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GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

EDUCATE. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.

2024-2026 CLUB MANUAL













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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2024–2026 CLUB MANUAL

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Dear Fellow Members,

With great enthusiasm, I extend my welcome to the 2024-2026 administration. I am honored to serve as your 55th GFWC International President during this pivotal period. Together, we are on the brink of a new era. I know we stand together and are ready to amplify our collective impact and push the boundaries of service in our communities and beyond.

Service and personal development have been central to our mission for 134 years. Through these, lies the concept of the "circle of influence" – a dynamic sphere within which our actions radiate outward, touching lives and effecting change. Within this circle, as symbolized on our emblem, we find our power to transform, uplift, and inspire. As members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, each of us occupies a unique position within this circle, endowed with the capacity to enact meaningful change and to leave an indelible mark upon the world.

In the spirit of transformation, I'm sure you will join me as we endeavor to reimagine the landscape of service, surpassing traditional boundaries and embracing innovation. Harness the full potential of our combined resources and expertise to address the pressing issues of our time. By challenging ourselves to think creatively and act boldly, we can unlock new avenues for progress and effect a lasting footprint within our communities.

Under the banner of "Educate, Engage, Empower," let us strive to empower individuals from all walks of life, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to shape our destiny. With education, we unlock the doors of opportunity and foster a culture of continued learning. Increased engagement forges meaningful connections and cultivates a sense of belonging. Empowerment emboldens others to become agents of change, amplifying the reach and impact of our united efforts.

As we step into this new administration, our Strategic Plan has been meticulously crafted to guide our focused efforts. Our leaders have prepared the Club Manual, a treasure trove of ideas, tools, and tips for grassroots involvement. Take full advantage of this powerful resource that can aid in our growth and development.

Together, as we embark on this new chapter, hold fast to the values that define our organization - camaraderie, collaboration, and commitment to changing lives. Celebrate our diversity of perspectives and experiences, recognizing that it is through our differences that we find our strength. Above all, let us be mindful of the profound potential within each of us to reimagine what can become.

Together In Living the Volunteer Spirit,

Suellen B Brazil

Suellen B. Brazil
GFWC International President



ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

2024–2026 CLUB MANUAL

2024	
January 4–7	2024–2026 Administration Orientation Meeting The Westin Washington City Center, Washington DC
June 29–July 1	GFWC 2024 Annual Convention Hilton Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
July 1	Installation of 2024–2026 GFWC Officers
July 9	Virtual Post-Convention GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
July 20	Virtual Post-Convention GFWC Board of Directors Meeting
August 18–25	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting – GFWC Headquarters
August 20	GFWC Executive Committee & Staff Retreat
August 22–25	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting – Hotel Washington, Washington, DC
September 5–8	GFWC Western States Region, Washington
September 12–15	GFWC New England Region, Maine
September 19–22	GFWC Mississippi Valley Region, Iowa
September 26–29	GFWC Middle Atlantic Region, Pennsylvania
September 28	GFWC National Day of Service
October 3–6	GFWC Southern Region, South Carolina
October 10–13	GFWC South Central Region, Oklahoma
October 17–20	GFWC Great Lakes Region, Michigan
October 20–26	Advocates for Children's Week
October 24–27	GFWC Southeastern Region, North Carolina
December 1–8	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
December 2–4	GFWC Resolutions Committee Meeting
December 4	GFWC Holiday Open House

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2025	
January 12–19	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
January 13-15	GFWC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
January 16–17	GFWC Bylaws Committee Meeting
March 1–3	GFWC Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
March 3–8	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
March 5	GFWC Women's History Celebration
April 20–26	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
April 24	GFWC Federation Day
June 4	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
June 5	GFWC Convention Tours
June 6	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, LEADS, State Night Banquet
June 7–9	GFWC 2025 Annual Convention Omni Atlanta Hotel at CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia
August 19–20	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
August 21–24	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, Utah
September 4–7	GFWC South Central Region, Texas
September 11–14	GFWC Western States Region, California
September 18–21	GFWC Mississippi Valley Region, Nebraska
September 25–28	GFWC Middle Atlantic Region, Delaware
October 9–12	GFWC Great Lakes Region, Ohio
October 16–19	GFWC Southern Region, Alabama
October 19–25	Advocates for Children's Week
October 23–26	GFWC Southeastern Region, Virginia
Oct. 30–Nov. 2	GFWC New England Region, New Hampshire

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December 7–13	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
December 8–10	GFWC Resolutions Committee Meeting
December 10	GFWC Holiday Open House
2026	
January 8–11	2026–2028 Administration Board Orientation Meeting
January 12–14	GFWC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
January 14–18	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
January 14–16	GFWC Bylaws Committee Meeting
March 7–14	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
March 9–11	GFWC Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
March 11	GFWC Women's History Celebration
April 19–25	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
April 24	GFWC Federation Day
June 24	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
June 25	GFWC Convention Tours
June 26	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, LEADS, State Night Banquet
June 27–29	GFWC 2026 Annual Convention Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona
June 29	Installation of 2026–2028 GFWC Officers and Adjournment

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GFWC ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

HONOR THE LEGACY - SUSTAIN THE FUTURE

"IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MINDSET, YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE YOUR WHOLE WORLD." DAMIEN THOMAS

GFWC members have spent the past 134 years volunteering to improve the lives of their neighbors, communities, and the world. In fact, for all these years, members have raised funds in support of numerous worthy causes and the organizations that promote them. It is NOW time for members to invest in GFWC to secure our legacy and sustain our organization for the future.

The Annual Giving program was established in 2022. The program was designed to encourage members to make recurring monthly, quarterly, or annual donations that would positively impact and sustain GFWC's scope of work. Becoming a donor in the Annual Giving Program demonstrates your commitment to investing in the organization that changes lives forever. The program will be reviewed during the 2032 Administration.

GFWC will continue to educate members about powerful possibilities that lie ahead through this type of sustained giving, engage members in making the changes necessary to create a sound future, and empower each of us to be the catalyst for change globally. The growth of the Annual Giving Program will greatly enhance GFWC's Circle of Influence.

Honor the Legacy, Sustain the Future. Information on the Annual Giving Program is available in the Member Portal Digital Library in the Club Manual or Donations Folders.

Your tax-deductible gift to GFWC, a 501(C) (3) organization, is greatly valued and appreciated. For additional information, contact Carol Rich, Annual Giving Committee Chairman, at 815-674-6951

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2024-2026 ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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HOW TO BECOME A DONOR

Members and organizations can choose their method of giving (monthly, quarterly, annually), in any amount for a regular gift, and the area(s) they wish to support (See the Annual Giving Program Donation Form for designated areas to support). Donors may opt out of this program at any time.

MEMBERS MAY DONATE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, INCLUDING:

- **Online** through the Member Portal: Select the Annual Giving Designated Fund to which you would like to make a contribution. There is a place to make a note, and this is where the donor will note if the contribution is for a specific project or area.
- **By check** made out to GFWC, with the individual fund named and/or specific project in the memo field, and mailed to GFWC, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990, AND by attaching the printed Annual Giving Program Donation Form.
- **Credit Card** by calling GFWC and providing a specific fund to which the donation should be applied.
- **Cash:** Donations made by cash must include a completed Annual Giving Program Donation Form.
- **Zelle:** For the donation to be applied correctly, donors using this method must add the Annual Giving Designated Fund to which the donation should be applied in the memo field. The memo field also has a place to add a note.
  The contribution goes to GFWC: donations@gfwc.org

ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM RECOGNITIONS

Participating in the GFWC ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM is just one of the many ways members can annually invest in GFWC's future. Recognition of giving completed from July 1, 2024 to June 1, 2025 will be acknowledged at the 2025 GFWC Convention; giving completed from June 2, 2025 to June 1, 2026 will be acknowledged at the 2026 GFWC Convention.

All donors will be recognized regardless of the amount donated. Each "Annual Giving Donor" will receive a ribbon for the member's GFWC Annual Convention name badge. Quarterly recognition will be included in the *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and annual recognition will be in the Convention Program.

ANNUAL CUMULATIVE RECOGNITION AMOUNTS

$125 annual donation ($10.42/month)

- Listing on Annual Giving Donor Page on GFWC Website

$500 annual donation ($41.70/month)

- Previous, plus
- Listing in *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*
- Special Recognition Gift

$1,000 annual donation ($83.35/month)

- All previous, plus
- Special Recognition at State Convention and Region Conference

$2,500 annual donation ($208.35/month)

- All previous, plus
- VIP Donor Reception at Annual Convention

$5,000 annual donation ($416.70/month)

- All previous, plus
- Invitation to annual Federation Day event at GFWC Headquarters
- VIP seating at GFWC Annual Convention

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CUMULATIVE GIVING DONOR LEVELS

GFWC has established an Annual Giving Program to honor our biggest financial supporters from around the world. The funding coming from this special group of supporters helps GFWC continue to achieve its mission. Annual Giving has been established at two levels, each paired with a range of benefits. Donors will be recognized quarterly and at the end of the Administration calendar year for the achieved level of cumulative giving.

- **Visionary Donor Level:** Includes individual members and outside organizations
- **Empowerment Donor Level**: Includes a group of members, club, State, or Region

These two Donor Levels are so exciting because member or organization donations will be added together and count cumulatively even when divided among the 1734 Society, Women's History and Resource Center Fund, Endowment Fund, Croly Gravesite Fund, Library Replenishment Fund, GFWC Headquarters Façade Restoration and Beautification Project, and other funds listed on the Annual Giving Program Donation Form! This means contributions can go to what donors care about most and still be counted toward their cumulative giving total.

VISIONARY DONOR LEVEL

Membership in this exclusive giving level represents **individuals' or organizations'** cumulative giving of $25,000 or more.

- Inclusion of the donor's name on signage at GFWC Headquarters
- Visionary Donor Level GFWC emblem pin earned
- Individually recognized at the Annual Convention and Region Conference
- Highlighted on the special Visionary Donor Level section of the GFWC website
- Invitation to GFWC Visionary Donor Level event

EMPOWERMENT DONOR LEVEL

Membership in this giving level represents cumulative giving by a **group of members, a club, State, or Region** over $10,000.

- Inclusion of the group, club, State, or Region's name on signage at Headquarters.
- Group recognition at the Annual Convention and Region Conference
- Highlighted on the special Empowerment Donor Level section of the GFWC website

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ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM DONATION FORM
HONOR THE LEGACY - SUSTAIN THE FUTURE

Donated by: (please select one)

☐ GFWC Member ☐ Club ☐ State ☐ Region
☐ Group ☐ Non-GFWC Individual ☐ Outside Organization

DONOR INFORMATION		
If Individual Donor, **First & Last Name**		
If Other Donor Type, **Contact Name**		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

Please indicate the $ amount desired for designated area(s)

Date of Donation:_____

$_____ GFWC Annual Fund/Unrestricted

$_____ GFWC Endowment Fund

$_____ GFWC Headquarters Facade Restoration and Beautification Project Fund

$_____ GFWC Jane Cunningham Croly Gravesite Fund

$_____ GFWC Library Replenishment Fund

$_____ GFWC Programs Fund

$_____ 1734 Society Fund

$_____ GFWC Signature Program: Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund

$_____ Women's History & Resource Center Fund

$_____ WHRC Art & Artifacts Fund

In Memory/ Honor of:_____
Person's name, State, Club Name, Region Name if applicable

Total Donation Amount $_____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Please include the following in the memo line of your check or Zelle transaction: "Annual Giving Program: (Name of Designated Fund)"

☐ Check (Payable to GFWC) ☐ Cash ☐ Credit or Debit Card ☐ Zelle

Credit or Debit Card donations are accepted at memberportal.gfwc.org/supportus

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! How can we recognize your contribution? ☐ Email ☐ Hardcopy

Email or mailing address for acknowledgment:_____
*if different from donor information above or if in honor of somone

Do you wish this to be an anonymous donation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please complete this form and send it to:

General Federation of Women's Clubs
1734 N ST NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990
Attention: GFWC Annual Giving Program
Or email to: AnnualGiving@GFWC.org

GFWC FUND DEVELOPMENT

GFWC Designated Funds support the work of GFWC by providing essential funding in targeted areas. They are vital to continue GFWC's mission of strengthening our communities and enhancing the lives of others.



GFWC ANNUAL FUND/UNRESTRICTED

This fund is unrestricted and funds will be used for the area most in need at the time, as determined by the GFWC Executive Committee. This fund is essential and enables the use of funds to be added to other funds to complete major projects such as the recent Marquees Project, a critical need for which funds had not been designated.



GFWC ENDOWMENT FUND

The GFWC Endowment Fund was started in 1910 to help ensure a firm financial foundation and assist in providing for the future needs of GFWC. Contributions to this fund are permanently restricted, but interest earned on the fund is unrestricted and has been used to support programs, advocacy, outreach efforts, and overall membership development opportunities.



GFWC HEADQUARTERS FACADE RESTORATION AND BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT FUND

Donations to the GFWC Headquarters Façade Restoration and Beautification Project will go towards the restoration of the iconic white front facing exterior walls of GFWC's beloved Headquarters buildings. Over time, the brick and stonework that gives our Headquarters its grand and elegant appearance has deteriorated and needs major repairs. Restoration work will include stripping existing paint, cleaning and sealing, mortar and stonework repair, repainting, and more. This restoration will not only enhance the beauty of our Headquarters, but it will also protect the historic interior spaces and collections and secure the buildings' long-term structural integrity.



GFWC JANE CUNNINGHAM CROLY GRAVESITE FUND

Help honor our founding mother by donating to the GFWC Jane Cunningham Croly Gravesite Fund. This fund provides the necessary means to maintain her gravesite in Lakewood, NJ. In 2010, thanks to your generosity, the Croly family gravesite was refurbished.

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GFWC LIBRARY REPLENISHMENT FUND

Tying together members' generous financial gifts and passion for literacy with our mission of community improvement through volunteer service, the GFWC Library Replenishment Fund assists in restocking the collections of public- and public-school libraries that have been affected by natural and manmade disasters.



GFWC PROGRAMS FUND

The GFWC Programs Fund offers an opportunity to donate to one of GFWC's Special or Community Service Programs, which help clubs more effectively develop projects and programs that address their current and upcoming community needs. Donations collected for each program will be used to fund various scholarships, educational events, speakers, webinars, and other activities that support the program.



1734 SOCIETY FUND

Named for the GFWC Headquarters' address at historic 1734 N Street NW in Washington, DC, the 1734 Society is dedicated to preserving and maintaining the building as a National Historic Landmark. Those donating to the 1734 Society understand the importance of historic preservation and take pride in supporting GFWC Headquarters.



GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM: SUCCESS FOR SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Improve the lives of domestic and sexual violence survivors around the country by making an investment in their future with a donation to the ***GFWC Signature Program: Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund***. Money from the fund allows GFWC to award survivors with a scholarship, giving them hope for a better tomorrow. The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship was created through GFWC's commitment to our Signature Program to change the lives of survivors as they take the next step in reshaping their future in a positive way through higher education. For nearly half a century, GFWC has fought to eliminate domestic violence, and the establishment of this fund is one way that GFWC moves toward achieving that goal.



WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER (WHRC) FUND

Founded in 1984, the Women's History and Resource Center collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of the GFWC and women volunteers. Funds donated to the WHRC are used to purchase preservation supplies, collections management technology, and books for the WHRC research library. In addition, WHRC donations support outreach activities directed toward students, teachers, and others.

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SIGNATURE PROGRAM

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

2024–2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE HEART OF A CHAMPION" RUBY TOMJANOVICH

"A CHAMPION IS SOMEONE WHO GETS UP WHEN (S)HE CAN'T" JACK DEMPSEY

BECOME A CHAMPION - KNOW THE PROGRAM!

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence abuse in communities across the nation by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for victims and survivors.

In partnership with GFWC and community members, we pledge to work together with passion and purpose to **advocate** for survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence and **educate** the public on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in our local communities and how informing members can improve outcomes for survivors.

The Signature Program has eight areas of focus:

- **Campus Sexual Assault**

  Campus sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs on a school campus without the explicit consent of the recipient.

- **Child Abuse**

  Child abuse includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.

- **Elder Abuse**

  Abuse later in life includes the physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking of an adult age 50 years or older.

- **Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes**

  Sexual human trafficking is any act that has been induced by recruitment, harboring, transporting, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for purposes of a sex act in which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

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2024-2026 SIGNATURE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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- **Intimate Partner Violence**

  Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.

- **Military Sexual Assault**

  Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during intentional sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent. Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.

- **Teen Dating Violence**

  Teen dating violence (TDV) - also called intimate relationship violence or intimate partner violence among adolescents or adolescent relationship abuse – includes physical, psychological, or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship. For more information about teen dating violence, visit https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/crimes/teen-dating-violence

- **Violence Against Native American Women**

  American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women and two-spirit people in tribal communities are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence in the United States. Research and advocacy have brought attention to the unique nature of victimization in our AIAN communities.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

BECOME A CHAMPION: BE THE VOICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE.



"Intimate partner violence occurs when one person in a relationship uses some form of violence to exert power and control over the other person" (Victoria Women's Transition House Society).

- Communities need education on how to help victims of Intimate partner violence. One in 3 women and 1 in 4 men report having experienced severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime, one in 5 women and 1 in 13 men have experienced contact sexual violence by an intimate partner, and 14% of women and 5% of men report having been stalked by an intimate partner.

To raise awareness in our communities, we must learn to become the voices of those who lack one.

- Teach safe and healthy relationship skills to our youth and adults.
- Advocate and support legislation that provides stricter laws in your States against abusers and rights for victims.
- Work with your local shelters and find out how you can help and what they need. Sometimes, it's the items we overlook that matter the most.
- Encourage your club to support victim-centered services, which could include therapy, housing programs, teen dating violence prevention, and legal assistance.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or Text START to 88788 can be used on your social media tag lines, added on all printed materials, and used on websites. Become a Champion and Energize More People Out there With Educating Real survivor knowledge (EMPOWER).

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FEATURED PROJECTS



FLASHLIGHTS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

GFWC Past Presidents Club (DE) collected and distributed small flashlights to shelters and organizations that work with victims of domestic violence, including human trafficking. When victims decide to escape their circumstances, it is often in the middle of the night, and they leave quickly and with no time to pack items. Small flashlights can easily fit in your pocket. The flashlight allows a person to see hazards and street signs.



RED ROVER PROGRAM

GFWC Rotonda West Women's Club (FL) objective was to aid families in moving forward to safety but not without their pets. The club negotiated a partnership with the local humane and animal rescue sanctuary to assist with temporary shelter for small pets so victims did not have to leave their beloved animals behind. They provided support by donating to programs that sponsor and support the Red Rover program.



WILL KEEP OUR GIRLS SAFE AT COLLEGE

GFWC Oak View Women's Club (CA) assembled safety kits for high school seniors leaving for college. The kits included personal alarms and door and window alarms for dorm room personal safety. Two pamphlets were also included in each kit: one was on teen dating and the second was the CFWC College Safety pamphlet. Over 200 kits were distributed, and the club used social media, bulletin boards, word of mouth, and other avenues to get the kits to local seniors heading to college.



ANGEL SHOT POSTERS

GFWC Morris Woman's Club (IL) placed Angel Shot posters in women's restrooms at every restaurant and bar that sells liquor to patrons. The posters alert women who need help due to abuse or unwanted advances that there is help available for them and provides instructions to go to the server/bartender and ask for an "angel shot", the signal to the bartender that help is needed. Other words that are used as a call for help include:

Neat	(needs an escort to their car)
Dressed	(call an Uber or Lyft)
Angel Shot w/lime	(call the police)

Cheat sheets were also made describing the shot types to go behind the bar as a reference for the servers/bartenders.

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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Campus sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. More than 1 in 4 women attending college are survivors of campus sexual assault. Women are not the only survivors. About 7% of college men and 23% of gay/lesbian/transgender students are also survivors. It is not just other students that present a risk; sometimes it is a member of the faculty or staff.

As a college student, the first step in prevention is believing it could happen to you and that it will most likely be by someone you know. The second step is thinking ahead of time how you can safeguard yourself. Decide on boundaries before going on a date, to a party, or other activity.

Colleges must take responsibility for the environment on campus. They should facilitate open discussions with students and employees about the issue and have policies in place for handling reports of sexual assault in a sensitive, compassionate, and professional manner.

It is estimated that less than 5% of campus sexual assaults are reported.

Survivors often do not file a report or seek help or counseling because they are too embarrassed or ashamed or believe they can handle it on their own. Having a supportive environment on campus and with friends can make filing a report easier to do. Staff and campus police need to be fully trained on how to handle reports as well as understanding survivor impact and behavior. Supportive services from a crisis advocate are invaluable in helping survivors navigate the reporting and subsequent legal process.

Survivors of campus sexual assault may need immediate assistance to locate safe housing, obtain counseling, and, if necessary, file a civil restraining order.

If someone you know is assaulted, these are things you can do to help:

- Help get them to a safe location.
- Keep reminding them it was not their fault.
- Be a supportive listener.
- If you observed any part of the assault, take detailed notes about what you saw.
- Go with them to medical and other appointments.
- Continue to follow up with them and encourage them to seek counseling.

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WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Ensure that your campus has appropriate policies and procedures in place to address incidents of sexual assault and follows federal requirements under the Clery Campus Safety Act and Title IX, as well as applicable state and local laws.
- Ensure that resources like safe housing, advocates, counseling, and medical care are available to help survivors.
- Use social media to spread awareness and advocate for social change.
- Hold a bystander intervention session to teach bystanders how to intervene in situations that involve sexual violence.
- Get involved in national campaigns.
- Organize or participate in public awareness initiatives:
    - It's on Us – An initiative through the American Association of University Women that reframes sexual assault in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it. (itsonus.org)
    - The Clothesline Project – Have people affected by violence decorate a shirt and hang it on a public clothesline as a testimony to the problem of sexual violence. www.theclotheslineproject.org
    - Take Back the Night – Take part in an after-dark march on a college campus and make a statement about women's right to be in public at night without the risk of sexual violence.
- Volunteer at your local rape crisis center.
- Sponsor a door-decorating contest or art contest at your local middle and high schools about healthy relationships/dating abuse/domestic violence and have the winning entry made into a poster to distribute.

RESOURCES

National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) www.nsvrc.org

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
www.justice.gov/crt/overview-title-ix-education-amendments1972-20-usc-1681-et-seq

Clery Center for Security on Campus www.clerycenter.org

Victim Rights Law Center www.victimrights.org

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) www.rainn.org

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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. Children and even infants witnessing or experiencing abuse can display negative behavior years later. There are four common types of abuse and neglect:

- Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury. Examples include hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other shows of force against a child.
- Sexual abuse involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts. It includes behaviors such as fondling, penetration, and exposing a child to other sexual activities.
- Emotional abuse refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional wellbeing. Examples include name calling, shaming, rejection, withholding love, and threatening.
- Neglect is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, and access to medical care.

