to worthy causes within Napa County. Since its incorporation, CP has awarded over \$15,000,000 worth of grants.

The funds for these grants were acquired through hard work of CP members and through the very generous bequests made by two community members, mentioned above.