
CFUW AND THE COMMUNITY

For CFUW Clubs, advocacy includes social action.
It is truly the power of women working together.

One of CFUW's purposes as an organization is to work towards "the common good, locally". To accomplish this, CFUW clubs and members act as local change agents by partnering with other community groups or agencies or working alone.

CFUW Clubs actively partner with shelters for women/children, women's advisory groups or councils, libraries, and Grandmothers to Grandmothers, Breaking Bread for Afghanistan, the YW or YMCA, as well as municipal services. Clubs over the years have been involved with help to refugees, from World War II to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Suggestions for community service normally come from members involved in the community, and the Club's Executive Board would make the decision to become involved. If the project is major - involves budgets and expenditures - this will have to be presented and authorized by the Club membership.

Types of partnerships CFUW clubs have engaged in:

- Fundraising for local, national or international organizations
- Volunteering and providing administrative support for other organizations, municipalities, schools
- Sponsoring and supporting community events
- Coalitions with other like-minded organizations for a cause

If you want to partner with other organizations, there are a few ways you can find a partner:

- Members and friends – word-of-mouth is many times the best connection
- Community information service or the local library, which can direct you to potential partners' articles in the local community newspaper
- One of your speakers
- Given our network, many organizations might approach you

Some questions to consider before partnering:

- Are the values of the organization compatible with CFUW?
- Is the partnership for a single event or long-term?
- Who in the Club manages and reviews the partnership?
- How are your members involved?
- Will the partnership be casual or formal?
- Is there a written contract or is it verbal?

- Are there Terms of Reference for coalitions?
- How is the partnership terminated?
- How do the representatives/volunteers report to the Board?
- Will there be newsletter articles or reports to the members?

How to publicize the partnership and educate the members about the work being done:

- Articles in newsletters and reports to the Executive Board
- Thank you notes to partners, ensuring that they remember and recognize your help
- Press releases and articles concerning work or event for the media
- Social media

If your Club is launching its own project:

- Is the commitment of the Club financial, human resources, time (duration and involvement)?
- Who will create the Terms of Reference?
- How will the project be financed? Who will handle the money?
- Is there a legal commitment?
- How is the project terminated?
- Are governments and government grants involved?
- Does the project require its own Board of Directors? How will they be connected to the Club?
- Does the project need to be advertised in order to gather workers, recipients?
- What reports will go to the Club, and how often?