Child abuse and neglect are common. At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year. Children living in poverty experience more abuse and neglect. Rates of child abuse and neglect are five times higher for children in families with low socioeconomic status compared to children in families with higher socioeconomic status.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, also known as Child Abuse Prevention Month in America, is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States since 1983.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). For example:

- Substance use by a parent.
- Parent participating in criminal activity and in prison.
- Neglect by parent.
- Sexual abuse.
- Physical abuse.
- Emotional abuse.
- Living with a parent/caregiver who has a serious mental illness.
- Witnessing violence in the home or community.

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ACEs can have lasting, negative effects on health, wellbeing, and opportunity. These experiences can increase the risks of injury, sexually transmitted infections, maternal and child health problems, teen pregnancy, involvement in sex trafficking, and a wide range of chronic diseases and leading causes of death such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide.

Hotline numbers are a valuable resource for those who are mandated by law to report suspected abuse. Most hotlines staffed by professional crisis counselors are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These professionals can offer crisis intervention, information, literature, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are confidential. Calls can come from children at risk for abuse, distressed parents seeking crisis intervention, and concerned individuals who suspect that child abuse may be occurring. Most states have a division of their health and human services department that people should call if abuse is suspected.

Children need support after suffering abuse. Talking to a professional therapist can help many children, and many abuse-related disorders can be successfully treated with medications. Reporting suspected abuse is critical to helping an abuse survivor get the help and support the child needs.

Child abuse and neglect are serious problems that can have lasting harmful effects on its survivors. The goal of preventing child abuse and neglect is to stop this violence from happening in the first place.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Provide support and supplies to families in need at emergency shelters.
- Advocate for changes in culture and communities to reduce the likelihood of child abuse.
- Accompany victims to court or to the hospital to provide support and assistance.
- Encourage club members to become Court Appointed Advocates (CASA) and/or Guardians ad Litem.
- Collect teddy bears to give to children at a child advocacy center, where children are interviewed and examined after an incident of abuse.
- Support local Child Protective Service agencies with kits for children entering foster care.
- Provide used suitcases and bags to Child Protective Service agencies to reduce the need for children to use garbage bags for their belongings.
- Support legislation that eradicates child abuse and/or makes laws tougher.

RESOURCES

CASA www.nationalcasagal.org

Childhelp USA/National Child Abuse Hotline www.childhelpusa.org; 1-800-422-4453

National Link Coalition www.nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse

Children's Defense Fund www.childrensdefense.org; 202-628-8787

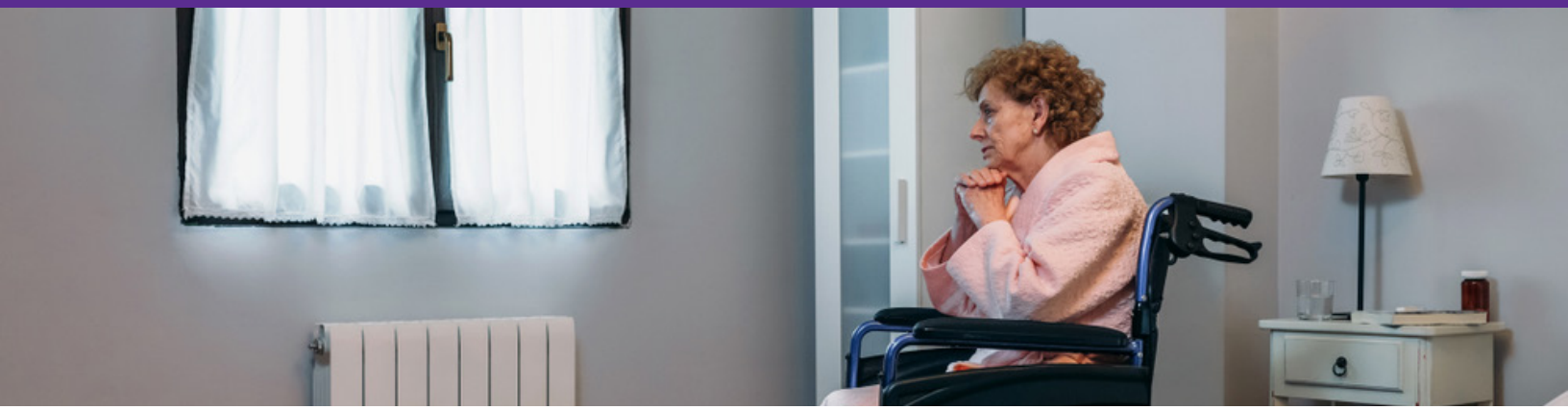
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/technical-packages.html
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/aces/fastfact.html
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf

Prevent Child Abuse America www.preventchildabuse.org

Healthy Families America www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org

Domestic Shelters www.domesticshelters.org/help#?page=1

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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: ELDER ABUSE

Abuse later in life includes, physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking of an adult age 50 years or older. Approximately 1 in 6 people 60 years or older experienced some sort of abuse during the past year. Rates of elder abuse are high in institutions such as nursing homes and long-term care facilities, with 2 in 3 staff reporting that they have committed abuse in the past year.

Seventy-seven million baby boomers are aging, and approximately 10,000 turn 65 every day. People 85 and older, the fastest growing segment of the population, are disproportionately women. As the population ages, so does the opportunity for abuse. Likely targets are adults who have no family or friends nearby and people with disabilities, memory problems, or dementia.

In most cases, the survivor is in an ongoing relationship with the perpetrator, such as a spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver. Society expects there to be a trusting and caring connection. Research indicates that for every incident of abuse reported to the authorities, 23 incidents remain undiscovered and unreported.

Older individuals face unique challenges when seeking assistance or services. Older survivors may refrain from seeking help or calling the police due to shame or embarrassment because the abuse was committed by a spouse, adult children, grandchild, or caregiver. They may also be intimidated by threats of being placed in a nursing home. Signs of elder abuse may be missed by professionals working with older Americans because of a lack of training in detecting abuse. Professionals must be trained to be diligent about doing physical body check exams for abuse. Abuse can happen to any older adult but often affects those who depend on others for help with everyday life care including bathing, dressing, and taking medicine. People who are frail may appear to be easy victims.

It is estimated that elders throughout the U.S. lose a minimum of $2.9 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation. These numbers are staggering. We need to support and educate our elderly population and their caregivers. With so many entities playing a role, there is a growing recognition of the need for multidisciplinary collaboration. Depending on the nature of the abuse, additional expertise and assistance may be sought from healthcare providers, social service agencies, financial institutions, civil attorneys, and others.

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WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Contact the Senior Center to hold educational programs and seminars. Provide professional speakers and materials for those attending.
- Support and plan projects during Older Americans Month in May and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.
- Create awareness during National Family Caregivers Month in November.
- Provide resources and support materials in nursing homes, such as "Pass It On" materials, available at ftc.gov/PassItOn.
- Organize a "Letter to the Editor" writing campaign to raise awareness not only of elder abuse but of the local resources available in your community on aging offices. Be sure to include contact information and hotline helpline information.
- Distribute elder abuse public awareness materials at local sporting events, concerts, fairs, and grocery stores.
- Hold a community yard sale at a central location such as a senior center or church with proceeds going to an elder abuse support group or community outreach program to help support elders in crisis.
- Learn to identify the risk factors and warning signs of abuse. Offer to bring them to an adult protective services agency or to help them seek medical care.
- Support the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse cases by providing funds and/or advocating for funds for training and resources to federal, state, and local investigators and prosecutors.
- Enhance services to elder abuse survivors by improving identification of elder abuse and enhancing response and outreach to individuals who experience abuse.
- Develop a public awareness campaign, with clear and consistent messaging to raise awareness and understanding of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Organize training for survivor service providers, health care professionals, community organizations, faith-based advocates, and local agencies to better serve survivors of abuse in later life.
- Work with local nursing homes to ensure their staff is knowledgeable and has had the proper training.
- Commit to the prevention of elder abuse by holding education seminars at Senior Centers.
- Partner with a local nursing home on June 15, for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and host a BBQ or picnic. Include activities and food for residents and their families, staff, and the community. Ask volunteers to bring food and games to play and coordinate the activities with nursing home staff. Invite the press for added exposure and increased elder abuse awareness.
- Organize a collection of robes, socks, pajamas, sweatpants, and shirts that can be donated to senior citizen centers or nursing homes.
- Call or visit an elderly loved one and ask how he or she is doing.
- Organize a "Respect Your Elders" essay or poster contest at your local school.
- Join the Ageless Alliance. This group connects people of all ages nationwide, who stand united for the dignity of older adults and for the elimination of elder abuse. You can join for free at agelessalliance. org
- Ask your bank manager to train tellers on how to detect elder financial abuse.
- Provide a respite break for a caregiver.

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RESOURCES

National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) www.preventelderabuse.org

Elder Abuse - National Institute on Aging www.nia.nih.gov/health/elder-abuse

National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) www.ncea.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/features/elderabuse/index.html

Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov/PassItOn

American Psychological Association www.apg.org

World Health Organization who.int

Elder Care Locator www.eldercare.gov or 1-800-677-1116

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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

Sexual Human Trafficking is any sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age. Victims of sex trafficking can be women, men, children, and LGBTQIA+ (lesbian/gay men/bisexual/ transgender/queer/intersex and asexual) individuals. Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers, including runaway and homeless youth, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or social discrimination. Women and children are the most common victims. More recently, LGBTQIA+ identifying individuals, especially transgender individuals, are increasingly found to be victims of sexual exploitation across international borders. The average age of a trafficked child is 15 years old.

Many survivors become romantically involved with someone who then forces or manipulates them into prostitution. Sexual exploitation occurs in various settings, including (but not limited to) brothels, strip clubs, massage parlors, online ads, or escort services, on streets or truck stops, at hotels, motels, or in private homes. Others are lured in with false promises of a job, such as modeling or dancing. Some are forced to sell sex by family members. Individuals are trafficked domestically and across international borders. They may be involved in a trafficking situation for a few days or weeks – or may remain in the same trafficking situation for years.

Sex traffickers use threats, manipulation, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Under U.S. law, any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking – whether the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) recognizes that traffickers use psychological and physical coercion as well as bondage. Coercion includes threats of serious harm to a person and any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to any person.

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WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Learn the indicators of human trafficking and report suspicions to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888).
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons. The law provides a three-pronged approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution.
- Many victims of sex trafficking benefit from mental health services. Providers can help victims in dealing with their trauma while helping them become survivors through mental health support, job training, and affordable care and access to services.
- January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Participate in awareness campaigns in your community. Educate yourself about human trafficking. Take this quiz to learn how social media is used by traffickers: www.polarisproject.org/human_trafficking_recruitment_quiz. Advocate to stop legislation that decriminalizes pimping, brothel-keeping, and sex buying. Help unmask human trafficking networks and urge Congress to pass legislation that will help find traffickers and hold them accountable.
- Collaborate with an organization advocating against sex trafficking.
- Study the culture and reasons for this activity. Read articles and books on the subject and invite guest speakers.
- Partner with an advocacy group to bring education to school-age children alerting them to how traffickers work online to grow relationships and earn the trust of unsuspecting youth.

RESOURCES

Current Federal Laws / Polaris www.polarisproject.org/current-federal-laws

National Human Trafficking Hotline www.humantrafficinghotline.org; 1-888-373-7888

U.S. Department of Justice National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking www.justice.gov/humantrafficking

Department of Homeland Security (ICE) Most Wanted Sex Traffickers Photos (updated daily) www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking

Covenant House www.covenanthouse.org/homeless-issues/human-trafficking

Erase Child Trafficking: Human Trafficking Victim Recovery www.erasechildtrafficking.org/human-traffickingrecovery

Rahab's Daughters www.rahabsdaughters.org

U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking (usiaht) Safe Homes www.usiaht.org/our-safe-homes

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services www.acf.hhs.gov/trauma-toolkit/victims-of-human-trafficking

Sustainable Recovery for Trafficking Survivors (THORN) www.thorn.org/blog/sustainable-recovery-traffickingsurvivors

Set Me Free Project www.setmefreeproject.net

Office for Victims of Crime ovc.ojp.gov

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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.

Domestic or Intimate Partner Violence is a silent epidemic and is a prevalent problem in today's society. Intimate Partner Violence happens in all types of relationships, including dating couples, married couples, same-sex couples, former or ex-couples, and couples who live together but are not married. Intimate Partner Violence happens more often among younger couples. According to the 2022 National Statistics, on average, nearly 24 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. This equates to more than 12 million women and men each year. One in 4 women and 1 in 9 men have experienced intimate partner physical violence, though women are considerably more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of abuse, including sexual violence.

Safety is the most important concern. Those in immediate danger should call 911. Domestic violence often results in physical and emotional injuries; get medical care. It can also lead to other health problems, reproductive health challenges, mental health conditions such as depression, and suicide. Women affected by Intimate Partner Violence are also more likely to use drugs or alcohol to cope. After the physical injuries have been treated, a mental health professional should be used to help cope with emotional concerns. A counselor or therapist can help to deal with emotions in healthy ways, build self-esteem, and help develop coping skills.

Make a safety plan to leave, save the evidence, find out where to get help in the local community, talk to someone and look into a restraining order, and call a helpline for free, anonymous help.

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WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Support programs that:
  - Teach safe and healthy relationship skills to school-aged children.
  - Engage influential adults and peers.
  - Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence.
  - Create protective environments.
  - Strengthen economic support for families.
  - Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harm.
  - Finance a project for your local domestic violence shelter through grant funding for non-profits.
- Assemble SHARP (Stalking, Harassment, and Rape Prevention) Kits, and donate them to a Rape Crisis Center. Each kit contains a cell phone and charger, a small paper tablet and pen, a flashlight, a whistle, a datebook, and a canister of pepper spray in non-transparent cosmetic bags.
- Apply for Walmart's Community Grant program (www.walmart.org/how-we-give/localcommunitygrants) to finance a project for your local shelter or to bring awareness.
- Partner with local school departments and help to implement a school-based prevention program for middle and high school students designed to stop or prevent the initiation of dating violence, victimization, and perpetration.

RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) www.avp.org/ncavp; or 212-714-1141 for 24-hour assistance in English or Spanish

National Domestic Violence Hotline www.thehotline.org; 1-800-799-7233

World Health Organization www.who.int

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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during intentional sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent. Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.

Military personnel are encouraged to use the unit or installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SARP), or speak with an MCIO (Military Criminal Investigative Organization) investigator. The Military victim will then be able to decide whether to make a restricted or unrestricted report. (DoDI 6495.02, Volume 1, "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response: Program Procedures," March 28, 2013, Incorporating Change 7 September 6, 2022 (whs.mil)

Military bases offer the services of a Family Advocacy Program (FAP) www.militaryonesource.mil/preventing-violence-abuse/unhealthy-relationships/family-advocacy-program-support/# The FAP prevents and responds to adult-initiated child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in the military and coordinates the multidisciplinary team response to problematic sexual behavior in children and youth.

DoD Safe Helpline www.safehelpline.org is the sole secure, confidential, and anonymous crisis support service specially designed for members of the Department of Defense community affected by sexual assault and is operated by Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). The anonymity of the Safe Helpline provides Service members with a "first-step" option to get information, support, and resources on their path to recovery after sexual assault. There are six ways to get access to help anytime, anywhere: online, by telephone, through the Safe Helpline app, chat, local resource connections, and self-paced educational programs.

Veterans who were victims of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) have resources that can be accessed anonymously www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/resources.asp.

The information and resources can assist survivors in finding support, shelters, and advocacy services.

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WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Recommendations include modifying laws that create barriers to reporting or are used in retaliation against survivors, increasing support for survivors, and improving awareness of resources for current military members, their families, and veterans.
- Find your local affiliate and volunteer or donate to National Coalition of Domestic Violence (NCADV) ncadv.org/stay-connected/state-coalitions and/or National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) nnedv.org/content/state-u-s-territory-coalitions/
- Spread the word about the DoD Safe Helpline. Free materials are available at shop.safehelpline.org/. Share on social media, at local veterans events, and/or host a coffee for Service members, family, and veterans using the free coffee cup sleeves.
- Contact local advocacy groups to learn what supplies and collections are needed in nearby shelters.
- Contact and speak to someone at the Family Advocacy Program to learn how your group could help clients at a local military installation.
- Find local veterans centers, clubs, and events and share information about the free, secure, trauma-sensitive mobile app that was created specifically to support the health and well-being of survivors of sexual assault or harassment during military service mobile.va.gov/app/beyond-mst
- Volunteer at local homeless shelters and ask them to share available Military Sexual Trauma (MST) resources.

RESOURCES

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) www.ncadv.org

National Network to End Domestic Violence www.nnedv.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233; www.thehotline.org; www.WomensLaw.org

Protect Our Defenders Foundation www.protectourdefenders.com

DOD Safe Helpline www.safehelpline.org

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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Teen dating violence (TDV) is a type of Intimate Partner Violence. It occurs between two people in a close relationship.

TDV includes four types of behavior:

- Physical violence is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.
- Sexual violence is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexting) when the partner does not or cannot consent.
- Psychological aggression is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm another person mentally or emotionally and/or exert control over another person.
- Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the survivor.

TDV is common; it affects millions of teens in the U.S. each year. Data from CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicate that:

- Nearly 1 in 11 female and approximately 1 in 15 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.
- About 1 in 9 female and 1 in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.
- 26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.
- The burden of TDV is not shared equally across all groups—sexual minority groups are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence, and some racial/ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by many types of violence.

Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online without consent. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name-calling, are a "normal" part of a relationship—but these behaviors can become abusive and develop into serious forms of violence. However, many teens do not report unhealthy behaviors because they are afraid to tell family and friends.

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Safe Dates curriculum for Teen Dating Violence (TDV) is a good resource. It covers the different types of abuse – verbal, physical, emotional, financial – and explains the differences. It facilitates discussions on stalking and digital abuse, as well. Additionally, learning to identify "red flags" in relationships and talking about safety planning is important.

Learn to recognize the signs of TDV. Unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can have severe consequences, short-term, and long-term negative effects on a developing teen. For instance, youth who are victims of TDV are more likely to:

- Experience symptoms of depression and anxiety.
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol.
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, or hitting.
- Think about suicide.

Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including Intimate Partner Violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life. For instance, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.

To help victims of TDV:

- Encourage her/him to talk about it with someone, a friend, family member, or other trusted adult.
- Help her/him to keep a record or journal of the abuse, documenting each instance.
- Accompany her/him to seek medical attention or psychological support, as needed.

Supporting the development of healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships has the potential to reduce the occurrence of TDV and prevent its harmful and long-lasting effects on individuals, their families, and the communities where they live. During the pre-teen and teen years, it is critical for youth to begin to learn the skills needed – such as effectively managing feelings and using healthy communication – to create and foster healthy relationships.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Inform pre-teens and teens of safe and healthy relationship skills.
- Engage influential adults and peers to assist with forums in school settings.
- Interrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence by advocating with information and education.
- Create protective environments and publicize locations.
- Strengthen economic support for families by advocating for funding.
- Facilitate an information session for parents on teen dating violence at your school.
- Sponsor art classes for local high schools in which students make posters about dating abuse and domestic violence awareness and prevention. Encourage the use of photography, computer graphics, and artwork to make the posters unique. Work with your local library or community center to post finished artwork for the entire community to view.



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RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov

Freedom House www.freedomhouseillinois.org

Office on Violence Against Women www.justice.gov/ovw/dating-violence

Safe Place www.nationalsafeplace.org/teen-dating-violence



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HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE: VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women and two-spirit people in tribal communities are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence in the US. Research and advocacy have brought attention to the unique nature of victimization in our AIAN communities.

- Approximately half of Native American women have experienced sexual violence and approximately half have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- Murder is the third-leading cause of death for AIAN women in the United States.
- AIAN female victims are more likely to need victims' services such as medical care and legal services, but more than a third were not able to access or receive those important services.
- AIAN victims are more likely to be victimized by non-Native perpetrators.

WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Inclusive messaging and advocacy will help bring attention to the unique and common characteristics of violence against all women.
- Bring Awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day on May 5 of each year. Plan a campaign to bring attention to missing and murdered AIAN persons and help bring justice for victims.
- November is Native American Heritage Month. Plan a campaign to celebrate and honor Native American heritage and culture.
- Educate members and communities about domestic and sexual assault issues facing AIAN women. Research, share, and advocate for legislation and public policy like the Not Invisible Act of 2019, Savanna's Act, and the Violence Against Women Act.
- Volunteer with or donate to victim service organizations that serve AIAN victims. Help your community connect to the government and non-profit organizations doing research, sharing resources, seeking justice, and serving victims of violence.
- Collect gently used purses and tote bags and fill them with health and beauty aids, jewelry, children's items, and other toiletries. Present them to your local shelter.
- Learn and then teach dance from one of these cultures to promote the importance of their culture with others to help them better understand the customs of the group.
- Partner with a junior high or high school and organize an art contest to show the 'culture through art' of one or more indigenous cultures.

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RESOURCES

Indian Law Resource Center www.indianlaw.org

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) www.niwrc.org

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence www.ncdsv.org/ncd_linksnativetribal.html

StrongHearts Native Helpline www.strongheartshelpline.org; 1-844-762-8483

Tribal Law and Policy Institute www.home.tlpi.org/violence-against-native-women-publicatio

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence nrcdv.org; 1-800-537-2238

Domestic Violence Action Center www.domesticviolenceactioncenter.org

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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

HOPE FOR JUSTICE

Hope for Justice and the General Federation of Women's Clubs share a common mission and vision: to live in a world free from trafficking. We see a world where every human is free and equal. We believe every person can be a force for good. Human trafficking is a global problem, and Hope for Justice brings a global solution. We target our resources where they will have the most impact and help the most people. We want to create nations and societies that are hostile to trafficking – because what you tolerate, you will never change.

Find Hope For Justice Contact information in the Affiliate Organization Contacts section of the Club Manual.

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current 2023 Resolutions for the **Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention** are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the GFWC Resolutions document, filed under "Governance" in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are an important and integral part of GFWC Programs.

110-010 Campus Sexual Assault

110-020 Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

110-030 Elder Abuse Prevention

110-040 Military Sexual Assault

110-050 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits

110-060 Sexual Harassment

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JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026
JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM

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suzhoosergfwc@gmail.com

"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHAMPION; AN ADULT WHO WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM, WHO UNDERSTANDS THE POWER OF CONNECTION AND INSISTS THAT THEY BECOME THE BEST THEY CAN POSSIBLY BE." RITA PIERSON

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is designed to encourage all Woman's, Junior, Juniorette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The program was envisioned as a way for clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level.

The definition of child advocacy is "support for children who are in a vulnerable position in society or in a vulnerable situation." We aim to honor our roots and be a voice for children.

Clubwomen can be an advocate by working to:

- Ensure that children are protected from harmful situations.
- Encourage healthy physical and emotional lifestyles.
- Impact policy to improve children's lives.

Children also depend on the advocacy of others, especially their parents and caregivers, to protect and promote their interests in an emergency or long-term health situation. First-rate children's healthcare should be available to everyone, and family voice and choice are essential in providing the best healthcare plan for each unique situation. Educate yourself and others about medical resources and organizations that will help you be the best advocate possible for children.

The Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children encourages advocacy and projects that will assist and protect children in crisis, including those experiencing:

- Child abuse
- Cyberbullying
- Depression and suicide
- Foster or residential care
- Homelessness
- Human trafficking
- Life-threatening illness
- Limits on screen time
- Cyber Predators
- Poverty
- Texting while driving

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Juniors' Special Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:
BE A CHAMPION IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



Encourage clubs to work with your local police and social services agencies to determine what they most need to spruce up their children's waiting room areas. Sponsor a room and make it kid-friendly, and cozy. Clean, paint, and add children's-size furniture items to the room to bring warmth and caring into the surroundings. Create a book nook and art area and keep items stocked.

GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK

Sunday, October 20, to Saturday, October 26, 2024

Sunday, October 19, to Saturday, October 25, 2025

During Advocates for Children Week clubs and members are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement or child protective service agencies to identify their needs for children or families. In addition to responding to their determined needs, clubs can create "busy bags" that may be filled with items such as books, coloring books, crayons, art supplies, fidget toys, stuffed animals, and so much more. These bags will be immensely helpful in occupying children's minds during challenging experiences.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



THE POWER OF SPORTS

GFWC Southwest Region Women's Club (CO) held a Girls on the Run. Members collected athletic shoes, socks, headbands, hair spray, hair chalk, and pens and donated them to Girls on the Run.



TEDDY BEAR WASHCLOTHS

GFWC Vienna Woman's Club (GA) members brought twelve washcloths and learned to craft them into cloth teddy bears. The finished teddy bears were delivered to the Department of Family and Children's Services office for distribution to foster children.



BOOKS TO SHELVES

GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill (SC) members placed books in local businesses, and the club donated the bookshelves and books for three locations.



BIG SMILES IN LITTLE BAGS

GFWC Dover Area Woman's Club (NH) club members partnered with End 68, a weekend food program for food-insecure students. Members made small zipper treat bags to pack extra treats to bring smiles to the children.

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PROJECT IDEAS

Be inspired by this list of how GFWC clubs can use local resources and creativity to be the voice for children. Find further information about organizations named here under Resources.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Check the Legislative Action Center. There are current bills that affect children. Work with your city, county, or state to have the fourth week in October recognized as GFWC Advocates for Children Week. Send a copy of the proclamation to Juniors' Special Program Chairman Suzanne Hooser, suzhoosergfwc@gmail.com

- Advocate through your state legislature for bills that benefit children's physical and mental health.
- Advocate for law enforcement training on mental health awareness for children.
- Research and engage with advocacy groups in your area that support children's physical and/or mental health.
- Advocate for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other programs that provide children with mentors and/or offer activities to help them develop positive social skills.
- Investigate grants, such as those available through the U.S. Department of Education, including the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Funding.
- Visit the comprehensive and informative Art Advocacy and Resources page of Incredible@rt Department for additional ideas on art advocacy.
- Advocate for support programs, such as Ronald McDonald House Charities, to establish a chapter in your community. Volunteer as a club or individuals to cook a meal at your local shelter or Ronald McDonald House. Check your local Ronald McDonald House or other shelters for specific food preparation guidelines.
- Juice Box Challenge: Challenge clubs to donate at least one juice box per member to their local Child Advocacy Centers (CAC). Juice boxes help CAC staff build rapport with children as they discuss difficult issues.
- Child Advocacy Ribbons: Create awareness ribbons in royal blue and attach to bookmarks or business cards to be left at local libraries, businesses, or healthcare centers with information about your local Child Advocacy Center and the services they provide.
- Advocate for cyber support programs, such as Safe Surfin, to establish a Cyber swat program in your local schools.

COLLABORATE ON A PROJECT

- Paint and decorate a room(s) at a local shelter, youth center, or visitation room at the social service office.
- Sponsor a creative art activity, such as modeling with clay, that provides additional benefits for children with motor disabilities.
- Engage in art therapy projects with children in hospitals, shelters, and other facilities.
- Support in-school and after-school food programs.
- Support summer food programs for school children and have club members volunteer at the distribution sites.
- Build Little Libraries and encourage reading programs. Build a neighborhood Little Library

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and keep it stocked with children's books or commit to keeping a local Little Library stocked. Volunteer at libraries and bookstores to read to children. Reach out to schools and sponsor a reading incentive program.

- Partner with a local school to build an outdoor classroom or school garden, using resources from Project Learning Tree such as School Site Investigation and Creating an Outdoor Classroom.
- Purchase mittens and beanies to deliver in December for Head Start and Preschool children.
- Pediatric Unit Playtime: Ask members to donate items such as coloring books, small jigsaw and cube puzzles, Play-Doh, and other small toys for hospitalized pediatric patients to enjoy during their stay in your local pediatric unit. Be sure to check with the Hospital Pediatric Unit for suggestions of what is preferred and needed.



FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Use resources from Kids Health, a nonprofit organization that provides doctor-reviewed advice on hundreds of health issues, to present a club or community program that will give families the tools and confidence to make the best health choices. Augment the program with other information resources, such as those available from the National Institute for Children's Health Quality and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
- Learn from and inform new parents about HealthyChildren.org, sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, for information on optimizing children's health, dealing with injuries and emergencies, and evaluating treatments for long-term health situations such as asthma, diabetes, autism, learning disabilities, and others.
- Inform parents and other caregivers about National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), the nation's leading voice on mental health, and their resources and services, including the NAMI Helpline (1-800-950-NAMI or info@nami.org). Consider hosting a community program that specifically addresses depression and suicide in children and teens.
- Learn about and share information on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), such as information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and advocate for community education programs that create and sustain stable, safe, and nurturing relationships and environments for all children.
- Furniture Safety: Raise awareness in your community and help save a child's life by planning a program about the dangers of furniture tip-overs and other hazards in the home. Distribute anchoring kits to help secure heavy furniture.
- Screen Time Awareness: In this age of digital media, children are exposed to cell phones, tablets, and electronic screens as early as infancy. Too much screen time for children can lead

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to issues such as obesity, irregular sleep schedules and shorter duration of sleep, behavioral problems, loss of social skills, violence, and less time for play. Educate the members of your club about the new guidelines for screen time use for young children. Educate children on the dangers of internet predators and cyberbullying.

- Children's Choking Awareness: The Toilet Paper Roll Safety Project consists of attaching a decorated toilet paper roll to cardstock paper with the following statement: "Any toy or toy part that can pass through is a choking hazard for children less than three years of age."

WORK WITH SPECIAL NEEDS/FOSTER CARE

- Work with special needs children to create Vision Boards or Dream Boards using magazine cut-outs.
- Support Save the Children's HEART (Healing and Education through the Arts), a therapy program for children with serious and chronic stress.
- Learn about and promote Ecotherapy or Nature Therapy, which can help children with anxiety, depression, mental fatigue, eating disorders, feelings of isolation, and other emotional and mental illnesses.
- Volunteer with and/or support equine therapy programs.
- Undertake projects that provide a sense of security for children in foster care, such as making or customizing duffle bags for carrying their clothes and/or creating overnight kits with hygiene and comfort items.

PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Support local parks and recreation centers by volunteering or providing scholarships and/or supplies for summer camps and other programs.
- Partner with local businesses to sponsor a family day or family night at a sporting event or another activity in April for Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- Sponsor an international child through Save the Children to secure educational opportunities and health services.

CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Undertake these and other projects with GFWC Affiliate Organizations that fit within the guidelines for the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children.

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MARCH OF DIMES

- The March for Babies is a fun event to raise funds to help support mothers and premature babies and raise awareness of the research needed to find solutions and advocate for policies that prioritize mom and baby health. March of Dimes provides instructions, guidance, and a web page to organize an event. www.marchforbabies.org/Home/SearchtoDonate

OPERATION SMILE

- Help Operation Smile provide the necessary equipment and medications to enable the delivery of the safest surgeries. www.catalog.operationsmile.org/provide-medicines-supplies

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

- The St. Jude Trike-A-Thon is a fun, service-learning program for daycares and preschools that teaches trike and riding toy safety while helping the children of St. Jude. Any advocate for children can make a difference with the St. Jude Trike-A-Thon. If you sign up to become a coordinator, St. Jude will provide everything you need to have a great event at a preschool or daycare in your area. Log on to www.stjude.org/get-involved to find out more.
- Create Waiting Room Fun Bags by filling sealed zippered plastic bags with fun things a child or teen can do as they wait to visit the doctor.

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION SHOT@LIFE CAMPAIGN

- Promote World Immunization Week as an opportunity for the global health community to come together to urge our leaders to make #VaccinesWork for all.
- Encourage young people to enroll in Shot@Life's Student Advocacy Program. This program offers a great opportunity for students to build leadership skills and engage in global health issues to support vaccination efforts for children in developing countries. www.shotatlife.org/champions

UNICEF USA

- Host a "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" event, a long-time tradition in our country to collect donations for their general fund. At your October meeting decorate and include UNICEF Trick or Treat on each table for donations. www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- For $275 clubs can send a girl to school for a year. In some countries, girls are often denied the opportunity to go to school because resources are limited, and education for girls is not considered important. www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/womens-empowerment/send-a-girl-to-school.html

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Children with special needs can benefit from a service dog. www.canine.org

HOPE FOR JUSTICE

- Children make up 27% of all human trafficking victims worldwide. Learn how to make a big impact. www.hopeforjustice.org

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GFWC RESOURCES

Advocacy for Healthy Children Child Abuse www.nationalcac.org/about-child-abuse/

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America www.bbbs.org

Boys and Girls Clubs of America www.bgca.org

Boy Scouts of America www.scouting.org

Bureau of International Labor Affairs Dol.gov | Child Labor, Forced Labor & Human Trafficking | U.S. Department of Labor

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ACEs www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html

Connect with a Crisis Counselor Crisis Text Line | Text HOME To 741741 free, 24/7 Crisis Counseling

Distracted Driving www.cdc.gov/distracted-driving/site.html

Ending Distracted Driving is Everyone's Responsibility nsc.org | Distracted Driving - National Safety Council

4-H www.4-h.org

Girl Scouts of the USA www.girlscouts.org

HEART www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/protection/healing-and-education-through-the-arts

Kids Online www.kids-online.org/ | Kids Online | FTC Consumer Information

National Children's Alliance www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/

Net Cetera Chatting with Kids About Being Online www.bulkorder.ftc.gov/publications/net-cetera-chatting-kids-about-being-online

Parent Guides from ConnectSafely www.connectsafely.org/parentguides/#:~:text=By%20parents%2C%20for%20parents%3A%20A,%2C%20please%20let%20us%20know | Parent Guides from ConnectSafely - ConnectSafely

Prevent Child Abuse America preventchildabuse.org/

Project Learning Tree www.plt.org/

Safe Surfin Cyber Swat Project www.safesurfin.org

Save the Children www.savethechildren.net/

School Site Investigation www.plt.org/greenschools

Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants www.ed.gov/programs/ssae/index.html

Suicide Prevention Lifeline www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org | Youth: Lifeline

The Dangers of Distracted Driving fcc.gov | The Dangers of Distracted Driving | Federal Communications Commission

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 justice.gov | Key Legislation

21st Century Community Learning Center Funding www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/applicant.html

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What Is Human Trafficking? dhs.gov | Homeland Security

Youth Suicide Warning Signs Youth.gov | Youth Suicide Warning Signs

Youth Mental Health Youth.gov | Risk and Protective Factors for Youth

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current 2023 Resolutions for the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the GFWC Resolutions document, filed under "Governance" in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are an important and integral part of GFWC Programs.

120-010	Child Foster Care
120-020	Keeping Children Safe
120-030	Sexual Exploitation of Children
120-040	Youth Suicide Prevention

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ARTS AND CULTURE

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"BEFORE A CHILD TALKS, THEY SING. BEFORE THEY WRITE, THEY DRAW. AS SOON AS THEY STAND, THEY DANCE. ART IS FUNDAMENTAL TO HUMAN EXPRESSION." PHYLICIA RASHAD

The current edition of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word "ART" as follows:

"art" (noun) 1. "the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power…"

The same learned tome defines the word "culture" in this manner:

"cul-ture" (noun) 2. "the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people or other social group…"

However, one chooses to define the words; collectively, those two small words speak volumes as they define us, who we are, what we believe and strive to accomplish today, and what we leave for future generations. Combined, the two are subjects of study primarily concerned with the processes and products of human creativity and social life, such as languages, literature, imagination, developing the technical ability to create something from nothing, and the capacity to bridge the things that separate us from one another; age, education, location, religion, or economic disparity. Arts and Culture create common ground on which to build a mutual understanding and respect of one for the other.

Art and culture combine to define our basic humanness and can be found in every location around the planet as we work to make our lives better and to find things that we enjoy, either as a group socially or as an individual. In the study, development, and love of the arts and culture, there truly is… "SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!"

Another quote from Ms. Rashad, "Where the Women go, the Culture goes!" should be the rallying cry for all clubs, Districts, and State Federations within GFWC. Our members should represent the vanguard in leading the development of projects and programs to highlight and focus support for all aspects of human expression. From local activities like awarding art scholarships, sponsoring local and school art contests, participating in community beautification projects, assisting little theater activities, sustaining library growth and expansion, developing photography contests, backing

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026 ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Billie Williams, Chairman
4620 McGuire Road
Liberty, Texas 77575
gfwc.artsansdculture.bmw@gmail.com

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Arts and Culture Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

local choral performances…and not just sponsoring but participating in the above activities… contribute to a GFWC approved statewide project. Or perhaps reach out to sister clubs in our GFWC International network to learn about their arts, local customs, and culture. By learning from them and sharing what we know, we expand our horizons and develop a greater understanding of our world and the people with whom we share it.

The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program hopes to provide the impetus for the development of and the appreciation for Art and Culture throughout all our involved communities; be they rural or urban, sophisticated or not, rich or poor, and at every level, from beginner to expert.

The Arts and Culture Community Service Program exists to provide creative project ideas, support to ensure greater impact, and encourage club women to participate in and/or otherwise facilitate a love and appreciation for the arts across their community and within their entire sphere of influence.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY ORIENTATED ART



GFWC encourages clubs to take an active role in creating and enhancing their community by partnering with their City Government, Chamber of Commerce, local schools, and other organizations (i.e., Art League or Artist Guild) to create mural paintings throughout their city or town. Murals that highlight the local culture and display pride in their town's history and traditions, as well as showcase local celebrities or figures prominent in the historical legacy of the community.

Murals can be located on city property and schools, as well as local businesses. Working with other entities helps to develop community-wide pride of accomplishment. Garnering support from all the above, as well as enlisting the help of club members, students, retirees, and other service organizations, is key to the development and activation of this project. If a building is too big a project, there is nothing wrong with starting small and working your way up. Start with a standalone sign or billboard, something that can be changed to accommodate the seasons or is portable and can be moved around town to highlight an event or activity that the community is enjoying. Let your ideas flow, and don't forget to brand your artistic endeavors with your club's name, contact information where possible, and the GFWC Emblem.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



MEALS ON WHEELS VALENTINE CARDS

The GFWC Big Rapids, Inc. Club (MI) gathered around a large table to make Valentine's Day Cards. Members were asked to bring anything they had that could be used on the cards for decoration. A total of 183 cards were created and delivered to shut-in clients of the local "Meals on Wheels" program.



COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR THE ARTS

The GFWC Platonic Club of Cheyenne (OK) supported the high school drama department by sewing, repairing, and remaking costumes for students to use in one of their season's productions. The club also donated money to renovate the theater, restrooms, and kitchen area, as well as supported the annual Art Camp from the Metcalf Museum, and decorated the museum for the holidays.



TIME CAPSULE

The GFWC Thompson Falls Women's Club (MT), after collecting historical documents and artifacts while preparing for its 100th Anniversary, developed a "Time Capsule" with memorabilia. The club placed the artifacts in a metal container and hid it in the jail during its recent renovations to be found by future generations.



FALL-O-WEEN

The GFWC Junior Women's Club of Verona (NJ) joined with the Township of Verona and the Verona Public Library to create a town festival called "Fall-O-Ween." The goal was to host a free event with a DJ, petting zoo, costume parade, pumpkin painting, inflatable entertainment, and goody bags for children containing toys, trinkets, candy, and club promotional flyers to distribute.

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EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER

The Arts & Culture Community Service Program offers a myriad of opportunities to connect with the community, and the following are a few more examples in which your club may work within your community.

"EDUCATE"

- Award Art-related Scholarships to deserving students planning to continue their artistic endeavors.
- Identify members of your club with a talent for art and encourage them to share their knowledge with other members or perhaps with students from local art classes.
- Hold cooking demonstrations during meetings to introduce foods and customs from other cultures.
- Sponsor a trip to a museum or the theater for students and engage members as chaperones.

"ENGAGE"

- Work to develop relationships between your club and other service organizations in your area to take on large projects together.
- Participate in or sponsor local arts and crafts contests.
- Set up tables at local festivals to sell handmade items from the club's members as a fundraiser.
- Sponsor a craft time at a local elementary school or daycare…something hands-on, messy, and fun.

"EMPOWER"

- This one is easy because by "EDUCATING & ENGAGING" yourself, your club, and your community, you are laying the foundation for the "EMPOWERMENT" of everyone within your sphere of influence.
- By your example, you will "EMPOWER" others to:
  1. Learn a new skill.
  2. Try a new food.
  3. Experience a new culture.
  4. Develop a deeper understanding of this world in which we all live.

PROJECT IDEAS

This list of ideas for how GFWC clubs can support the Arts and Culture Community Service Program will inspire you.

Find further information about organizations named here under Resources.

COMMUNITY RICH IDEAS FOR ALL AGES

- Sponsor an author visit to your local library.
- Use an artistic event to raise funds to sponsor local community art and cultural programs.
- Sponsor an Artist in Residence program for local seniors to attend. Donate the supplies needed and provide transportation to and from the classes.
- Work with your city to sponsor and promote an outdoor classic film festival showing movies

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with themes such as musicals, foreign language, and Academy Award Winners.

- Have a neighborhood or city music event, such as a Battle of the Bands for teens or an outdoor Concert Series featuring area bands.
- Set up a member craft table to sell art at a hometown Farmer's Market or craft fair. At your booth, make sure to include plenty of information on how to join a local GFWC club.
- Support your local community theatre by ushering, assisting at intermission, or holding a fundraiser at a performance and donating the proceeds back to the theatre.
- Be the hostess in a home tour where participants stop by for coffee and cookies and view the historical culture of your club through your scrapbooks and other historical items.



MEMBER CREATED ART AND CULTURE

- Create a Yard of the Month project partnering with the water authority or city. Have members decide which yard in their community deserves recognition with signage.
- Paint rocks with inspirational words and place them all over the city in places where they can be found. A good word for a stranger goes a long way.
- Make jewelry and cards for distribution to the homes of teen mothers or wives of soldiers serving overseas. Give them out on Mother's Day.
- Make homemade holiday cards for nursing home residents or Meals on Wheels recipients.
- Hold a recycled art contest for art projects using recycled materials for area artists or the Art Association.
- Host an art supply drive within your club. Contact local schools, daycare centers, and/or community centers to see what is needed.
- Design and decorate the garden in front of your clubhouse or meeting space, maintain it with local flora, and post signage indicating when your club meets.
- Help build, paint, register, maintain, and decorate a Little Free Library.
- Provide artwork and help decorate a reading nook at the library, a local laundromat, or other location in your community.
- Donate books with an art and/or cultural theme to the public library, a school library, or a Little Free Library.
- Donate art books, sketchbooks, coloring books, crayons, and other art supplies to hospitals, doctor/clinic waiting rooms, schools, and shelters.

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- Attend public art displays, plays, and concerts as part of a social event for your club.
- Visit or hold a club meeting at an art gallery, museum, local cultural center, or tourist center.
- Explore museums online with Google Arts and Culture or visit art galleries and art museums through their websites for virtual gallery tours.
- Hold a holiday centerpiece/wreath-making workshop at a local florist as a club program.
- Decorate a city park or municipal plaza for holidays and/or the seasons.
- Sponsor ads in local theatre or school theatre playbills.
- Host a craft time at the library to make simple crafts with children. Coordinate with the library story time and match the book theme or make a seasonal or holiday-themed craft.
- Decorate ceramic piggy banks or have local artists, art classes, or town officials decorate them. Put them in area businesses to collect money for high school scholarships or to support the local high school theater programs, band programs, and glee clubs.
- Participate in your club, District, and State arts and crafts contests by entering your crafting, needlework, painting, and photography items. Enter photographs in the GFWC photography contests.
- Celebrate international holidays, such as the Chinese New Year, Oktoberfest, Cinco de Mayo, and Bastille Day, and learn more about the historical customs, food, and entertainment of those cultures.
- Host welcome events for international students at local universities and local boarding schools.
- Invite foreign exchange students to speak about their lives and culture at meetings.
- Learn about Native American culture and its various forms from one part of the country to another. When traveling, visit museums on Native American culture.



VALUABLE IDEAS FOR YOUTH

- Hold a "Chalk the Walk" contest for elementary school children on sidewalks in front of a municipal building, library, elementary school, or other public venue. Choose a theme and have your club supply the chalk and ribbons for the winners.
- Utilize local student jazz combos, string quartets, or even the whole band to perform at club events and fundraisers.
- Hold a fundraiser to purchase a large piece of equipment for your local schools' art, music, or drama departments, such as a potter's wheel, kiln, microphones, or technology.
- Work with local Girl Scouts or Juniorette clubs to foster a safe Halloween by offering free face painting to children before they trick or treat. Invite the Girl Scouts to have a cookie sale in your club to support their efforts, and then donate the cookies to schools or the

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area USO.

- Develop an art scavenger hunt for members or students at a local or online museum. Select items for participants to find and snap photos (if allowed) or document the location in a notebook. Discuss the art pieces after the hunt.
- Use member or children's art for club cookbook covers, greeting cards, program covers, etc.
- Establish scholarships for arts students, such as literature, drama, or music. This could be to attend an arts school or summer camp.
- Establish awards that acknowledge the artistic achievements of club and community members.
- "Love the Police, Bus Drivers, Firefighters, or Veterans" – Assist local elementary students make Valentine cards for town police, bus drivers, firefighters, and veterans.
- Include a category in Art Contests that is specific to special needs children. Many times, these students need to receive recognition for their creativity.
- Host a craft time at the library to make simple crafts with children. Coordinate with the library story time and match the book theme or make a seasonal or holiday-themed craft.
- Volunteer at a school to teach students a lesson from your cultural heritage. Include information about the food of the culture and provide samples for the students to taste.
- Sponsor a bus and tickets for children to learn more about well-known international ballets, operas, musical composers, museums, and artists. Let them see and share the experience of a live performance.

CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Purchase bolts of fabric for Canine Companions to sew vests for dogs or stuffed puppies.
- Make donations for dorm rooms or decorate the dorm rooms at Regional Training Centers.
- Participate in the Canine Companions Signature Event—Dog Fest Walk'n Roll. For more information visit www.cci.org/dogfest.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- Construct and decorate a parade float designed to promote Heifer International and join in the next parade in your community. Hand out bookmarks and "Cow Tail Candy" along the parade route.

MARCH OF DIMES

- Create blankets for babies. Create a pattern just for your club. The blankets will be distributed to military moms at baby showers sponsored by March of Dimes.
- Create baby hats with your club's special colors. March of Dimes has a toolkit that provides instructions and guidance for pattern and size. volunteer.marchofdimes.org/the-general-federation-of-womens-clubs/
- Use your creative skills to make handmade costumes for babies in the NICU. These costumes are simple to make but make a huge impact and help families connect with their babies. volunteer.marchofdimes.org/the-general-federation-of-womens-clubs/

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OPERATION SMILE

- See how your club can help prepare a child for life-saving surgery with coloring pages, stuffed animals, and games to relieve the stress of surgery. www.operationsmile.org/service-projects
- Host a neighborhood ice cream social to share the mission of Operation Smile and the resulting improvement in the quality of life for children. Accept donations to support an operation.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

- Sew mask straps. Do you have seamstresses in your club? Consider meeting to assemble bags with materials to make mask straps for the children at St. Jude and having seamstresses take the bags home to complete the project with their personal sewing machines.

UNICEF USA

- Consider how individuals in other countries are handling the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilize UNICEF's website to gather information on how different cultures are tackling the pandemic and how UNICEF has already helped reach over half a billion people with COVID-19 prevention messaging. www.unicefusa.org/mission/covid-19.

GFWC RESOURCES

Americans for the Arts www.americansforthearts.org
Americans for the Arts builds awareness and support for the value of the arts and works to ensure that every American has access to their transformative powers.

A.R.T. (Artistic Realization Technologies, Inc.) www.artrealization.org | 908-359-3098
A.R.T. has created technologies, studio programming, and training that empower those who lack the articulate use of their hands to gain perfect individual control of the artmaking process from start to finish.

Google Arts and Culture artsandculture.google.com/

Google Arts and Culture provides virtual tools to explore works of art and tour famous sites and landmarks, offers information about nearby museums and other centers of arts and culture, and space to create a virtual gallery of your favorites.

National Endowment for the Arts www.arts.gov
The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation. This site also lists Arts Councils in each state: www.arts.gov/partners/state-regional. In partnership with state and jurisdictional arts agencies and regional arts organizations, the NEA provides federal support for projects that benefit local communities.

National Organization for Music Education www.nafme.org
The National Organization for Music Education advocates and provides resources for music education, hosts professional development events, and offers opportunities for both students and teachers.

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AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Arts and Culture Community Service Program projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Arts and Culture Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current 2022 Resolutions for the Arts and Culture Community Service Program are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the GFWC Resolutions document, filed under "Governance" in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are an important and integral part of GFWC Programs.

130-010 Historic Preservation

130-020 Museums

130-030 Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project

130-040 Support of the Arts

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"OUR TROUBLE IS THAT WE DO NOT DEMAND ENOUGH OF THE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT US. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES… WE MUST SPUR THEM TO MORE IMAGINATION AND ENTERPRISE IN MAKING A PUSH INTO THE UNKNOWN; WE MUST MAKE CLEAR THAT WE INTEND TO HAVE RESPONSIBLE AND COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP." ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

In the Preface of *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, an authoritative work edited by Thomas Ehrlich and published by Oryx Press in 2000, it is noted that "Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political processes."

More generally, according to The Center For Civic Leadership at the Alfred State School of Technology of the State University of New York, civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of your community. It involves action by individuals or groups to engage with issues of public concern by taking action, being a problem solver, and working to address the root cause of community challenges. What a perfect description of the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program!

The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each member is part of a larger society and we are responsible for taking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. GFWC focuses on addressing issues of public concern.

Volunteering is one of the best ways to put civic duty into action, and it is often the first step in building a stronger connection to community. However, there are other ways to contribute, such as advocating, fundraising or donating, and problem-solving. Locally, even supporting small businesses and keeping an eye on your neighbor can play a part in improving the community. The possibilities are endless. We advocate because there is a need; we volunteer because we are needed. GFWC's focus continues to be addressing issues impacting our local, state, and national communities.

Citizenship, Crime Prevention, Safety, Disaster Preparedness, the Needy, Hungry, and Homeless, and Military Personnel and Veterans are just a few suggestions for areas of concern impacted by GFWC Clubwomen during its history. What is needed in your community? Look around your own community and to the wider world for ways to make a positive impact.

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Vicky Ann Trimmer, Chairman
600 East Winding Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
vtrimmer@daleyzucker.com

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

PREPARATION SAVES LIVES



First aid, including CPR, helps give the person experiencing a medical emergency the best chance of survival until medical professionals arrive on the scene. www.uchealth.com

GFWC clubs are encouraged to focus on efforts to educate their community members in the life-saving skills of CPR and First Aid. Every parent, grandparent, childcare worker, babysitter, teacher, bus driver, Uber driver, restaurant worker, and person standing at a bus stop or in a grocery line needs to know CPR and First Aid. GFWC members can be the life-or-death difference in the event of a medical emergency. Heart attacks, choking, broken bones, open wounds, and falls occur every day someplace in your community. GFWC clubwomen can be "lifesavers" by offering education and training opportunities to their fellow citizens. Caring for your community and working with others to make it a safer place is a great example of Civic Engagement and Outreach.

Ways in which GFWC members can prepare themselves and others to save lives:

- Present a Proclamation for "First Aid Awareness Month."
- Distribute information about the benefits of First Aid and CPR training to local businesses, churches, daycares, stores, schools, etc.
- Host CPR and First Aid training classes with your local volunteer fire department and ambulance association.
- Raise funds to offset the costs incurred by the organizations providing CPR and First Aid training.
- Partner with other volunteer organizations to sponsor training for the underprivileged in your community.
- Honor organizations and groups of citizens that get trained, such as when a group of office workers all complete training, by recognizing them on a community bulletin board.
- Assist with the purchase of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices for locations in your community where they are not readily available.
- Create a Family Emergency Binder in case you need to leave home quickly due to a disaster in your community. Include contact information for family, business associates, and close friends. Keep copies of your vital documents such as passports, licenses, deeds, veterans' paperwork, credit card numbers, and legal documents. Be sure to include current medication lists for all family members (and pets). Having a list of your important websites and passwords can save time in a crisis.
- Make a home inventory using photos and/or a video in case you need to identify missing or damaged items.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



TOMBSTONE CLEANING

The GFWC Mississippi Poplarville Woman's Club (MS) organized the Veteran's Tombstone Cleaning project and placed flags on the tombstones during Veterans Day. Researching the proper way to clean a tombstone and educating others was critical. Recommendations were shared from Arlington Cemetery. The event was advertised in their community. Working with the Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, high school students, and members, over 250 tombstones were cleaned, and flags were placed.



SAIDIE'S CUPBOARD

The Salem Woman's Service Club's (OR) program, Saidie's Cupboard, partners with local public health nurses and a teen parent program to create "family bags" of basic household items and "infant bags" for basic newborn needs such as clothing, blankets, diapers, toys, and books. The club supplies the bags whenever requested by the agencies, who then distribute them to needy families. Within the past year, 88 family bags, 15 infant bags, and 1,982 diapers were donated.



STREETSIDE SHOWERS

GFWC Viera Woman's Club (FL) wanted to help the homeless so the club reached out to Streetside Showers, an organization that provides shower trailers, to place one in the area. Before this project, the homeless were bathing in the canal. Club members also collected socks, t-shirts, toiletries, and personal hygiene products. A collection box has been set up for continued support of this project.



OPERATION STAND DOWN

GFWC Brentwood Franklin Women's Service Club (TN) partnered with the Veteran Mentorship program in Operation Stand Down Tennessee to support veterans as they transition from military service into civilian life. Members frequently donated clothing, household items, monthly baked goods, and Christmas boxes. Two fundraisers provided food, door prizes, and gift cards for additional funds.

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PROJECT IDEAS

The Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program is far-reaching and sweeping. It can be hard to isolate ideas. GFWC hopes you find inspiration from these ideas for club projects. Find further information about organizations named here under Resources.

Remember, these are not guidelines, just suggestions, and all projects involving civic engagement and outreach fall under the Civic Engagement and Community Outreach community service program. Think outside the box and find a need in your community that will make a difference to your club, your neighborhood, or your state.

CITIZENSHIP

- Work together with other community members or organizations to create a social media platform, such as a Facebook or X (formerly Twitter) page, to engage the larger community on key issues, identify positive solutions, and stimulate public policy initiatives.
- Honor and celebrate patriotic holidays by hosting or volunteering for events commemorating Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Constitution Day, and others. Consider purchasing or printing copies of the United States Constitution for distribution. One organization that provides copies at a bulk rate is Freedom Factor.
- Work together to "Get Out the Vote!" Encourage others to register and vote, provide information about early voting or polling locations and times, and offer transportation if needed. Pair with another club and assist at the polls. Use yard signs to "Vote and Be Counted."
- Provide information on correctly folding a United States flag, plus the meaning and symbolism in the flag folding ceremony, to scouts, school groups, and others. The American Legion offers clear and concise instructions.
- Help an individual or a small group study for the U.S. Citizenship test.
- Host a Nationalization Ceremony in your community.
- Collaborate with bookstores or libraries to create a prominent display of nonfiction books that commemorate Women's History Month in March, telling the "herstory" of women's suffrage.
- Collect books that celebrate women of the suffrage movement or other women and girls of historical or societal importance, including biographies, nonfiction, and historic fiction, and donate them to local schools, libraries, and programs such as the Boys and Girls Club, YWCA, and Girls, Inc.
- Create a play, puppet show, or exhibit to teach young students about "Symbols of the United States," including the US flag, Uncle Sam, the Liberty Bell, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, and others.
- Sponsor a Candidates Forum for town officials and/or state representatives from all parties, with club members serving as hosts and moderators. Invite media to cover the event.
- Join the Chamber of Commerce to increase brand recognition through networking and publicity. Use Chamber publications and calendars to help spread the word about club events.
- Invite a speaker from the League of Women Voters to provide information on voting rights and how to increase participation and educate voters.
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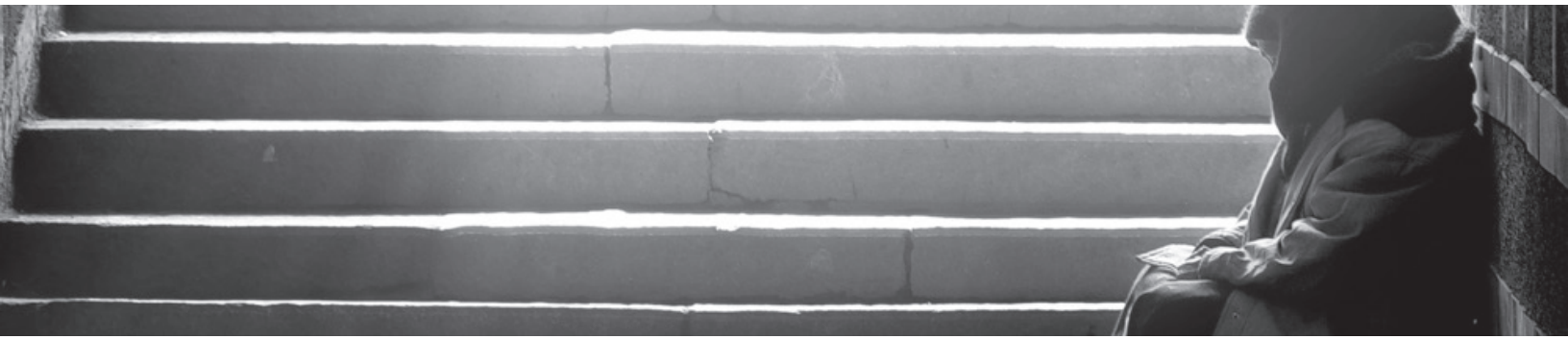
CRIME PREVENTION, SAFETY, AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Prevent crime and make homes and communities safer by providing information on crime prevention strategies, such as neighborhood/park watches and suspicious activity reports. For helpful information, provide a listing of non-emergency numbers or websites for your community.
- Support and thank local Police and Fire Departments for keeping the community safe. Consider making gift bags that include snacks, beverages, gift certificates, other small treats or necessities, and a handwritten thank you note. Or, provide a monthly meal and/or dessert to

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these first responders, with groups of club members working together.

- Spread the word about the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home by providing information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the signs and causes of poisoning, and how to prevent it. Collaborate with a local merchant to purchase carbon monoxide alarms at cost and then provide them to the elderly and/or needy.
- Alert parents and caregivers to the hazard of furniture tip-overs that endanger the lives of children, the disabled, and the elderly. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, someone in the U.S. is injured every 17 minutes by a furniture, TV, or appliance tip over. Create awareness through social media on how to anchor furniture or offer facts and free furniture anchors at a community-wide event.
- Host a community educational program on Identity Theft from USA.gov, including potential victims, types of theft, warning signs, and prevention.
- Go to the National Council on Aging for information about scams against seniors that target grieving spouses, worried grandparents, and those with medical concerns. Share fact sheets with members and friends, including "The Top Ten Financial Scams Targeting Seniors," and "Eight Tips for How Seniors Can Protect Themselves from Money Scams."
- Hold a bicycle safety workshop for children during National Bicycle Safety Month in May.
- Utilize materials from the National Safety Council and other experts to educate teen drivers about the dangers of distracted driving during Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April.
- Work with first responders and your local high schools to provide motivational presentations on at-risk driving practices, such as texting and failure to use seat belts.
- Learn to stop traumatic injury bleeding, which is the leading cause of preventable death in a severely injured person. Find tools through the national awareness and training campaign, Stop the Bleed, directed by the American College of Surgeons. Sponsor a course for club and community members that offers hands-on practice to apply direct pressure, pack a wound, and use a tourniquet.
- Plan a club or community program with first responders in September, National Preparedness Month, on possible emergency situations, natural disasters, and how to be ready at home.
- Provide information to community members on how to make a Disaster Preparedness Toolkit.



THE NEEDY, HUNGRY, AND HOMELESS

- Consult your local welfare office, shelters, churches, and other community-assistance organizations to determine community needs and help provide provisions for the needy.
- Assist Habitat for Humanity by providing volunteer labor or donations such as furniture and household goods. Provide meals and/or snacks for volunteers.
- Put together a Women Build team for Habitat for Humanity and work in tandem with construction professionals and future homeowners.
- Organize a club day of service at a local food pantry by donating essential goods and sorting and organizing their shelves. Offer a few surprises, such as "Birthday Bags" filled with cake mix, a can of icing, candles, a baking pan, and a birthday card.

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- Organize a winter clothing drive in the fall, collecting, sorting, and cleaning gently used coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, and gloves. Partner with a school, church, or another local agency to distribute the clothing.
- Work with your local schools to establish "closets" within the schools where clothing, shoes, backpacks, underwear, socks, outerwear, and personal hygiene items are organized and stored for distribution to children in need. Sponsor the clothes closet and stock it regularly.
- Collect socks at a club, District, or State meeting and donate this "number one most requested item" to homeless shelters.
- Hold a collection drive for "Support the Girls," an organization that provides bras, underwear, and feminine products to women and girls in need. Donate the items to the closest "Support the Girls" affiliate location or a similar local nonprofit organization, so they can be distributed in your area. Work with the local school guidance counselors and help with stocking the shelves with feminine products.
- Learn about "Days for Girls," an organization that provides access to menstrual care and education for girls around the world. Fundraise for a monetary donation or create sustainable menstrual care kits that provide safe, beautiful, washable, and long-lasting sanitary protection.
- Advocate for "Housing not Handcuffs," a campaign of the National Coalition for the Homeless that aims to put an end to homelessness and the criminalization of the homeless.
- Research the ground-level services in your backyard and make cards with nearby shelter information and maps to promote the nearby shelters.
- Partner with "The Right to Shower" (www.therighttoshower.com/) by holding a Hygiene Kit Drive, applying for grants to start a Mobile Shower Service, Pop-Up Care Village, or building a portable Handwashing Station.
- Research your local candidates. Politicians often dictate your community/city policies and funding levels.

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he can the same cause." Abraham Lincoln

- Encourage members to research local or national programs that support our military. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs can direct you to assistance programs for those currently deployed, military families, and/or veterans. If your club wants to work specifically with women veterans, contact the Women Veterans Program Manager at your VA Medical Center or local residential living or assisted living manager.
- Support active military personnel with programs through the USO, such as Wishbook, to provide gifts of comfort food packages, phone calls home, and long-distance bedtime stories, or USO2GO Kits, which provide snacks, toiletries, and fun diversions (music and games) to troops deployed to remote areas.
- Keep military loved ones together during medical treatment by supporting the Fisher House Foundation, which builds comfort homes at military installations and VA Medical Centers around the world. Clubs can also support the Foundation's Hero Miles program, which uses donated airline miles to bring family members to the hospital bedsides of the injured, and Hotels for Heroes, which uses donated hotel points, and/or its grant program and scholarship fund.
- Create awareness about the three primary mental health concerns of military personnel and veterans: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Depression, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Support organizations such as the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) and others that provide help.
- Create awareness about the high rate of suicide among veterans and suicide prevention programs such as the Veterans Crisis Line and S.A.V.E., a VA online training program that teaches simple preventive steps (Signs, Ask, Validate, Encourage, Expedite) that anyone can follow with those at risk.

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- Donate clothing, nonperishable food items, backpacks, and other items to Stand Downs, VA events that provide necessities, health screenings, and referrals for homeless veterans. Ask for the wish list and each month provide a few items on that list. It changes per season and by the number of homeless veterans.
- Contribute to Wreaths Across America by sponsoring wreaths or volunteering at Veteran Cemeteries to place or remove wreaths.
- Contribute to the Honor Flight Network by donating, volunteering as a "Guardian" to accompany an honoree, and/or being part of a "Welcome Home" congregation. Write cards for the "Mail Call" during the return home.
- Support the Quilts of Valor Foundation by donating fabric, quilt squares, or quilts, or by making monetary contributions or becoming a sponsor.
- Create packets of cards and stamps for veterans in care facilities which they can use to stay in touch with their family and friends. Include holiday, birthday, get well, thinking of you, sympathy and blank cards in each packet.

SUPPORT AND AID WOMEN VETERANS

Connect with women veterans to support health needs, reduce isolation and depression, and provide comfort and encouragement, with the assistance of a Women Veterans Program Manager* at your VA Medical Center. Here are specific ideas provided by a WVP Manager:



- Donate comfort and useful items such as soothing lotions and bath gels, beauty products, cozy socks and slippers, adult inspirational coloring books and colored pencils (a great favorite!), games and playing cards, and/or gift cards to salons, coffee shops, and retail and grocery stores.
- Supply beverages and snacks for the waiting area of the Veteran Women's Health Clinic, with a small group of members hosting to provide camaraderie and new contacts.
- Collect new and slightly used jewelry and hold a club social for polishing and packaging the jewelry in decorated boxes or bags for distribution at the Veteran Women's Health Clinic.
- Work with the Veterans Administration Medical Center to hold a games afternoon or painting social. Make new friends and have fun!
- Create "Beauty Bags" for women veterans, including face care, body care, feminine products, and nail care products. Provide hand cream, cleansers, brushes, combs, special soaps, shampoo, and bath bombs. Include a special beauty item like a lip gloss or lipstick, earrings or cologne.
- Coordinate with the WVP Manager to help women veterans celebrate special moments in their lives, with gifts and thoughtful cards for new babies, family birthdays, and other meaningful occasions.

*If your community does not have a WVP Manager, reach out to a local assisted residential living manager that can identify those in their care who are female Veterans.

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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Sign Online Petition to Stand Against Service Dog Fraud. When untrained pets posing as service dogs behave badly, people who truly need assistance dogs can face added discrimination and lose access to public places, both violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. www.cci.org/news-media/latestnews/take-a-stand-against-service.html
- Promote puppy raising. Volunteers are needed to raise puppies from eight weeks to 1.5 years old, attending dog obedience classes, and socializing the puppy in public settings. Assistance is needed in getting the word out on the need for volunteers.
- Meet the Canine Companions Chapter leadership near you and see how you can work together.
- Raise funds to help place a dog with a veteran.
- Share your commitment to CC with suggested Canine Companions by using these hashtags: #giveadogajob, #WeAreIndependence, #ccivolunteer, #ccipuppy, #ccipuppyraiser, #ccigraduate #ccicanine, and #caninecompanions.
- Become familiar with the following organizations:
  - Assistance Dogs International, Inc. www.assistancedogsinternational.org
  - International Association of Assistance Dog Partners. www.iaadp.org
  - U.S. Department of Justice ADA and Americans with Disabilities Act information, resources, and updates. U.S. government website (www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/) contains a vast array of resources for individuals with disabilities, including information about health, housing, education, transportation, recreation, and employment. See Commonly Asked Questions about service dogs in places of business. ADA Info Line: 800-514-0301 (voice); 800-514-0383 (TTY). Workplace Accommodation Information (www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm#subchapterI) | Public Access with an Assistance Dog Info (www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm) | Employment Equal Opportunity Commission (www.eeoc.gov)
  - Children with Disabilities offers information about advocacy, education, employment, health, housing, recreation, technical assistance, and transportation covering a broad array of developmental, physical, and emotional disabilities. www.childrensdisabilities.info
  - Institute on Disability and Human Development is an online resource dedicated to promoting the independence, productivity, and inclusion of people with disabilities into all aspects of society. www.ahs.uic.edu
- Join the Canine Companions Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/CanineCompanions) and help them build their network of "likes."
- Follow Canine Companions on X (formerly Twitter) @ccicanine.
- Subscribe to their YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/CanineCompanions, and their blog, Help is a Four-Legged Word, www.Blog.CCI.org.
- Sign up to receive monthly e-newsletters on Canine Companions updates and forward the emails to your friends. Email Subscriptions - Canine Companions.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- Support Heifer by sponsoring a Community Animal Health Workers Kit. This kit includes tools such as thermometers, stethoscopes, hoof trimmers, gloves, disinfectants, medicine for animals, and more. It also trains participants in properly caring for gift animals. Visit www.heifer.org/campaign/gfwc.html and navigate to the Health Workers Toolkit.



