

Lakewood Ranch Garden Clubs (LWRGC) gives back to the community.

Four years ago, the LWRGC was in search of a well-meaning “Giving back to the Community” program. Talking to Meals-On-Wheels, they found some seniors living in the area, did not have any holiday decoration. The LWRGC decided they would make small silk table arrangements for the Meals-On-Wheels drivers to deliver along with the meals. No arrangement was the same. Feedback from the drivers on the participates reaction was over joy and big smiles on their faces. Each year the program has grown, and now with a new twist. Participates have asked for the arrangements to be used at their holiday dinner. So, everyone can enjoy the variety of table arrangements. Then after the dinner is over with, participates take home an arrangement to enjoy the rest of the holiday with.

Our second major community project happened three years ago, Stillpoint House of Prayer. They receive no government assistance and rely only on donations, to provide a myriad of services to women and children to the disadvantaged in our community.

The first year the LWRGC made holiday gift baskets with food, toys, stuff animals, for the children and families. With feedback, we found teenagers did not receive many items. The second year, the LWRGC added holiday gift baskets for the teenagers in mind, filled with personal items (shampoo, soaps, lotions, books, candy, etc.) to make their life enriched, along with other gift baskets for families. This year, we made Holiday Gift Bags for mothers. Those women who put their families and children first. Many times going without the needs of themselves.

Each LWRGC member brought in containers, greenery, flowers, accessories, ribbons, personal items, perfumes, decorative soap, and holiday items—an astonishing amount of items. Items were divided. Before the members start, Phyllis Weber, provided tips on how to make a basic the floral arrangement.

Then the race was on. The women divided into two groups. One to make holiday gift bags and the others to make table decorations.

The ladies working on the holiday gift bags, started a line and went around the table, placing items in each bag.



wonderful.

If you looked in the room, while the ladies were so busy, you would think you were looking into Santa’s workshop. After two hours of working, the ladies created 100 table arrangements and 87 Holiday gift bags.





The time when by so fast, before we know it, was time to load the table arrangement and the Holiday Gift Bags into boxes for deliver to Meals-on-Wheels and Stillpoint.



Lori Walker, Lakewood Ranch Garden Club Vice-President
Maggie White, Lakewood Ranch Garden Club Co-President
Bobbie Tischer, Volunteer Stillpoint House of Prayer



Sheryl Perkins (LWRGC) and Roxy Carson
Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee

