



# Minnesota Women of Today

## 10 Minute Orientation Series: Programming

### MNWT Programming Areas

The Minnesota Women of Today organization supports the following five programming areas.

The **Community Connections (CC)** programming area was developed to assist and encourage MNWT chapters to become significantly involved in their local communities, resulting in "community connections." This area includes all service projects, donations, and fundraisers not covered by a different area.

The **Living and Learning (LL)** programming area was developed to encourage a member's personal growth: mentally, spiritually, civically and through family. Highlights include promoting the Living and Learning certification; Personal Enrichment Program courses; and sharing invocations and benedictions at chapter meetings.

The **Priority Area** began in 2003 and changes every three (3) years. The current 2024- 2027 area is REACH. This area encourages members to come together and support a statewide organization in need. The idea is to raise awareness, supplies, and funds for our chosen organization. Together we can do more. The past Priority Area organizations have been; Girl Scouts 2003-2006, Jacob Wetterling Foundation 2006-2009, Can Do Canines 2009-2012, Isaac's Journey Foundation 2012-2015, Breaking Free 2015-2018, Wishes & More 2018-2021, and Crescent Cove 2021 - 2024.

The **Women's Wellness (WW)** programming area focuses on providing women's health education through traditional and holistic practices as well as balanced lifestyles. This area encourages women to become more involved with their health and wellbeing; promotes health education by providing challenges to chapter members encouraging participation with the added benefit of feeling better; educates women that Domestic Violence is a health issue, participates in walks and supports organizations that benefit women's health issues like March of Dimes and breast cancer research.

The **Youth of Today (YT)** area promotes ideas and activities that allow youth to discover and experience the importance of volunteering, and also promotes foundations related to youth activities. A major emphasis in this area is Kid's Week held in August.

### Programming Recognition

- ❖ **Living and Learning Certification** – Completing this certification supports your individual growth and personal wellbeing. Every member is encouraged to complete this certification yearly.
- ❖ **Outstanding Program Manager & Project of the Trimester** – Anyone can submit a nomination for these trimester awards. Every trimester each State Programming Manager recognizes one amazing project and one outstanding programming manager as programming's best in their area for that trimester.
  - **Project:** Email your nomination for the project of the trimester to the appropriate SPM by the last day of the trimester the project was held. Include your contact information, chapter, type of project (project area), date(s) project was held, and briefly summarize the Project (purpose, people that benefit from the project, amount raised/donated, why the project is being nominated).

- [Programming Manager](#): Email your nomination to the appropriate SPM by the last day of the trimester. Include your contact information, chapter, full name of member you are nominating, their position, and briefly summarize the activities of your nominee during the trimester you are nominating them for (focus on what they did as a program manager, projects chaired, communications with chapter and/or district, meeting attendance, promotion of programming area, why they are being nominated).
- ❖ **Annual MNWT Community Connection Awards** - Each year MNWT recognizes chapters for their contributions to their local communities. Please consider nominating your chapter's projects for one or all of these awards. Nominations are due no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> to cc@mnwt.org.
  - [The Civic or Environmental Award](#): A project that civically improves your town or city, promotes citizenship in your community, or improves the environment in your community.
  - [Community Impact Award](#): A chapter project with a lasting impact on your community.
  - [Joint Ventures Award](#): A project that successfully collaborated with another organization.

### Reporting Programming Locally

Reporting at a chapter level should not take more than a minute for each project. Being prepared is the key. In your WRITTEN reports remember to include:

- ❖ WHO-names of members who attended/participated
- ❖ WHAT-name of the event/project/activity
- ❖ WHEN-date and time of events
- ❖ WHERE-place/location event was held
- ❖ WHY-reason you held event, including hours/money donated

Example report: On August 18, from 6 - 8pm, Mary, Cat and Barb packed 50 backpacks for Wright County students K-12 who needed school supplies. This project, called Helping Our Kids, was held at Resurrection Church, Monticello, with a total of 12 hours and \$50 in cash and \$60 in supplies donated from chapter members. Other organizations who assisted included Monticello Lions and Rotary members.

With an organized, positive and simple report you not only have the ability to share with members what you have accomplished, but also share with your community the many ways you support them. For more help with reporting locally refer to the MNWT Leadership Toolbox, Positive Reporting Document.

*Pro Tip: When reporting hours, include family members friends and guests who helped, travel time to and from the event, to and from the store to get supplies, shopping, report writing, etc. ANYTHING you do from beginning to end counts-setting up location, phone calls, emails, meetings, etc.*

### The Value of Completing Your Trimester Programming Report

Everything your chapter does for your community, its members, and with other organizations is part of programming. You may not have the same programming areas as MNWT and that is okay. Your programming counts! What you do within your community is extremely valuable. By completing your chapter's report and sending it to MNWT, you are including your chapter in the official MNWT programming totals. The more information MNWT has, the better we can serve you, promote your local community & recognize your members.