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- Inspire students to become global citizens through Heifer's free educational and fundraising programs catered to any age group. www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/schools/index.html

MARCH OF DIMES

- Use the March of Dimes Advocacy materials to make your voice heard by contacting Members of Congress about how you feel about Maternal Health, Access to Care, and Newborn Screening. www.marchofdimes.org/our-work/policy-advocacy
- Host a "Dime Drive" to collect donations. Consider laying the dimes across a bridge to reach across a local river to encourage getting to the goal of covering the entire length of the span.

OPERATION SMILE

Note: Operation Smile's needs vary frequently. Before commencing your project, go to www.operationsmile.org and search for "service projects" to see what is currently needed.

- Coordinate with members, friends, and family to sew, collect, or prepare specific supplies that are needed for medical missions. www.operationsmile.org/service-projects.
- Sew Smile Splint arm bands to prevent children from bending their arms and touching their face. An arm band is inserted with tongue depressors to create a simple splint. For patterns to make the needed item, visit www.operationsmile.org/service-projects.
- Make Smile quilts, blankets, and afghans.
- Sew Smile Bags and collect the needed items to fill the bags. These bags are given to each child after surgery.
- Go on YouTube and download videos to present at your club meeting.
- Sponsor an Operation Smile surgery by raising and donating $240.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

- Volunteer at a St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer event near you by visiting www.stjude.org/walk/run and clicking on "volunteer."
- Join us on social media @StJude and use the Hashtag #ShowYourGold to show your support.
- Host a fundraising event to purchase a red wagon used to transport children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION SHOT@LIFE CAMPAIGN

- Encourage club members to apply for the annual Shot@Life Summit. Learn how to advocate and put it into practice in support of funding global vaccines. shotatlife.org/championsummit
- Promote Equality for Girls Program by promoting education for girls so they can become the artists, engineers, and advisors of tomorrow. www.unicefusa.org/mission/equality-girls
- Visit UNICEF's USA Action Center: Advocate to Put Children First. Enter your zip code to see the campaigns currently being promoted in your area. www.act.unicefusa.org/?_ga=2.56491243.1930969479.1592003084-1296862387.1592003084
- Create "STOP Sign" stickers to place in rest area bathrooms of highly traveled roads in your community. Include the phone number of the national hotline for survivors of human trafficking.

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GFWC RESOURCES

American Legion www.legion.org
For specific information on flag folding, go to www.legion.org/flag/folding.

Consumer Product Safety Commission www.consumerreports.org

Days for Girls www.daysforgirls.org

Family Promise www.familypromise.org
Affiliates work in 43 states as a leading nonprofit addressing the issue of family homelessness. The organization is 501c3 with a 4 Star Charity navigator standing. Blankets, pillows, towels and washcloths, school snacks, and meals are appreciated donations.

Fisher House Foundation www.fisherhouse.org

Freedom Factor www.freedomfactor.org
For specific information on the cost of copies of the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence go to www.freedomfactor.org/collections/designer-pocket-constitutions.

Habitat for Humanity www.habitat.org

HOBY www.hoby.org

Honor Flight Network www.honorflight.org

I Support the Girls www.isupportthegirls.org

League of Women Voters www.lwv.org
The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) www.nami.org
For specific information on supporting military personnel and veterans go to www.nami.org/Find-Support/Veterans-and-Active-Duty.

National Coast Guard Museum www.coastguardmuseum.org
Join other GFWC clubs as we help to build the National Coast Guard Museum in honor of those who serve. Purchase a paver or make a donation for those who are always there for our country.

National Council on Aging www.ncoa.org
For specific information on scams against seniors go to www.ncoa.org/economic-security/money-management/scams-security.

National Safety Council www.nsc.org
For specific information on distracted driving go to www.nsc.org/road-safety/safety-topics/distracted-driving.

National Women Veterans United www.nwvu.org

National Coalition for the Homeless www.nationalhomeless.org
For specific information on "Housing not Handcuffs" go to www.housingnothandcuffs.org.

National Crime Prevention Council www.ncpc.org

Quilts of Valor Foundation www.qovf.org
For specific information about making quilts go to www.qovf.org/make-a-qov/

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The Right to Shower www.therighttoshower.com

USA GOV www.usa.gov
For specific information on identify theft go to www.usa.gov/identity-theft.

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs www.va.gov
For specific information on Stand Downs go to www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp.

USO www.uso.org

Wreaths Across America www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current 2023 Resolutions for the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the GFWC Resolutions document, filed under "Governance" in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are an important and integral part of GFWC Programs.

140-010 Advocacy Rights of Charitable Organizations

140-020 Bicycle Safety

140-030 Broadband Authority and Utilization

140-040 Child Support Enforcement

140-050 Citizenship Rights and Privileges

140-060 Consumer Product Safety

140-070 Crime Prevention

140-080 Criminal Justice

140-090 Disaster Assistance and Preparedness

140-100 Economic Equity

140-110 Economic Stability

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140-120 Electoral Process
140-130 Eminent Domain
140-140 Enhanced Opportunities for Women
140-150 Family Farms
140-160 Firearms Safety
140-170 Fire Safety
140-180 Fiscal Responsibility
140-190 Global Peacekeeping
140-200 Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing, Bullying and Cyber-bullying
140-210 Homelessness
140-220 Humane Slaughter Enforcement
140-230 Humane Treatment of Animals
140-240 Hunger and Food Insecurity
140-250 Identity Theft
140-260 Immigration
140-270 Impaired and Distracted Driving
140-280 Individuals with Disabilities
140-290 Internet-based Media
140-300 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
140-310 Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking
140-320 Mass Media
140-330 Migrant Worker Families
140-340 National Defense
140-350 Opioids
140-360 Prosecution of Hate Crimes
140-370 Responsibility to Uphold National Security
140-380 Retirement
140-390 Rights of Crime Victims
140-400 School Bus Safety
140-410 School Violence and Disruptions
140-420 Social Security
140-430 Specially Trained Dogs and Other Animals for Individuals with Disabilities
140-440 Statehood
140-450 Support of the United Nations
140-460 Terrorism
140-470 Tolerance and Diversity
140-480 Transportation
140-490 Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention
140-500 United States Postal Service
140-510 Vehicle Safety
140-520 Volunteer Liability Protection
140-530 Water Safety



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EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024–2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026
EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Dana Jones, Chairman
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"LEARNING IS NOT ATTAINED BY CHANCE; IT MUST BE SOUGHT FOR WITH ARDOR AND ATTENDED TO WITH DILIGENCE." ABIGAIL ADAMS

Equitable, quality education is the key to acquiring the knowledge to succeed in our ever-changing world. Whether in the classroom or via the internet, we gain the knowledge and understanding that forms our perspective, our ideas, and our opinions. It is essential that society provides the best education to all, with no exception to socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education encourages students to pursue careers in the STEM fields. Students learn through interaction, problem-solving, creativity, communication, and collaboration. This approach to learning can help meet the challenges of the future and enable them to be successful individuals.

Equitable access to affordable, high-quality early learning programs provides a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young children. Early childhood is generally defined as birth through age eight. Five Key Elements are fundamental to achieving high-quality experiences and strong outcomes for preschool children: the learning environment, daily routine, adult-child relationships, teaching practices, and family engagement. Economic research examining the return on investment for early education suggests tremendous value ranging from $4 to $13 in return for every $1 spent from impacts on educational attainment, employment, health, truancy, and criminality.

Public libraries serve a critical purpose and essential role in our communities not only from books and resources but also as a safe place to meet, learn, and study for all ages. Shining light on public libraries is an important mission to meet the needs of its patrons and the community. They offer free access to all people for information through books, online services, classes, workshops, etc. Libraries can be a safe place for children and adults to learn and interact with friends.

In the 1930s GFWC women's clubs were credited by the American Library Association as having founded over 474 free public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries. Supporting local libraries continues to be a Federation priority today. Above all, be supportive of your library and implement a project at your library that makes your club proud.

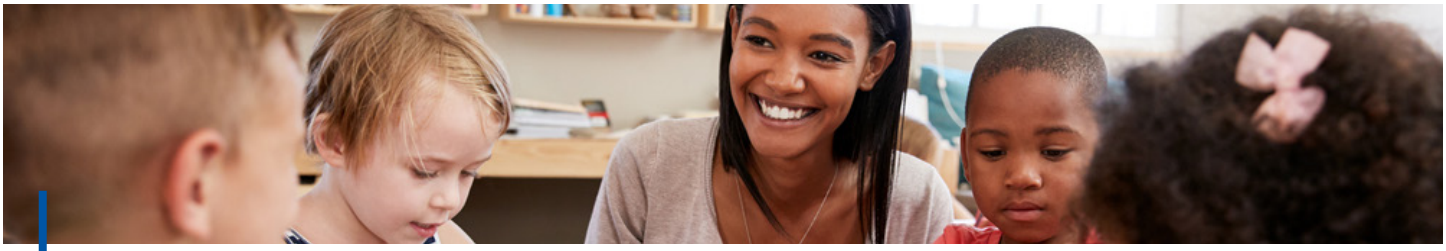
Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita dues paying GFWC members. The purpose of ESO is to provide clubwomen with a structural reading program, which is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. Are you an ESO member?

As clubwomen, GFWC members promote education for both children and adults. Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools and other educational institutions and opportunities, and promote libraries, literacy, and reading good books. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Education and Libraries Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS



Children enrolled in a high-quality program have a safe space to grow and learn. They can explore the world around them, build relationships with trusted, caring adults, feel accepted, and gain confidence to become active learners. High-quality programs engage families in meaningful ways. Positive family-program connections have been linked to greater academic motivation, grade promotion, and socio-emotional skills across all types of young children, including those from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

An early learning program overlaps with a child's development of gross and fine motor skills, physical coordination (hand-eye coordination, biking, running, etc.), and their understanding of healthy skills like handwashing, regular exercise, and balanced eating.

High-quality early learning programs can increase earning potential and encourage and support educational attainment. Early childhood development and education programs can also help reduce educational gaps.

Early childhood education has the potential to mitigate the high costs of special education, dropouts, and other poor educational outcomes. Investing in early childhood is a solution that creates upward mobility through opportunity. Instead of costly and marginally successful programs later in life, quality early childhood education helps prevent the achievement gap by building the cognitive and social skills necessary for school readiness.

Establish a working relationship with an early learning program in your area. Engage your members to participate with their ideas, talent, and time. Engagement can be volunteering to read, supporting a parent meeting, providing needed supplies for arts and crafts, providing books for the children to take home, and hosting a library card sign-up drive.

Collaborate with the local elementary school to ensure that first-time parents can visit the school prior to their child's enrollment so that they feel comfortable enrolling their child and, when appropriate, to become involved as a parent in the school.

Other Ideas:

- Members can be classroom volunteers – this offers flexibility in time and skill level. Volunteers can help with art projects, reading, field trips, and many other activities.
- Special Event Volunteers – programs often have parent nights and family fun nights. Club members can help with event logistics, silent auctions, registration, and beverage carts.
- Facility Volunteers – plan a club project for a cleanup day. This may include yard work, painting, cleaning, and playground repair.
- Members can volunteer to do clerical work to relieve front office staff.
- Members can hold a library card sign-up for children in the program. This can be coordinated with the local library to be done when parents are there to pick up the children from the program instead of making a separate trip to the library.
- Host a Scholastic Book Fair, handling all the logistics of organizing the program. Perhaps the club can purchase a book for each child.
- Celebrate the Week of the Young Child, held each April, and Advocates for Children Week in October as well.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



STORYBOOK TRAIL

The GFWC Grangers Women's Club (IA) partnered with the Granger Public Library to display a series of published children's picture books at a local park. The Storybook Trail focused on families with small children to enjoy nature and be entertained by reading books along the walk. The walk was 835 feet long, and each page of the story was separated by thirty-two feet. Pictures from the children's book were installed along the path with the help of club members. As families stopped along the path, they were directed to the next page in the story. Pages frequently were accompanied by activities. Twenty-five stations were installed in the park.



WORCESTER THE CITY THAT READS

A retired school principal in Worcester, Massachusetts, was concerned about the number of students leaving school in June with no books at home to read and no access to the public library. GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) assisted in his mission to ensure that these students (preschool through Middle School) got at least one book to take home for summer reading. One club member took over collecting and delivering NJWC's books. She placed a bin outside her home for the collection, visited library book sales, picked up books from members who could not get to her house, and delivered all the books to a local school. The collection this year was a whopping 874 books!



TRUNK OR TREAT

The GFWC Curwensville Woman's Club (PA) participated in the Trunk or Treat project hosted by the Curwensville Area School District. The club purchased more than 250 new books from Scholastic and some candy. Volunteers gave out traditional Halloween candy and literacy "treats" as every child received books, bookmarks, a new pencil, finger puppets, and a packet of Halloween reading and writing activities. Working with their community partners, nearly 1,000 children and their families walked away with new books and literacy tools to help support reading in their homes.



LIVING HISTORY WALK

The Brentwood/Franklin Woman's Service Club (TN) researched notable persons in their community's history and presented a "Living History Walk" at two local libraries. Ten actors in costume gave a ten-minute presentation about themselves to community attendees. The club estimated that over 350 people attended the events and received excellent print and social media publicity.

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PROJECT IDEAS

EDUCATION

- Establish a scholarship for a local student using these steps:
  - Determine the purpose of the scholarship (reason for awarding it and the target audience, for example—the scholarship could be in honor or memory of a club or community leader, or it might help a student with a special need). Consider a scholarship for a trade school.
  - Set a timeline (including development, fundraising, advertising, application evaluation, award presentation, etc.).
  - Create the application (incorporating components that fit the purpose of the scholarship, such as essay, resume, transcripts, financial need information, letters of recommendation, etc.).
  - Determine the duration of the award (one or multiple years).
  - Determine the funding source.
  - Select the recipient and plan the award presentation.
- Advocate for and assist children and adults with special needs by:
  - Researching learning disabilities on the website of the Learning Disabilities Association of America (https://ldaamerica.org/) and subscribe to their newsletter, or follow them on X (formerly Twitter), for news on advocacy efforts and how you can help.
  - Volunteering in the Special Education Department of a local school.
  - Sponsoring events for children with special needs such as holiday parties, proms, or athletic events.
  - Adopting a special needs teacher for the school year, providing class incentives, teaching or craft materials, and other needed support.
  - Initiating a reading program or book club for children and adults with special needs, and/or donating books to special needs groups.
- Support schools, educators, and students with donations:
  - Obtain a supply list from a local school and organize a club or community drive to supply book bags, notebooks, binders, and other recommended items to underserved students.
  - Provide local teachers with supplies for their classrooms, including "treasure chest" stickers or small items that can be used as incentives for positive behavior.
  - Partner with a local early learning program to provide supplies that some children cannot afford to bring but are required.
  - Contact a local early learning program and offer to come and read with the children at various times of the day.
  - Provide healthy snack bags to be taken home for the weekend for children who may have food insecurity and won't get a nutritious meal until they return to school the following week.
  - Replace or add to playground equipment, including a buddy bench.
  - Provide reading software, other materials, or funds for after-school enrichment programs.
  - Fund field trips for underserved students.
- Support STEM programs in schools and the community.
  - Advocate for and support local schools STEM for Her, an organization that encourages girls to pursue STEM-related careers. Visit the website stemforher.org to learn more about STEM for Her programs.



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  - Support and volunteer with STEM Scouts, helping girls and boys learn about science, technology, engineering, and math through creative, hands-on activities, and field trips interaction with STEM professionals.
  - ProjectCSGirls is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to cultivate a love for technology and computer science in girls and encourages them to pursue their interests and careers in these fields.
- Support first-year teachers by providing welcome messages and snacks for their teacher orientation.
- Consider providing books for classroom libraries or supplies such as Band-Aids, tissues, a sewing kit, small hand lotions, and other useful items.
- Host a special event on Teacher Appreciation Day (the first Tuesday in May), such as a celebratory breakfast or lunch, or provide thank you cards or other expressions of gratitude.
- Organize a group of members to work together to support a local school by volunteering to help a teacher or several teachers set up their classrooms at the beginning of the year. Stay connected by volunteering in the classroom(s) and providing assistance as needed.
- Become a partner in education with a Title 1 school by volunteering one-on-one time with students, providing take-home snacks for weekends, supplying toiletries that can be distributed as needed, and assisting or donating to special programs so children can flourish, such as music, art, and athletics.
- Sponsor recognitions, such as student of the month. Provide goody bags, ice cream tokens, or books.
- Partner with the local PTA/PTO on an important issue, such as raising awareness about internet safety.
- Work with school counselors to support an anti-bullying campaign in October, during National Bully Prevention Month. PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center offers free classroom resources. www.pacer.org/bullying
- Assist GED candidates by tutoring or establishing a fund to pay for tests and/or babysitting.
- Promote summer reading by providing books to be given to children at the close of the school year along with a flyer or calendar of summer reading events scheduled at local libraries.
- Organize a Read Across America event in March during National Reading Month. Consult the Read Across America website (https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america) for suggested books, event ideas, and promotional materials.
- Create nooks for reading at welfare offices, health departments, doctor clinics, shelters, children's hospitals, laundromats, and other places children might visit, and stock them with a variety of books. Add a club sticker with the message, "If you read a story while you wait, the less time it will take."
- Celebrate Children's Book Day/Día de los Niños on April 30. Donate books in English and Spanish to local Head Start programs.
- Promote DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Day by posting photos on social media of community leaders, such as the mayor, police chief, and your club president with their nose in a book. DEAR Day, celebrated on April 12, reminds families to make reading a priority in their lives by setting aside at least 30 minutes that day to enjoy books together.
- Plan a pajama and book drive for Pajama Program, an organization that promotes and supports a comforting bedtime routine for all children to help them thrive. Visit the Pajama Program website for information on contributing pajamas and/or books, fundraising, and volunteering.
- Support local English as a Second Language (ESL) programs by tutoring students and/or funding their classes or materials.

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- Plan or sponsor a "Books Alive" program for your community by bringing a favorite children's book to life as a play or puppet show.
- Learn more about established reading programs such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Reach Out and Read, Reading is Fundamental, Reading Rockets, Room to Read, and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, and see if your club can get involved in, donate to, or sponsor an event in your community.
- Celebrate World Read Aloud Day, a program sponsored by LitWorld, is on February 5. Celebrate at schools, work, and a club meeting. Create and wear reading crowns that illustrate what you are thinking as you read.
- Visit the LitWorld website to register, gather ideas for community engagement, and find other resources.



LIBRARIES

- Support your local public library (or school library if appropriate). Club projects could include:
  - Donating books, books on tape, movies, music, and other resources.
  - Providing exploratory tours for children that enable them to navigate the facility and use its electronic search tools.
  - Sponsoring materials and programs for the underserved, disabled, and/or non-native speakers.
  - Funding online education classes.
  - Promoting library history, events, and services on social media or through alternate means.
  - Encouraging the selection of a mascot and then helping develop a publicity/public-relations plan.
  - Making and wearing promotional buttons or pins for the library.
- Establish a group of club members who would like to offer volunteer assistance at the library, such as:
  - Assisting library patrons.
  - Assisting with library programs, such as children's story hours and craft projects.
  - Shelving books or tidying library shelves.
  - Creating a bulletin board or other educational displays.
  - Decorating for various holidays.
  - Repairing and cleaning books.
  - Sorting book donations.

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  - Providing clerical services or helping with newsletters.
  - Maintaining outdoor displays and/or beautifying flower beds.
  - Assisting at fundraisers and book sales.
- Organize and/or sponsor public service or community enrichment programs at your public library (or school library if appropriate). Programs could include:
  - Tutoring and/or homework assistance for students.
  - Supporting summer reading events and classes for students.
  - Hosting children's events such as a Book Character Parade or Literary-themed poster contest.
  - Assisting with ESL classes.
  - Presenting creative endeavors such as book readings, film screenings, or art displays.
  - Promoting classes in art or art history, creative writing, gardening, and other creative pursuits.
  - Hosting a murder mystery event.
  - Offering "Library Lunches" that examine and/or problem-solve local issues.
- Celebrate National Library Week and National Library Workers Day in April by saying #ThankYouLibraries on social media with photos and stories about the library. Or organize a special event for library patrons and staff, such as a book reading by an author.
- Establish a Little Free Library in your community, choosing an area where books are scarce. Find free plans plus tips on stewardship and other helpful information on the Little Free Library website. Consider partnering with a local scout troop or carpentry class to build the library.
- Organize a mobile book program to serve rural or underserved areas of your community.
- Encourage club and community members to become a member of Friends of the Library (or organize a group if none exists), serve as a Library Trustee, and advocate for library funding and other important library concerns. Find more information on these initiatives and others on the I Love Libraries website. ilovelibraries.org
- Establish or support an existing service to deliver books to homebound library patrons.
- Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month in September with an event such as a Fall for Books Funfest for children with games, face painting, prizes, and a library card sign-up table.
- Organize a display for Banned Book Week, held the last week in September, which highlights the value of free and open access to information. For other event ideas and a list of restricted books, visit the Banned Book Week website.
- Work with the library to establish a teen advisory board to form a teen book review, develop teen services, and recommend additional library resources for teens.
- Sponsor a photography contest for teens that features the library, with winners receiving gift certificates or cash awards. Use the winning photos as screensavers on library computers and display them on club and library social media.
- Work with the library to organize a homework helpline or a term paper clinic.
- Collaborate with other groups, such as the local Chamber of Commerce, to develop small business services at the library, such as information centers that include a video conference room, staff training workshops, and other resources.
- Consider supporting a library in another part of the world. Check the websites of The Library Project (rural Asia) and the African Library Project. Or donate books to Books for International Goodwill.

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ESO

Epsilon Sigma Omicron is an honorary educational society open to all GFWC members. ESO provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is both educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. ESO materials are available on the GFWC website. Support ESO in your state with these activities.

- Verify the charter of an ESO Chapter in your state by contacting the State President or GFWC Education and Libraries Chairman. If none currently exists, work with your State President and the State Education and Libraries Chairman to establish a State ESO Chapter.
- Refer to the ESO Reading List on the GFWC website, and then select one or two books from the reading list to discuss at a meeting and/or highlight through your club newsletter. Any books not listed may be deemed eligible by the State ESO Chapter.
- Establish an ESO reading group for study and discussion.
- Maintain a reading log, which is provided to the State ESO Chairman to achieve ESO levels.
- Participate in the online GFWC ESO reading book club. The online reading book club has selected one book per month from various categories. Search for the Facebook page: GFWC ESO Book Club.

CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Assist with outreach to veteran organizations, including presentations, outreach booth staffing, literature, as well as poster and video distribution.
- Arrange for a Canine Companions team to speak at your club meeting to learn more about assistance dogs and Canine Companions.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- Encourage the educational resources that Heifer offers to schools at the elementary and secondary levels (www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/schools/home-school-activities.html).
- Publicize the books and reading resources as well as the virtual field trips for children who are homeschooled (www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/schools/home-school-activities.html).

OPERATION SMILE

- Organize a community event to bring awareness to the work of Operation Smile.

UNICEF USA

- "Shop for a Cause" to provide educational materials for children around the world. Prepare educational items for display and donate them to a local school (www.market.unicefusa.org/inspired-gifts).

GFWC RESOURCES

Before Kindergarten www.1000booksbeforekindergarten.org

American Library Association www.ala.org

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www.GFWC.org

African Library Project www.africanlibraryproject.com

Banned Books Week www.bannedbooksweek.org

Books Alive www.books-alive.org

DEAR www.readingrockets.org/calendar/dear

ESO www.gfwc.org/what-we-do/community-service-programs/epsilon-sigma-omicron

Global Partnership for Education www.globalpartnership.org

I Love Libraries www.ilovelibraries.org

Dolly Parton Imagination Library www.imaginationlibrary.com

Learning Disabilities Association of America www.ldaamerica.org

Little Free Library www.littlefreelibrary.org

LitWorld www.litworld.org
For information on Read Aloud Day go to www.litworld.org/worldreadaloudday

National Education Association www.nea.org

PACER Center—Champions for Children with Disabilities www.pacer.org
For information on the National Bullying Prevention Center go to www.pacer.org/bullying

Pajama Program www.pajamaprogram.org

ProjectCSGIRLS www.projectcsgirls.com

PTA www.pta.org
For information on Safer Internet Day go https://www.pta.org/home/events/safer-internet-day

PTO www.pto.org

Reach Out and Read www.reachoutandread.org

Read Across America www.readacrossamerica.org

Reading is Fundamental www.rif.org

Reading Rockets www.readingrockets.org

Room to Read www.roomtoread.org

STEM for Her www.stemforher.org

The Library Project www.library-project.org

GFWC LIBRARY REPLENISHMENT FUND

To assist GFWC communities affected by man-made and/or natural disasters, GFWC established the GFWC Library Replenishment Fund. Tying together members' generous financial gifts and passion for literacy with our mission of community improvement through volunteer service, this fund may assist in restocking the collections of public libraries and public school libraries that have been affected by either natural or manmade disasters. Clubs or Federations may apply for funding by completing the GFWC Library Replenishment Fund application located in the Member Portal Digital Library. Once complete, the application is returned to the WHRC Librarian at GFWC Headquarters.

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- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity
- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category for ESO
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity for ESO

Award winners will be determined by entries submitted for the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Education and Libraries Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current 2023 Resolutions for the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the GFWC Resolutions document, filed under "Governance" in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are an important and integral part of GFWC Programs.

150-010 Community Colleges and Vocational/Technical Education Institutions

150-020 Digital Media in Education

150-030 Education

150-040 Education of Children Raised in Foster Care

150-050 English Language in the United States

150-060 Libraries

150-070 Lifelong Learning

150-080 Literacy

150-090 Sex and Gender Equity in Education

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ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"HERE IS YOUR COUNTRY. CHERISH THESE NATURAL WONDERS, CHERISH THE NATURAL RESOURCES, CHERISH THE HISTORY AND ROMANCE AS A SACRED HERITAGE FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN. DO NOT LET SELFISH MEN OR GREEDY INTERESTS SKIN YOUR COUNTRY OF ITS BEAUTY, ITS RICHES OR ITS ROMANCE." THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The environment is the sum of all living and non-living elements and their effects that influence human life. It functions to provide a supply of resources, both renewable and non-renewable. Humans enjoy the beauty of nature from flowing rivers, towering mountains, waves of grassy life, and vast spaces of desert.

Humans are the caregivers of the earth and influence the continual changes in the natural ecological process with our actions. Deforestation, pollution, habitat destruction, extinction of species, and fossil fuel emissions have all placed the habitat of humans, animals, and plants in jeopardy.

As caretakers of our most precious of resources, our environment, there is much we can do as stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world's resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, beautify our communities, and enjoy nature. With many of the world's scientists forecasting a climate emergency, we are called to act now. It is vitally important we do our responsive part within our power to care for our planet.

Keep close to nature's heart. Enjoy your surroundings. A nation that destroys its soils destroys life. Enjoy the seasons of our outdoors and remember to look up and take in your surroundings.

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026 ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Sharon Oliphant, Chairman
871 NW 251st Drive
Newberry, FL 32669
Solip561@aol.com

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Environment Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

OUR NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS ENGAGE IN NATURE



National Parks have been part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs' history for over 100 years. A state park could be one that is hoping to be around for 100 years. Our dedication to resources provided by public recreation and for enjoyment is evident in our historic landscapes. National preserve areas are under different levels of protection.

The idea of National Parks was inspired by the untouched development of the beautiful outdoors. Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an Executive Order that consolidated all National Parks, Monuments, Military Parks, Cemeteries, and Capital Parks under one single National Park System.

Maintaining healthy ecosystems, providing clean water and clean air, and enabling conservation efforts will help collectively preserve more than 84 million acres of America's Homeland. Restoring our National and State Parks is a huge need. Increased visitation and deteriorating facilities, along with budget cuts are taking a toll on our historic neighborhood parks.

Together, we can invest in refurbishing the signage of our parks. Clubs can update benches and water fountains and educate others on animals, plants, and the history of our outdoors. Volunteer to be a trail guide, ranger for a day, or clean up a park day. Sponsor a garbage can.

August 25 is National Park Day. This day recognizes the conservation and preservation of our parks. Plan a hike day with a picnic. Appreciate the park employees with a picnic basket. Place signage on a marque of the connection and significance between the General Federation of Women's Clubs and our National and State Parks.

Provide a nature day at a local school or independent/assisted living facility, and help your local junior rangers, girl scouts, and boy scouts earn a nature badge.

Identify trees, birds, wildflowers, plants, and animals in your park. Play BINGO or trivia as you learn. In 1944 an American Campaign of the United States Forest Service introduced Smokey the Bear. It is the longest-running public service announcement campaign in the United States. Dress up as Smokey the Bear and provide Fire Safety talks, skits, stories, and pictures of taking care of our forests, parks, and environment. Educate children on wildfires that engulf our parks and forests and the dangers of fire.

There are 16 Forever stamps sold by the United States Postal Service. Purchase National Park Stamps and use them on your correspondence. Learn the history of your local park and do the research on why it is named what it is.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



NEXTREX CHALLENGE

GFWC Woman's Club of Colorado Springs (CO) participated in the NexTrex Challenge Program that encourages groups to recycle polyethylene plastic films such as plastic bags, dry cleaning bags, bread bags, and more. NexTrex donates a composite bench for every 500 pounds collected. Members also partnered with the American Association of University Women to collect plastic film and received a second bench. The club kept more than 1,500 pounds of plastic from landfills and increased environmental awareness.



BEE PROJECT

GFWC California Woman's Club of Indio (CA) built and created homes for local Mason bees. Members built bee houses from recycled materials, including juice glasses, liter bottles, and other non-breakable cylinders, and filled them with paper straws, cardboard, or rolled paper tubes to provide nesting areas for the Mason bees to lay their eggs with the goal of increasing pollinator bees. The creative, recycled houses were placed in gardens ready to attract the bees during mating and pollination season.



GREETINGS IN GREETING CARDS

GFWC Wake Forest High School Juniorette Woman's Club (NC) members completed a hands-on project of recycling greeting card fronts into 100 handmade bookmarks to be provided at no charge to customers of a local bookstore. Club members wrote inspirational words on the back of the bookmarks. They attached yarn fringe and embellished each bookmark with stickers and a "Juniorettes Step Up, GFWC Wake Forest High School Juniorette Club."



WASH UP PROJECT

GFWC Woman's Club of Tallahassee (FL) created a fun way to promote UNICEF'S Wash Initiative, which stands for Wash, Sanitation, and Hygiene! They challenged members to count the times they washed their hands for a month. Each time they washed their hands, members placed a quarter in a fund which kept them mindful of and grateful for the availability of water and soap. They collected $153.00 for UNICEF during this project!

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PROJECT IDEAS

Be inspired by this list of ideas of how GFWC clubs can use local resources and creativity to support the Environment Community Service Program. Find further information about organizations named here under Resources.

PRESERVE RESOURCES

- Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive ten free trees to plant or donate ten trees to be planted in a threatened rainforest or one of our National Forests. Visit the Foundation's website for information on its many programs, including Celebrate Arbor Day (last Friday of April), Tree City USA, or Rain Forest Rescue.
- Seed saving is a way to reduce the cost of producing healthy food and will help future generations enjoy healthy varieties of food. Check the website for ideas. www.thespruce.com
- Save trees by initiating a "Go Paperless" campaign, encouraging club and community members to opt out of junk mail lists, sign up for e-statements, pay bills online, digitize documents, reconsider printed newspapers, and purge and recycle.
- Coordinate with local leaders to celebrate Earth Day (April 22) with a project designed from one of the many Earth Day Science and Education toolkits, such as the Plastic Pollution Primer and Action Toolkit or the Protect Our Species Toolkit. www.earthday.org
- Strategize ways to reduce energy consumption and create a program to track the success of members as they put ideas into practice.
- Learn about the dangers associated with fracking, such as air and water pollution and human health issues. Consider a program on the pros and cons of this issue or another questionable environmental practice. Consider all viewpoints and then take a blind poll (pro, con, or unsure) to hear what members think.
- Promote water conservation indoors and outdoors by sharing ways to be mindful of personal water-use practices, such as installing low-flow showerheads, using water-efficient dishwashers and washing machines, adopting xeriscape principles, adding mulch on planting beds, and planting drought-resistant grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees.
- Support wetland conservation and learn how wetlands are a deterrent to both flooding and drought, and how they filter and purify water that enters streams, rivers, and larger bodies of water.
- Challenge members to learn about ocean acidification from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the effects it is having on marine life, people, and local, regional, and national economies. Promote ways to fight climate change in your community.
- Oyster bed decay and desalination hurts the natural habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Discover the importance of oysters and how they filter polluted water. www.NOAA.org
- Look for ways to minimize the harmful effects of stormwater runoff in your community and advocate for change, such as the establishment of bioswales, vegetated canals, or rain gardens.
- Organize a household hazardous waste collection with your local services to ensure these dangerous materials are disposed of properly.
- Support legislation that protects our National Parks and other protected areas.
- Schedule outings to remove invasive plants from community parks and other public areas to preserve native species of plants and animals.
- Participate in the National Public Lands Day (4th Saturday in September), the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands.

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PROTECT WILDLIFE AND DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

- Share information with club and community members from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) about the impact of wildlife gardens, encourage the formation of personal and public wildlife gardens, and spread the news about signing up for the free electronic NWF newsletter.
    - Consider sponsoring a subscription to National Wildlife or one of the many children's publications, such as Ranger Rick, for a shelter, family center, or classroom.
- Educate club and community members about the importance of pollinators and how to create healthy habitats where they can thrive.
- Establish a butterfly garden in the community and offer on-site programs that identify butterflies and provide information about the lifecycle of these beautiful and useful insects.
- Offer a workshop on building birdhouses and provide information on bird species, their characteristics and behaviors, and their varying habitat requirements.
- Invite a speaker from the Audubon Society to give a program on birds and birding. Or, use Audubon Society resources to learn about backyard birding, identifying birds, creating bird-friendly communities, and conservation policies.
- Become an Audubon member. Sponsor an Audubon scholarship for those who are unable to pay to become a Master Birder. Investigate the various offerings of Audubon Society, such as conversation career series webinars, master birder certification, book clubs, curriculum, adult education, and professional educator learning. Go to Audubon.org for more information.
- Provide a program for club and community members that highlights the best native plants for food and cover. Organize a planting of native flowers, shrubs, and trees on public and private lands that will nourish and sustain wildlife.
- Invite a speaker from the Department of Natural Resources to provide information about nearby Heritage Preserves and/or Wildlife Management Areas, or consider a program on hunting regulations and concerns, such as the dangers of lead shot.
- Engage with the World Wildlife Fund to learn about the world's most endangered wildlife species and programs that help their cause, such as Sign On to Stop Wildlife Crime and Adopt a Tiger.
- Advocate for and support regulations that limit light pollution, which is dangerous to nocturnal wildlife and disruptive to ecosystems.
- Build recycling bins for monofilament fishing line, which is hazardous to marine life, scuba divers, and watercraft. Install and maintain the bins in high traffic fishing areas such as boat ramps and marinas. Reel In & Recycle, a program sponsored by BoatUS, provides a how-to video and offers a source for recycling monofilament.
- Learn about ocean wildlife in peril, such as sea turtles and manatees, and organize volunteer or

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fundraising opportunities to help protect these species.

- Donate funds or needed items to local wildlife shelters that rehabilitate and care for injured animals. Or, hold a drive to collect needed items. Share information with club and community members on what to do if they find an injured or sick wild animal and which agency or organization to call for help.
- Establish a club relationship with a local shelter for domestic animals. Club members can volunteer at the shelter, help with fundraising events and activities, spread the word about animals that are offered for adoption, and collect needed supplies.
- Partner with local rescue shelters and veterinarians to provide the cost of neutering and spaying to help reduce the number of unwanted and euthanized animals. Provide information to the community on the benefits of neutering and spaying animals.
- Inform club and community members about the signs of animal abuse and the proper channels for reporting cases of misuse and/or cruelty.
- Work with your local humane society to help stop puppy mills. Learn more about puppy mills and educate your club and community. Be an advocate to work for the passage of laws to improve the lives of dogs in puppy mills.
- Teach students about caring for their pets using the Humane Society's developed curriculum "Nose to Tail" for grades K-5.
- Join the fight to end trophy hunting and pledge your support to end cruel and unsportsmanlike hunting. Forty-three states currently allow cruel and unsporting wildlife killing contests and 1,200 species are killed as trophies worldwide. Research your state's laws and support the Humane Society's goal in banning trophy hunting.
- Make your backyard a safe place for wildlife. Create a haven for local wildlife, instead of viewing as a nuisance as more and more wildlife habitats are lost to the spread of development. By providing basic needs like water, food, and shelter, each club member can make a difference in her backyard. Sign up to receive a backyard sign, gardening gloves, and *All Animals* magazine from the Humane Society.
- Volunteer with your local humane society. Sponsor drives to provide necessary supplies. Become a foster parent to rescued animals.
- Explore National Wildlife Refuges near you using the Fish and Wildlife Services interactive map. Volunteer by leading tours, restoring habitats, rescuing turtles, conducting plant and animal surveys, removing invasive plants, or teaching students about the importance of healthy ecosystems. Assist at refuge events such as bird festivals, kid's fishing days, or staff a refuge nature store.
- Join the Christmas Bird Count with the Audubon Society annually from January 15 to February 15. Join in February of each year to participate in the Backyard Bird Count.
- Think twice before throwing corks in the trash! Cork recycling can be important to assist with forest and ocean conservation. They are also a huge part of recycling in footwear, insulation, playgrounds, and so much more. Let's help our Earth together. www.corkclub.com

LIVE SUSTAINABLY

- Chart a path towards zero waste in your community by using tools suggested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Find a solution for hard-to-recycle waste streams, such as fluorescent bulbs, at Terracycle, which supplies many free recycling programs, plus a variety of resources and ideas for do-it-yourself upcycling.
- Commemorate America Recycles Day (November 15), a program of Keep America Beautiful,

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by organizing a special event. Visit the website for toolkits, event activities, promotion ideas, and more.

- Participate in Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe Program, which accepts worn out sneakers and makes Nike Grind, a material used in sports surfaces and playgrounds.
- Donate gently-used shoes to Soles4Souls for distribution to individuals in need.
- Coordinate a children's poster contest on recycling.
- Collect used materials from club and community members and hold a sewing party that produces cloth shopping bags that can be distributed with club information at a community event.
- Hold a community workshop on sustainable gardening, offering information on how to build and conserve the soil with cover crops and other methods, make a rain barrel and/or a compost bin, and garden organically.
- Explore renewable energy sources that can be utilized in your community, such as solar and wind power, and see how your club can support their use.
- Encourage club and community members to take one day a week, or one day a month, to reduce energy consumption by adjusting thermostats and shutting off lights, televisions, computers, optional appliances, and other electronics.
- Start a campaign to say "no" to disposable items and purpose reusable alternatives. Consider the life expectancy of every item purchased and resell or donate what is no longer needed.
- Hold a club yard sale to repurpose gently-used items and donate the proceeds to various charities.
- Learn and help with clean water resources. www.waterstep.org. Provide tools and opportunities to improve water. Deliver solutions to improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals.

BEAUTIFY COMMUNITIES AND ENJOY NATURE

- Ensure clean drinking water while hiking or during emergencies by visiting the American Hiking Society's website to research water filters and other purifying products, and/or donate safe water to communities around the world through Water.org or other charitable organizations.
- Adopt-A-Highway through your state Department of Transportation to keep a stretch of roadside clean and build community pride.
- Plan a clean-up day in the community by coordinating groups of volunteers to clean eyesore areas and properly discard the waste.
- Organize a trash pick-up after a sporting event or community fair or festival.
- Work with preschool classes, or other groups of young children to teach them to enjoy and understand nature through simple projects such as creating a bird treat, collecting colorful leaves, or going on a nature walk to spot birds, squirrels, turtles, frogs, butterflies, and bugs.
- Collect or purchase children's books about nature and other environmental issues and donate them to schools, libraries, shelters, and family centers. Or, host a story time at the local library, featuring a book about nature and then allow each child to choose a nature book to have for his or her own. Host a scout meeting and work on certain badges related to the environment.
- Organize a local garden tour and donate the proceeds to a community garden or conservation project. Consider providing an earth-friendly gardening or wildlife tip at each location.
- Invite a Master Gardener or another local expert to give a program on ornamental plants that grow best in your climate or on another topic of interest to members.

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- Host a tree identification workshop for the community, providing information about various tree species and how they contribute (or not) to the local ecosystem.
- Plan an outing for club members to visit a botanical garden or important conservation site.
- Establish a hiking or biking trail in the community, encouraging people to learn more about nature and enjoy the outdoors. Or help maintain or provide maintenance funding for an existing trail.
- Plan a series of 5-minute features on U.S. National Parks, providing one highlight at each club meeting throughout the year. Encourage members to join the National Parks Conservation Association and to stay at National Parks when they travel.
- Support National Parks by donating in honor or memory of a loved one, giving monthly, becoming a member of the Champions Society, or creating a fundraiser on your club's Facebook page. Volunteer at state or national parks in cleanup efforts. Find volunteer efforts at volunteer.gov.
- Join more than 200 other non-profit philanthropic park partners or friends groups to carry out national park projects and programs through the Strong Parks, Strong Communities initiative.
- Visit a national or state park. Share your park experience by posting photos on the National Parks website to encourage others to visit national parks. Not sure where to travel? Take the "Find Your Park Quiz" on the National Parks website.
- Celebrate National Parks Week, typically held in April of each year.
- Follow the National Parks theme to #RecreateResponsibly.
- Educate children about the National Park's Junior Ranger Program. Donate to their program to provide an opportunity for a child to get outdoors with their OutDoor program.
- Plan a club event to take a virtual tour of National Parks. Host a glamping event, bring your canteen, and roast some s'mores together as you learn about various parks across the nation. Test your club members' national park knowledge with a trivia game or play park bingo (game and cards found on the National Park Service website).
- Enjoy fee-free entrance days to the more than 400 National Parks on MLK Day (3rd Monday of January), first day of National Park Week (held in April), Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act on August 4, National Public Lands Day on September 24, and Veterans Day on November 11.
- Purchase annual passes to National Parks as a gift. Promote to current and military veterans and disabled citizens their free annual pass to parks. Members 62 and over can purchase a lifetime senior pass. Purchase as a gift or door prize for eligible members in your club.
- Play the trivia game Smokey Bear and learn about the Forest Service's Legendary Mascot. "If not you, who?"



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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- Heifer promotes agroecology, working with farmers to integrate climate-smart agricultural practices to increase resilience and crop production. www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/caring-for-the-earth/index.html.
- At your next meeting or community event, set up a table to promote the goal of donating a beehive. Wear bee antennae headbands to draw attention to the project. For any donation, offer a packet of wildflower seeds to promote local bee activity. Have information about Heifer and your own club available.
- Teach schoolchildren about Heifer's mission by using the free curriculum. Adopt classrooms and read "The Chicken and the Worm," where children discover worms, learn about eggs, and enjoy dirt cupcakes as they explore farming and helping others. Provide a copy of a nature/farm type book to each child.
- Host a duck pond game to raise money to sponsor ducks. The matching duck game is easy to set up using a duck set, toddler pool or container, water, and some prizes. This can be done with adults, teens, or children. Have participants buy a turn for $1.
- Have a "farm" day dress-up event. Vote on the best "farm animal costume."
- Play a grocery game like Price is Right. Learn the cost of purchasing flocks, herds, sheep, and honeybees.

UNICEF USA

- Present information and videos from UNICEF USA initiative about the need for accessible clean water and the significant difference it makes in the lives of women and children. www.unicefusa.org/mission/survival/water
- Host a water walk to promote how children around the world walk several hours each day to find potable water.
- Support UNICEF's WASH Project to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene. Ideas to raise awareness and funds include hosting a souper party, clean-a-thon, car wash, dance off, game night, or raffle.

