

The Elm Street Girls Club

The Educational Services Committee is eager to publicize this final report from Norma Gutierrez and Hannah Fairbanks (Gamma Theta) for the Individual/Classroom/Community Project Award they received for the Elm Street Girls Club Life Skills Project. Norma stated, "This was an amazing project that came together with the aim of giving back to the young ladies of the community."

"The Elm Street Girls Club was formed under the direction of Norma Gutierrez, a 4th grade teacher at Elm Street Elementary School in Painesville, Ohio. This project addressed the need for self-esteem building among 42 young ladies from a diverse population that was high in poverty. These 4th and 5th graders learned various life skills throughout the program which will help them become strong independent and productive citizens in our communities."

"Ms. Gutierrez and several other teachers planned this program and wrote several grants to fund the activities. The ADSOEF grant funded the purchase of yarn, hooks, and weaving looms for various projects. The girls met throughout the year- every other Thursday -for an hour and a half. They were divided into four rotations of about 20 minutes, and the activities included the following:

- The making of crochet bracelets (ADSOEF funded yarn and hooks)
- The creation of tied blankets for the local animal shelter
- The making of pillows and blankets for themselves
- Manners class
- Self-defense class
- Basic sewing
- Cookie decorating
- Basic car maintenance
- Self-affirmation lessons."

"While the ADSOEF funded a portion of this program, the teachers involved all donated their services. Other funds came from a Donors Choice Grant, a grant from a local church, as well as services from a local Beauty Salon. Lake Erie College donated the facility to host their grand event in December, as well as the facility and funding for the culminating Tea Party. Each girl left with a gift bag filled with teacups, yarn, and hooks so they can keep on crocheting over the summer."

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Snoddy