GFWC RESOURCES

American Battlefield Trust www.battlefield.org

American Hiking Society www.americanhiking.org
For information on water purifications go to www.americanhiking.org/resources/water-purification

America Recycles Day www.americarecyclesday.org

American Whitewater www.americanwhitewater.org

Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition www.asoc.org

Animal League www.animalleague.org/

Appalachian Trail Conservancy www.appalachiantrail.org

Arbor Day Foundation www.arborday.org

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Audubon Society www.audubon.org
For information on birding go to www.audubon.org/birding

BoatUS Foundation www.boatus.org
For information on Reel In & Recycle go to www.boatus.org/monofilament

Bureau of Land Management www.blm.gov

Bureau of Reclamation www.usbr.gov

Center for Biological Diversity www.biologicaldiversity.org

Center for Clean Air Policy www.ccap.org

Chesapeake Bay Foundation www.cbf.org

Climate Reality Project www.climaterealityproject.org

Conservation & Preservation Charities of America www.conservenow.org

Department of Natural Resources: Google your state's name + DNR

Earth Day www.earthday.org
For information on Earth Day Science and Education Toolkits go to www.earthday.org/our-toolkits

Gardening Know How www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/urban/community-garden-fundraising.htm

Gettysburg Foundation www.gettysburgfoundation.org

Great Backyard Bird Count www.birdcount.org

Greater Yellowstone Coalition www.greateryellowstone.org

Green Empowerment www.greenempowerment.org

Greenpeace Fund www.greenpeacefund.org

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association www.hawkmountain.org

Heifer International www.heifer.org

Humane Society www.humanesociety.org

Keep America Beautiful www.kab.org

National Parks Conservation Association www.npca.org

National Park Foundation www.nationalparks.org

National Park Service www.nps.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration www.noaa.gov
For information on ocean acidification go to www.oceanacidification.noaa.gov

National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org
For the free NWF newsletter go to www.support.nwf.org/page/17932/subscribe/2

Nature Conservancy www.nature.org/en-us
For information on Plant a Billion Trees go to www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/plant-a-billion

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Nike Reuse-A-Shoe www.nike.com/help/a/recycle-shoe

Ocean Conservancy www.oceanconservancy.org
For information on Trash Free Seas go to www.oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-sea

Soles4Souls ww.soles4souls.org

Terracycle www.terracycle.com/en-U

The Archaeological Conservancy www.archaeologicalconservancy.org

UNICEF www.unicef.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov
For information on zero waste go to www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool

U.S. Forest Service www.fs.usda.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service www.fws.gov

USAGrant Applications usagrantapplications.org

Volunteer.gov www.volunteer.gov

Water.org www.water.org

Wells of Hope International www.wellsofhopeinternational.org

World Wildlife Fund www.worldwildlife.org

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Environment Community Service Program projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Environment Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

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RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current 2023 Resolutions for the **Environment Community Service Program** are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the GFWC Resolutions document, filed under "Governance" in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are an important and integral part of GFWC Programs.

160-010	Chemicals in the Environment
160-020	Climate Change
160-030	Conservation of Natural Resources
160-040	Conservation of Wildlife
160-050	Disposal of Hazardous and Nuclear Waste
160-060	Energy Resources
160-070	Household Waste Management
160-080	Local Parks and Recreation Areas
160-090	Management of Outer Space
160-100	Protection of Oceans
160-110	Soil and Water Conservation
160-120	Water Quality and Supply

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
COMMUNITY SERVICE
PROGRAM

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"THE POWER OF COMMUNITY TO CREATE HEALTH IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY PHYSICIAN, CLINIC OR HOSPITAL" MARK HYMAN, M.D.

The "Wellness Wheel" first came about in the late 1970s as the brainchild of Dr. Bill Hettler. His principle was that we can live healthier, fuller, and better lives by being attentive to our balance and awareness in various areas of our lives. The original model, known as the "Six Dimensions of Wellness," contained 6 different sections that relate to a certain aspect of life. This visualization helps to focus on these facts and allows us to see how each is connected and how they, in turn, can affect overall health.

This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas:

- Disease awareness and prevention involves understanding the causes, symptoms, and ways to prevent diseases, including social determinants and health inequity. This includes screenings, vaccinations, and sharing information.
- Nutrition is a key element in the quest for good health. Wise food choices, proper usage of vitamins and supplements, and food allergy awareness help maintain a healthy lifestyle free of weakened conditions and chronic illness.
- Physical and emotional care encompass behaviors to manage a healthy body, mind, and spirit throughout life. This includes physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, environmental, and social well-being.

A few facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention include:

- The risk of heart disease and stroke, two of the leading causes of death in the United States, can be reduced with moderate-intensity aerobic activity.
- Over 60 million women (44%) in the United States have some form of heart disease. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women at any age. In 2021, it was responsible for the deaths of 310,661 women – about 1 in every 5 female deaths. Research has shown that only about half, 56% of US women, recognize heart disease is their number 1 killer.
- The average number of stroke deaths is higher among females than males every month.
- Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia? Dementia is an overall term for a particular group of symptoms. Alzheimer's disease is one cause of dementia.
- A regular fitness regimen can also reduce your risk of developing type 2 diabetes and several cancers such as bladder, breast, colon, and lung, and heart disease and strokes.
- As we age, physical activity can slow the loss of bone density, reduce the risk of falling, and help with arthritis and other rheumatic conditions affecting the joints.
- Regular physical activity helps to keep your thinking, learning, and judgment skills sharp and reduces your risk of depression and anxiety and helps you sleep better.
- 150 minutes of physical activity a week can reduce and lower your risk for these diseases. The good news is that moderate physical activity, such as walking, is generally safe for most people.

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Health and Wellness Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

CAREGIVERS' CIRCLE



The Caregivers' Circle focus will build upon the importance of the connection between health and the importance of maintaining balance with emotional, nutritional, and physical health and provide much needed and deserved support for caregivers. A caregiver is a person who tends to the needs or concerns of a person with short- or long-term limitations due to illness, injury, or disability. Many times, those who are providing care for others overlook their own well-being. Caregivers are often an overlooked group who need support.

According to Claire Samuels, author of Caregiving Giving in 2023, unpaid family caregivers increased by 9.51 million between 2015-2020 to more than 53 million. Not all caregivers assist seniors. Data applies to caregivers of all adults, including younger adults with physical or mental disabilities. Of the U.S. adult population, 17% provide care, with 50.75% being women. There are 5.5 million military caregivers. Support is essential for the well-being of these dedicated individuals taking care of loved ones. Equally important is support for those who have experienced the loss of the loved one they cared for.

The Caregivers' Circle will encourage caregivers to prioritize their own needs, such as emotional health, nutritional health, and staying active. Clubs and members can start a community support group for club friends and others who would benefit. Enlist help from professional counselors, dietitians, medical personnel, and physical fitness trainers. Invite them to speak at a club meeting or see if you could attend one of their sessions to enhance your understanding of what caregivers experience and strategies to help.

November is Caregiver Recognition Month. Show special support by writing notecards, providing meals, taking the caregiver to lunch, hosting an afternoon tea, or treating them to a manicure, pedicure, or massage. How about a movie night – watch an uplifting movie with friends? If feasible, consider offering the caregiver a break.

Don't ask the caregiver to let you know how or when help is needed. Feedback will likely not be given. Rather, offer specific ideas for what support could be given to help. Be flexible and understanding of the caregivers' schedule and try to assist when they need you versus when it's best for you. With the caregiver's permission, use an online platform, such as Meal Train to provide meals when it would be most helpful. You could also offer to shop for them or schedule grocery delivery. Offer to clean their home, run errands, cut their lawn; things that may get pushed to the side while they are caring for a loved one. Be ready to make a difference.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

GFWC NU Era Study Club in District 2 (MO) donated their time to the Hillcrest Transitional Housing Organization, which provides temporary housing for homeless families. The organization runs a Thrift Store and uses the funds to operate the program. Members sort, mark, and stock the children's department six days a week. A total of 3,500 hours are donated to the project each year. Clubwomen completed the project by providing Christmas bags for the clients.



STEPPING THROUGH THE BLUEGRASS

GFWC Kentucky Woman's Club of Madisonville (KY) embraced the call for "walking toward a healthier tomorrow." Members were challenged to walk 485 miles. Eleven members met the challenge, while the club logged 11,483 miles. The club enhanced the project by organizing three separate two-mile group walks while viewing the downtown.



NURSES CARE KIT

GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (MA) delivered 100 care kits to nurses at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital's Marlboro Campus. Kits included hand creams and facial cleansers to help reduce the damage from constant mask-wearing and hand sanitizing. The note attached read: "Your hands have helped to pave the way. They have given love and care each day. No matter the tasks they have to do, they're tender, caring, and strong like you. They've healed or lifted, encouraged and touched, and in return, you are thanked so much."



HARVEST DAY CALM SPACE

GFWC Dover Area Woman's Club (DE) partnered with the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce and Twenty-One Senses to run the Calm Space/Family Respite Area at the Fall Apple Harvest Day. This Calm Space allowed attendees with sensory disabilities to relax, reregulate, and return refreshed to the festivities. Earplugs and earphones were available. A balance board, rocking chairs, butterfly chairs, wiggle seats, yoga mats, Legos, crayons, puzzles, and books were also available.

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PROJECT IDEAS

Be inspired by this list of ideas of how GFWC clubs can support the Health and Wellness Community Service Program. Find further information about organizations named here under Resources.

DISEASE PREVENTION

- Celebrate American Heart Month in February by planning programs on women's heart health and posting support for National Wear Red Day® (on the first Friday) with information from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
- Promote local breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic services for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women. Find a screening program in your state on the CDC website.
- Provide care items for cancer patients, such as warm blankets and socks, moisturizers and lip balm, water and hard candy, and diversions such as books, magazines, crossword puzzles, and more.
- Post and/or share information on the safe disposal of unwanted medications and the location of local medication disposal drop boxes.
- Learn about and share information on social media about the many National Health Observances such as Save Your Vision Month (March), and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September). To find a comprehensive list, visit Health.gov or the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) website for monthly health observances.
- Share information about the early signs and symptoms of diabetes in children and adults. Engage a local diabetes educator to attend GFWC club, District, and State meetings. Encourage other local organizations, such as Lion's Club or Rotary, to jointly host meetings.
- Establish a Medical Loan Closet for your community, stocked with canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, personal care items, etc.
- Participate in or sponsor a local Wellness Fair. Include dentists and eye doctors for screenings and nurses for blood pressure readouts. Distribute coloring/activity books on dental care and eye care.
- Hold a BraHaHa or ARTragious Bra decorating contest to raise funds for breast cancer awareness.
- People with dementia often find comfort in having something to do with their hands. Make Fidget Quilts or wristbands for dementia and Alzheimer patients. Visit seniorcarecorner.com/sensory-stimulation-seniors-dementia-4148.
- Make attractive cloth bags and fill them with feminine hygiene products. Donate them to middle or high schools for the school nurse to discreetly distribute to young girls in need.
- Educate members on female reproductive issues such as endometriosis and gynecological cancers. Cervical cancer is the only gynecological cancer with a screening test. Additionally, have a Menopause Party with educational materials on the symptoms and treatment of menopause, fans as favors, creative refreshments, and menopause trivia games. See Pinterest or Etsy for party ideas.
- With the increasing use of computers for all age groups, observe Eye Care Month (January) or Save Your Vision Month (March).

NUTRITION

- Share information with club and community members about making wise food choices. Two sources of trusted information include Health.gov, coordinated by the Office of Disease

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Prevention and Health Promotion, and Nutrition.gov, a resource of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- Partner with a local food bank, clinic, and hospital to sponsor a Wellness Fair that provides healthy recipes and handouts on nutrition, such as those offered on Nutrition.gov or Medline Plus, a program of the U.S. National Library of Medicine.
- Host a community Wellness Fair that provides healthy recipes and handouts on nutrition, such as those offered on Nutrition.gov or Medline Plus, a program of the U.S. National Library of Medicine.
- Celebrate National Nutrition Month in March with a healthy potluck dinner at your club's monthly meeting. Or organize a community event, such as a "Recipe Makeover Contest," which transforms a favorite dish by cutting calories and increasing its nutritional value.
- Invite a local nutritionist to provide a club program on eating healthy and vitamin/supplement use.



- Hold a "Healthy Food Drive," requesting donors to contribute nutritious foods from Feeding America's Healthy Food Donation List. When choosing items, look for labels that note: low sodium, no added salt, no added sugar, unsweetened, or 100% fruit juice. Possible recipients include community food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, or programs coordinated by schools, shelters, and children's organizations.
- Donate healthy food items and/or funds to a college campus food bank, such as one affiliated with the College & University Food Bank Alliance. Monetary donations to food banks are an excellent way to take advantage of their large-scale negotiating and wholesale buying power.
- Volunteer with Meals on Wheels to provide nutritional support to seniors.
- Establish a school garden or expand an existing school garden to emphasize nutrition with strategies established by Growing Minds, a program of the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project.
- Engage club and community members in a Plant a Row for the Hungry Campaign, a program sponsored by Garden Communicators International, to provide fresh and nutritious produce for local soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Ensure a year-round supply of fresh produce in the community by establishing or supporting a local farmers market. Promote the market on social media and coordinate special events, such as a seasonal taste testing or children's poster contest.
- Put together a "Healthy Meal Basket" that includes items from nutritional food groups, and preparation instructions. A holiday or birthday provides an opportunity to make someone or a family smile.
- Participate in Backpack Buddies to provide nutritious foods for school children over the weekend. Donate nutritious food/snacks. Include a coloring/activity sheet for the backpack.
- Educate members and your community on the importance of food safety in a disaster or emergency. Resources available from FoodSafety.gov include Foodkeeper App; 4 Steps of

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Food Safety; Food Safety in a Disaster or Emergency.

- Utilize Nutrition.gov/topics/nutrition-age for KidsCorner coloring & activity sheets and My Plate Grocery Store BINGO.
- Partner with the Legislation and Public Policy Committee to promote advocacy.
- Every 3 minutes a food allergy sends someone to the emergency room. Bring awareness to food allergies by providing non-food items, such as plastic spider rings or Halloween themed pencils, for trick-or-treaters. Have your club participate in a local Trunk or Treat using FARE resources. Visit Food Allergy Research Education – Teal Pumpkin Project for information and resources.

PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL CARE

- Integrate physical fitness activities during club meetings. Practice chair yoga, line dancing, balance training, or flexibility exercises. Start an exercise and/or walking group in your club using an app such as Charity Miles or FitBit Challenge.
- Partner with a local assisted living home to provide senior exercise equipment such as leg pedaling machines, resistance bands, and yoga mats, or to support their exercise program in other ways.
- Sign up to receive the monthly newsletter from the National Institutes of Health, *News in Health*, to share new research with club and community members through club newsletters, social media, and other means.
- Promote physical activity in the community with a Move Your Way Campaign using materials and information from Health.gov. Sponsor a "Stepping On Program" – with a focus on fall risk prevention or a "Strong Body – Strong Minds Program" focusing on strength.
- Hit the mat with a workshop for club and community members on yoga and meditation, an alternative form of exercise to stay fit, healthy, and happy. Yoga improves balance, flexibility, endurance, and strength, while meditation releases stress and focuses the mind. Practiced together, they enhance the mind/body connection and provide confidence and a sense of well-being.
- Support Special Olympics and other athletic contests, therapeutic sports, and/or social programs and opportunities for the challenged and disabled.
- Learn about and share information from the Choose Love Movement, a nonprofit organization founded after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, which teaches life skills and fosters a school culture that reduces violence. Now used across the U.S., the Choose Love Enrichment Program offers lessons in courage, gratitude, forgiveness, and compassion to boost confidence, promote positive decision-making, and to create and enhance communication, connection, and relationships.
- Offer resources and/or promote programs that prevent bullying, so children and youth are safeguarded and supported at school, in the community, and online. Set up an anti-bullying booth at a parenting fair, health fair, or other community event and distribute brochures, articles, and posters to attendees.
- Join the Campaign to Change Direction by pledging to learn the five signs that could mean that someone is in emotional pain and might need help: personality change, agitation, withdrawal, poor self-care, and hopelessness. Educate others with free posters and public service announcements from Change Direction, which works to change the culture surrounding mental illness. Help spread awareness by posting photos of club members on social media, hand up to pledge, and stand with #ChangeMentalHealth.
- Inform club and community members about the many issues surrounding substance abuse with information from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which is a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. From opioids and meth

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to alcohol abuse, addiction changes the brain and alters decision making. The site offers brochures, information sheets, research reports, news about assistance programs, treatment locator services, and more.

- Work with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) by educating, advocating, and/or donating during Mental Health Awareness Month in May, or any time of the year. Consider sponsoring a NAMI volunteer to bring an education class to your community, such as NAMI Basics for parents and caregivers of youth with mental health symptoms. Participate in NAMI's annual walk.
- Eating disorders are serious and often fatal illnesses. They are associated with severe disturbances in people's eating behaviors and related thoughts and emotions. Preoccupation with food, body weight, and shape may also signal an eating disorder. Common eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder. Get free brochures and shareable resources from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).
- Learn and share the risk factors and signs and symptoms of someone in danger of suicide, as outlined by the NIMH. Consider holding a club or community program on the five action steps to help someone in emotional pain and/or distribute the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK).
- Check into a State or Local Public Health Department's Emergency Mental Health Training program, which brings together community representatives from hospitals, clinics, clergy, senior centers, schools, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, and first responders (fire and medical) personnel.
- Send notes or cards to residents of nursing homes to boost their emotional well-being.
- Paint "Encouragement Rocks" with images or sayings symbolizing a sense of hope and faith. Place them around your town, on the hospital grounds, outside cancer centers, and at schools.
- Youth need a minimum of sixty minutes per day of physical activity for good health. The Presidential Youth Fitness Program helps schools achieve excellence in physical education through quality fitness education. Work with your local elementary schools to implement the program and assessment process. Provide funding for PYFP awards – medals, certificates, patches, or t-shirts. Visit PYFP.org for information.
- November is National Family Caregivers Month. Looking for Home Care Assistance? Search for a local office at thekey.com/our-services. Host a community thank you reception for caregivers. Donate a food delivery, your time, or gift cards to a caregiver in your club. Distribute free care guides, legal checklists, and information on care options as found at aarp.org.



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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Work on the Veteran's Initiative. www.cci.org/assistance-dogs/Our-Dogs/veterans-initiative.html
- Support the "Give A Dog A Job" program.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- To address global hunger, create a Heifer International "farm." At each monthly meeting, choose a farm animal and decorate featuring the animal (chickens, rabbits, etc.).
- Initiate "Operation Santa's Cookies and Milk" to raise funds to help Heifer International's Milk Project and provide a carton of nutritious milk to children.

MARCH OF DIMES

- Many moms arrive at the hospital to deliver a premature baby without any personal items. Create Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Mom Care Packages. March of Dimes provides a toolkit for what moms need at the hospital. marchforbabies.org/files/MFB-Personal-Care-Kit-How-to-Guide.pdf?PersonId=843951

OPERATION SMILE

- Donate quilts, blankets, and afghans to comfort a child in a hospital after surgery.
- The Child Life Station is where children can relax and play before surgery. Donate new and gently-used stuffed animals, art supplies, liquid bubbles, and other toys to help with screening and pre-surgical/post-surgical play therapy. www.operationsmile.org/our-care

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

- To share information at club meetings or to learn more, please visit www.stjude.org/aboutus or www.stjude.org/waystogive You may also visit www.stjude.org/getinvolved to find great activity ideas for your club to connect to the St. Jude mission.
- Rally friends, family, and community members and register for St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer. Visit www.stjude.org/walkrun to find an event near you.

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION, SHOT@LIFE CAMPAIGN

- Support Shot@Life with a "Pop a Shot" fundraiser, with shooting baskets for prizes.
- Support Walgreens "Get a Shot, Give a Shot" for flu vaccinations. Gather after for a fun lunch to celebrate how many vaccines you have provided. www.shotatlife.org

UNICEF USA

- Hold a Halloween-themed cornhole tournament for UNICEF for a "hole" lotta fun.
- Share UNICEF USA Kid Power with Juniorettes as a project. Participate as a group and/or engage their local schools and organizations such as Girl Scouts. Kids wear activity bands that measure their steps and physical movement for points to unlock funding from UNICEF partners to provide ready-to-use-therapeutic food (RUTF) to severely malnourished children around the globe. www.gokidpower.org/about-us

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GFWC RESOURCES

AARP Financial Support for Caregivers & Dementia Support www.aarp.org/caregiving

Alzheimer's Association www.alzheimers.gov

A Place for Mom www.aplaceformom.com

Campaign to Change Direction: A Wise Mind www.changedirection.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
Paul Coverdell Stroke Program
Wise Woman Program
For information on Diseases and Conditions go to www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions
For cancer screening programs go to www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/screenings.htm

Charity Miles www.charitymiles.org

College & University Food Bank Alliance www.cufba.org

Family Caregiver Alliance www.caregiver.org

Feeding America www.feedingamerica.org
For information on food allergies and the Teal Projects visit FoodAllergy.org
FoodSafety.gov – Foodkeeper App; 4 Steps of Food Safety; Food Safety in a Disaster or Emergency

Growing Minds www.growing-minds.org
For information on school gardens go to www.growing-minds.org/school-gardens

Health.gov, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion www.health.gov
For information on nutrition go to www.health.gov/our-work/food-nutrition
For information on National Health Observances go to www.health.gov/news/category/national-health-observances
For information on the Move Your Way Campaign go to www.health.gov/moveyourway

Mouth Healthy, American Dental Association www.mouthhealthy.org
For children's coloring and activity sheets go to www.mouthhealthy.org/en/resources/activity-sheets

Meals on Wheels www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org

Medline Plus, U.S. National Library of Medicine www.medlineplus.gov
For information on recipes go to www.medlineplus.gov/recipes

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) www.nami.org
For News in Health newsinhealth.nih.gov

National Institute of Mental Health www.nimh.nih.gov

Nutrition.gov, U.S. Department of Agriculture www.nutrition.gov
For information on recipes go to www.nutrition.gov/topics/shopping-cooking-and-food-safety/recipes

Prevent Child Abuse America www.preventchildabuse.org (and local chapters)

Presidential Youth Fitness Program www.pyfp.org

Plant a Row for the Hungry Campaign www.gardencomm.org/StartPARCampaign

Society for Women's Health Research www.swhr.org

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Special Olympics www.specialolympics.org

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services www.samhsa.gov

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health www.fda.gov/about-fda/office-commissioner/office-womens-health

Vaccines.gov, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services www.vaccines.gov

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Health and Wellness Community Service Program projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Health and Wellness Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

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RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current 2023 Resolutions for the **Health and Wellness Community Service Program** are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the GFWC Resolutions document, filed under "Governance" in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are an important and integral part of GFWC Programs.

170-010	Autism Spectrum Disorder
170-020	Breast Cancer
170-030	Cancer
170-040	Child Survival in Developing Countries
170-050	Diabetes
170-045	Dementia
170-060	Family Caregivers
170-070	Food, Drug, Cosmetic, and Medical Product Regulation and Safety
170-080	Freedom of Access to Health Clinics
170-090	Healthcare and Research
170-100	Heart Disease in Women
170-110	Long-Term Care
170-120	Mental Health Parity
170-130	Nursing Shortage Crisis
170-140	Nutrition and Obesity
170-150	Organ and Tissue Transplantation
170-160	Preventable Disease
170-170	Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare
170-180	Stem Cell Research
170-190	Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation
170-200	Support for Emergency Services Personnel
170-210	Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

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DR. REGINA BENJAMIN

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: HEALTH AND WELLNESS, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH, & LEADERSHIP

Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA is the Founder and CEO of BayouClinic, and was the 18th United States Surgeon General (2009-2013). As America's Doctor, she provided the public with the best scientific information available on how to improve their health and the health of the nation. Dr. Benjamin also oversaw the operational command of 6,500 uniformed public health officers who serve in locations around the world to promote, and protect the health of the American People. As chair of the National Prevention Council – 17 cabinet-level Federal Agency Heads, she led the development of the National Prevention Strategy: America's Plan for Better Health and Wellness. Dr. Benjamin specializes in prevention policies and health promotion among individuals as well as large populations, especially concerning obesity, childhood obesity, and children's health. She has special interest in rural health care, health disparities among socio-economic groups, suicide, violence, and mental health.

From her early days as the founder of a rural health clinic in Alabama to her leadership role in the worldwide advancement of preventive health, Dr. Regina Benjamin has forged a career that has been recognized by a broad spectrum of organizations and publications. In 1995, she was the first physician under the age of 40 and the first African-American woman to be elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. Other past board memberships included the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Kaiser Family Foundation Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Catholic Health Association, Morehouse School of Medicine, and ConvaTec PLC.

Dr Benjamin advises or consults with various companies, including technology and healthcare. She currently serves on the boards of Kaiser Hospitals and Health Plan; Ascension Health Alliance; Computer Technology Systems Inc (CPSI); Southern Research, and the American Heart Association.

Dr. Benjamin is a member of the Institute of Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She has been chosen as a Kellogg National Fellow and Rockefeller Next Generation Leader.

In 1998 Dr. Benjamin was the United States recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights. She received the 2000 National Caring Award, which was inspired by Mother Teresa and was recognized with the Papal honor Pro Ecclesia et Ponticifice from Pope Benedict XVI. In 2008, she was honored with a MacArthur Genius Award Fellowship. In 2011, Dr. Benjamin became the recipient of the Chairman's Award at the 42nd NAACP Image Awards
In May 2013, Reader's Digest, ranked her #22 of the "100 Most Trusted People in America.

Benjamin has a B.S. in chemistry from Xavier University, New Orleans, attended Morehouse School of Medicine, earned an MD degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and an MBA from Tulane University. She is the recipient of 30 honorary degrees.

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LESLIE CAPPS

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Leslie Capps is a dedicated marketing and leadership expert with a passion for empowering women and fostering community growth. With a rich background in psychology, marketing, and sales, Leslie shows individuals and businesses how to harness the power of storytelling to create a streamlined sales and marketing strategy to achieve their goals.

As the founder of 'Wild Woman Marketing,' Leslie specializes in crafting compelling narratives that resonate with audiences, helping new business owners and entrepreneurs create pitches that close deals and build lasting connections. Her innovative approach combines the art of storytelling with practical strategies, making her a sought-after speaker and coach.

Leslie has a history of supporting and championing women's causes. She has been actively involved in various initiatives, including her role in the 262 Project, an international movement that includes speaking and contributing to an international best-selling book. She also served on the board of the National Association of Women in Education and ran a multicultural resource center.

Leslie looks forward to furthering the mission of GFWC. She is committed to providing educational opportunities for club members, sharing her knowledge, and inspiring others to achieve their fullest potential. When women come together, anything is possible.

When she's not working, Leslie enjoys Wyoming outdoors, wildlife and adventures, traveling near and far, and the challenge of gardening at 7200'. She is an avid animal lover and storyteller and is dedicated to making a positive impact wherever she goes.

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DAVID COFFEY

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM

Dave began working with the Safe Surfin' Foundation in 2008 and joined the team in 2022. The foundation's mission is to implement and continually support internet safety education globally for all children by providing training, technical assistance, and educational materials at no cost to the recipients.

His role varies, but he focuses most of his time on youth awareness, fundraising, and legislative reform. He works closely with law enforcement to raise funds for cyber law enforcement, officer training, and equipment. He gives educational talks to various organizations to spread awareness of online dangers and our community's responsibility to protect and inform school-aged children.

Dave is working with the entire organization to introduce legislation nationwide mandating youth safety awareness.

Dave is retired from the United States Postal Service and worked for Moose International for 14 years as the Regional Manager and Territory Manager for the Michigan Moose Association. During that time, he was named "Top Director" in 2009 and 2017, a testament to his exceptional leadership and dedication. Dave served as a liaison between the state managers and the International Board, supervising all board meetings and nurturing hundreds of volunteers and fellow employees to achieve their fundraising and community outreach goals. He is also a lifetime member of The Loyal Order of Moose and VFW, further demonstrating his commitment to community service.

For many years, Dave has selflessly dedicated his time and energy to lobbying for numerous charities at the Michigan State Capitol and on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. His volunteer work is a testament to his deep-rooted commitment to making a positive impact in the community, a quality that is truly admirable. He also serves on the Conservative Clean Energy Committee in Washington D.C.

Dave resides in North Branch, Michigan, with his life partner Colleen Kaldahl.

Link to Safe Surfin' Foundation:
https://safesurfin.org/

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SUZANNE FOX

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Suzanne co-founded The Yellow Tulip Project with her daughter Julia in 2016. She currently serves as the Director of Global Initiatives, on the YTP Board of Directors and as an advisor to YTP's special projects including the I Am More:Facing Stigma and Young Men Moving Mountains exhibits, Storytelling Alchemy and other community partnerships. She is an out of the box thinker and a creator who loves working on projects that make a positive impact on this messy but beautiful world.

She served as YTP's Executive Director from its creation until June 2023. Prior to her work as a mental health activist, Suzanne has over 30 years of experience in building understanding and cross-cultural awareness as an adjunct professor, principal of an intercultural consulting company and a facilitator. She has a B.A. in Asian Studies from Bowdoin College, an MA in Chinese Politics from the School of Oriental & African Studies in London and is currently pursuing a masters in Global Mental Health from the University of Edinburgh. She looks forward to combining her background and experiences in cross-cultural understanding with mental health activism. There she will be exploring stigma across cultures and working globally to expand YTP's youth driven, community focused message of hope and stigma reduction. She loves sharing her story and the story of YTP and believes in the simple and compelling message of YTP and wants to spread it both nationally and internationally since mental illness impacts one in five people worldwide. She is the recipient of The New England Patriots Foundation Myra Kraft Community Volunteer Award, United Way of Southern Maine Individual Advocate Award and the Maine Biz NEXT Award recognized as one of seven individuals who are changing Maine's economy and making a significant impact in their industry.

THE YELLOW TULIP PROJECT

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ANN LAUER

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: ARTS AND CULTURE & SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Ann Lauer is an award-winning fiber artist who has professionally designed and created quilts, patterns, kits, and quilt fabric for over twenty-five years.

In 2021, Ann and her husband, Ron, embarked on a life-changing journey to Uganda's Impenetrable Rainforest Gorilla Refuge. There, they encountered an organization of quilters, Ride 4 a Woman, and witnessed the transformative power of quilting and basket-making in empowering women.

Ride 4 a Woman (R4W) is not just a charitable organization, but a beacon of hope for women in Uganda. Since its establishment in 2009 by Evelyne Habasa and Denis Rubalema, R4W has been on a mission to empower women struggling with domestic violence, sexual assault, poverty, and HIV. Their initiatives have provided these women with the social and economic skills they need to thrive and a renewed sense of self-worth and empowerment.

One key income stream supporting the R4W initiative is the sales of exquisite products created by the women of Buhoma. These products, crafted from stunning African fabrics, are not just items for sale, but a testament to the women's skill and creativity. From vibrant quilts to intricately woven baskets, each piece is a work of art that tells a story. In the serene grounds of R4W, nestled in the hills of Bwindi Impenetrable forest, you can learn how to pedal sew with the women of Buhoma, producing your choice of product, ready to take home.

Inspired, Ann has since been a steadfast supporter of the organization, making a tangible difference in these women's lives. During the visit, she educated the women on new quilt patterns, assisted with sewing machine maintenance, and vowed to return to help the program. Her commitment led her to revisit the organization in 2023, strengthening her bond with the cause.

Links for further knowledge:
grizzlygulchgallery.com/african-quilters
Ride 4 a Woman Empowers the Women of Bwindi, Uganda

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JUDE MABONÉ

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Jude Maboné was crowned Miss District of Columbia on June 10th, 2023. She is the proud daughter of two U.S. Navy veterans, a heart health and athlete safety advocate, and a small business owner.

When she is not working at Seward & Kissel LLP, a DC-based financial services-focused law firm, she enjoys pampering her dog, Waffle, and serving alongside a variety of organizations, including the Honor Flight Network, the American Heart Association, and Simon's Heart.

Jude's unexpected diagnosis of heart disease as a teenager after surviving six heart attacks led her to become a champion of heart health equity, fundraising over $42,000 for the American Heart Association, leading CPR and AED training, and lobbying in the House of Representatives for increased medical research funding for the National Institutes of Health's National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. Despite her adversity, Jude ran four years of Division I cross country and track at American University, where she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. Jude looks forward to her next chapter as she pursues her MBA at the University of Michigan.

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AMY S. PEELE

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: HEALTH AND WELLNESS & EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES/ESO

Amy S. Peele, RN, enjoyed a 35-year career in transplantation and retired from UCSF in 2014. She was the Director of Clinical Operations and managed a team that resulted in 600 solid organ transplants annually.

Her medical mystery novels CUT, MATCH, and HOLD have received many awards.

Her series reflects her knowledge of and passion for organ donation and transplant issues in suspenseful yet humorous stories set in the Bay Area. Readers refer to them as page-turners, and mysteries with a mission and a side of humor.

Amy is a highly sought-after speaker, regularly presenting her insights and experiences at renowned US medical centers such as NYU, the University of Chicago, Michigan, Wisconsin, and UCLA.

Amy loves comedy and improv and graduated from Chicago's famed Second City Players Workshop in 1985. In addition to "killing people" she didn't like at work in her mysteries and using their organs for transplant, she enjoys swimming, meditation, and teaching chair and laughter yoga.

Find out more about the author at www.amyspeele.com

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HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

PLATINUM LEVEL

Contact:
E: GFWC@heifer.org
P: 888-548-6437

Berit Kimrey, Director of Community Marketing
E: Berit.Kimrey@heifer.org

Jen Girten, Manager, Manager of Education Program Development
E: Jen.Girten@heifer.org

SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO

Heifer International, Attn: Donor Services, P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR 72203
Reference code #V0MYY00GFW000
Download an order form or donate online at www.heifer.org/gfwc

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and Heifer International share a common desire to make life better for our neighbors worldwide. GFWC has supported Heifer projects for decades by donating gifts of livestock that enable families to lift themselves out of poverty and reach a living income. At Heifer, we believe that women-led, small-holder farming is key to ending hunger and poverty through the gifts of livestock and training. When women have control over their assets and incomes, they reinvest in their families.

Here's how your club can get involved with helping end hunger and poverty and impact the lives of women farmers around the world.

- Start by visiting www.heifer.org/gfwc Here you can find key information about the Fund a Female Farmer initiative, as well as downloadable resources for use at a club meeting.
- Give a gift that keeps on giving by donating to provide livestock to families. Honor a clubwoman's accomplishments, a relative's birthday, or other special occasion with a Heifer gift in their honor.
- Request a virtual or in-person presentation to learn about Heifer's history, mission, and current projects.
- Sponsor a Local Read to Feed® Program. For over 20 years, readers of all ages have been ending hunger by simply reading books. Now, with Heifer's Read to Feed app, the more you read, the more you feed! Students can unlock corporate funded donations and even collect donation pledges of their own, all while developing a love for reading and growing their literacy skills. Your club can sponsor a Read to Feed program with a local school or after school club.
- Keep up to date about Heifer's work and the impact of your club's support by visiting our Heifer blog (www.heifer.org/blog) and by following us on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram.

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HOPE FOR JUSTICE

PLATINUM LEVEL

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A PARTNERSHIP TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Hope for Justice and the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) share a common mission and vision: to live in a world free from trafficking. We see a world where every human is free and equal. We believe every person can be a force for good. Human trafficking is a global problem, and Hope for Justice brings a global solution. We target our resources where they will have the most impact and help the most people. We want to create nations and societies that are hostile to trafficking - because what you tolerate, you will never change.

At Hope for Justice, we believe in safe communities for all people, especially women. We share GFWC's vision for building a community that encourages learning, growing, and connecting one another to freedom and independence.

We value your partnership and need you support to fight the scourge of human trafficking now, more than ever.

By collaborating with GFWC across the country, we can be the generation that ends human trafficking by embedding our education, awareness, and learning programs, rescue and aftercare support services, and expert thought leadership deeper into all communities. YOU can be a part of ending human trafficking.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD:

Human trafficking is a crime that involves the exploitation of a person for labor, services, or commercial sex. Victims are unable to leave their situation of exploitation and are controlled by threats, violence, coercion, and deception.

It is happening all around us and victims are often hidden in plain sight:

- Estimated 49.6 million victims globally, (27.6 million if you exclude forced marriages).
- Over 1,091,000 people affected right here in the U.S.
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by human trafficking, accounting for 78% of all victims of forced commercial sexual exploitation.
- The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 148 goods from 76 countries made by forced and child labor.
- It is a $236 billion criminal industry–estimates on the economics of trafficking approximate that

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commercial sexual exploitation generates $172 billion a year, and that $64 billion is generated by forced labor and domestic servitude.

- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children estimates that 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported to them in 2021 were likely to be sex trafficking victims. They reported a 300% increase in online enticement reports in 2023 (186,819 reports) compared to 2021 (44,155 reports).

HERE'S HOW YOUR CLUB CAN JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Have an anti-trafficking club meeting or community event.
  - (60 min) Live Stream Educational Presentation with Q & A
    - Bring in our lead investigator virtually to present to your group the statistics, facts, and signs of trafficking. There will be 15 minutes allotted for Q&A. Space for presentations are limited, please schedule in advance with Hope for Justice representative. (please reach out to schedule with Hope for Justice representative, limited space available)
  - (30 min) Learning Academy Module
    - Through real life stories and interactive scenarios, Human Trafficking in the United States: The Truth and What You Can Do About It, will shed light on the myths and facts of Human Trafficking in the United States. You'll learn what makes some people more vulnerable than others to being victimized by a trafficker; the industries, places and situations that are often leveraged by perpetrators for exploitation; why this egregious crime goes undetected so often and most importantly, how you can spot the signs of human trafficking in every day situations and take action on behalf of victims. Find our Learning Academy on our website www.hopeforjustice.org. Modules can be completed from any smart phone, laptop or tablet.
  - (30 min) Origami Bird Project
    - The migration process of the swallow has close parallels to our work at Hope for Justice. As well as rescuing people out of exploitative situations, we work to safely reunite survivors of modern slavery with their families. Our greatest joy of all comes when we step back and watch them fly. Leader guide (including where to order supplies) must be ordered in advance of meeting, please reach out to your Hope for Justice representative 6 weeks ahead of your meeting.
    - Choose to: A) Create a display with all of your origami birds to post to social media tagging @HopeforJustice to bring awareness to the issue of human trafficking to your network. B) Write words of hope, or prayer, on each bird to be delivered to a survivor on their path to healing. Mail finished birds to PO Box 208365, Nashville, TN 37228, with a note from which club they are being sent and contact information for the sender. (please reach out to Hope for Justice representative for leader guide 6 weeks in advance of meeting)

DONATE

Online: Please visit www.hopeforjustice.org/GFWC to make your donation. In the donation description, please indicate that you are a member of GFWC.

Mail: Mail check to Hope for Justice: PO Box 280365, Nashville, TN 37228. Please indicate you are a member of GFWC and which club you are within the memo.

Call: Please call 770.675.4580 to make a donation. When donating, reference GFWC and your club and state so it will be coded properly.

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UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION, SHOT@LIFE CAMPAIGN

PLATINUM LEVEL

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During the pandemic, 67 million children around the world missed out on routine immunization, and 1 in 6 children still do not have access to the vaccines they need.

Join Shot@Life's long-term partnership with GFWC. Through education, fundraising, and building relationships with congressional offices, you can use your voice to expand access to lifesaving vaccines for children in the hardest to reach places. Vaccines currently help save a child's life every 8 seconds, and there are plenty of ways you and your club can help.

WHAT CAN YOU AND YOUR CLUB DO?

GFWC and Shot@Life have challenged clubwomen across the country to help protect 16,000 children with lifesaving measles vaccines between 2024–2026 by raising funds for UNICEF and the World Health Organization. You can donate as an individual or fundraise by getting your club, friends, and family to donate. Instead of a $5 cup of coffee, you can help protect a child for life against measles. Or, give $25 to help protect an entire family.

Check out the new fundraising hub, where you can find resources, join your state page, and directly donate (there is a box to include your club name): bit.ly/gfwc-measles

If you/your club prefer to send a check, please address it to Shot@Life, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Ste. 300, Washington D.C. 20006. Please be sure to put "Shot@Life Measles" in the memo line. To make sure your club gets credit for the donation, you can also include a separate note in the envelope or send us an email (champions@shotatlife.org) with your club name.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

ADVOCACY

Whether you have 5 minutes or an hour, you can advocate for the cause. Advocacy is the most important thing we can do to unlock millions of dollars for child immunization programs. This can include:

- Signing the petition, which will send emails to your members of Congress, and then sharing the link with your club. The newest petition can always be found at shotatlife.org/petition.
- Putting aside 10 minutes of a club meeting to call your congressional offices together. Find the call instructions and script at bit.ly/salcalls.

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- Joining a live 45-minute training webinar right from your computer. Sign up at shotatlife.org/training. We can also host an individualized training for your club.
- Attending a Champion Summit to hear from amazing speakers and connect with other advocates. We host a virtual fall Summit and an in-person spring Summit in Washington D.C.

Please keep in mind that we have resources and materials for all activities and have a range of options for individuals and clubs to be involved throughout the year! We can also send materials for your club meetings, state convention, or region conference. Visit shotatlife.org/gfwc to learn more and reach out to champions@shotatlife.org with any questions or requests. To be able to recognize all the work you/your club do for Shot@Life, please be sure to report your efforts at shotatlife.org/report.

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ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

PLATINUM LEVEL

Contact: **Beth Perkins, Principal Advisor, Partnership Development & Stewardship**
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W: www.stjude.org

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats, and defeats childhood cancer and other deadly diseases. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude – for treatment, travel, housing, or food – because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.

St. Jude continues the vision of its founder, Danny Thomas, that no child is denied treatment based on race, religion, or a family's ability to pay. By sharing knowledge freely and exchanging ideas openly, it inspires more collaboration between doctors and researchers worldwide, and, as a result, more lifesaving treatments for children everywhere.

Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since it opened 60 years ago. St. Jude is working to drive the overall survival rate for childhood cancer to 90 percent in the next decade.

SUBMITTING CONTRIBUTIONS

Please visit www.stjude.org/gfwc and click on the donate button on the left. This will automatically be credited to GFWC. You can donate via credit card, check, PayPal, or Amazon Pay. You can also make your gift an honorarium or memorial.

WAYS TO HELP

FITNESS PROGRAMS

St. Jude Walk/Run
September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This year, parents of nearly 16,000 children in the U.S. will hear the words: "Your child has cancer." One in five of those children won't survive. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital will focus on raising awareness and funds for this very important issue.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month provides St. Jude an opportunity to educate communities and supporters about what they can do to help these kids fighting for their lives. Throughout the month of September, supporters can join our movement and help support the patients and families at St. Jude in their big fight against childhood cancer.

The St. Jude Walk/Run is a nationwide **5K hybrid event, taking place in person and virtually**. Participants come together during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to help support the lifesaving mission of St. Jude: Finding cures. Saving children.®

GFWC has a National Team, so your club can support St. Jude and GFWC by participating in a Walk/Run

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near you. No Walk/Run in your hometown? Create a Virtual Walk team and join efforts with clubwomen around the country to help the kids of St. Jude.

- Rally friends, family, and community members and register for St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer.
- Visit www.stjude.org/walkrun to find an event near you.
- Volunteer at a St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer event near you by visiting www.stjude.org/walkrun and click on"volunteer."
- Mention Childhood Cancer Awareness Month at your club meeting. Visit www.stjude.org/stjudewalkrun for current information.

EVENTS

Through our St. Jude dinners, golf tournaments, and galas program, we are able to offer over 100 events across the country as a way for GFWC membership to engage with St. Jude. These events raise significant funds for St. Jude and allow us to continue our life-saving mission of finding cures and saving children. There are a variety of opportunities available:

Pre-Event Support

- Committee Leadership Roles – These roles drive our Sponsorship, Table and Ticket Sales, Auction Recruitment, Restaurant Recruitment, PR & Marketing, and Recruiting of Volunteers. Committee development is vital to the success of our events.
- Office Help – Our lead staff need help with mailings, follow-up calls, computer data entry, goodie bags, favors, and event set-up and teardown.

Day-of Event Support

- Event Guests – Events are open for you and your friends to purchase a Sponsorship or Ticket.
- Volunteer – During our events, volunteers are needed to assist as Greeters, Registration – Check-In, Auction and Auction Solicitation for Bids, Spotters for Live Auction & Give to Live, and Auction Check-Out. (All volunteers are trained on their specific role.)

Volunteer Sign Up

- To register to volunteer for St. Jude events, please go to www.stjude.org/gfwc and click on Get Involved. This will direct you to our Volunteer Management System and once you have registered, you will receive emails regarding events in your area!

NEXT GEN/YOUTH PROGRAMS

Trike-A-Thon

The St. Jude Trike-A-Thon is a fun, service learning program for daycares and preschools that teaches trike and riding toy safety while helping the children of St. Jude. Any advocate for children can make a difference with the St. Jude Trike-A-Thon. If you sign up to become a coordinator, St. Jude will provide everything you need to have a great event at a preschool or daycare in your area. Log on to www.stjude.org/get-involved to find out more.

St. Jude Epic Challenge

Participating kids research, create, and present an invention or idea that would improve life for kids like those at St. Jude. Designed by educators, St. Jude EPIC Challenge meets Next Generation Science Standards. St. Jude EPIC Challenge follows a flexible five-lesson format that can be implemented in the classroom or from home. For more information, visit www.stjude.org/epic

St. Jude Leadership Society

Inspired by the vision of our founder Danny Thomas and the ALSAC preamble, St. Jude Leadership

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Society (SJLS) has been a distinguished membership of high-performing high school and young collegiates who share a passion for leadership, service, and community since 2019. During a six-month period, members will have an opportunity to exercise their leadership skills while raising funds and awareness for the kids of St. Jude. SJLS gives members an opportunity to give back through service and leadership by promoting and supporting the mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: Finding cures. Saving children.® For more information, email Beth Perkins at beth.perkins@alsac.stjude.org or visit www.stjude.org/get-involved/school-fundraising-ideas/high-school/leadership-society.html

Mask Straps for St. Jude Patients
Do you have seamstresses in your club? Consider meeting to assemble bags with materials to make mask straps for the children at St. Jude and having seamstresses take the bags home to complete the project with their personal sewing machines. Mask straps are used to improve the comfort level for patients required to wear masks to prevent the spread of infection or protect our patients from infection. These mask straps replace the elastic band that comes standard on the mask. Patients report the flannel and fleece material feel much better against their cheek and causes far less rubbing than the original elastic band. Patterns and specific information for this project can be found at www.stjude.org/get-involved/other-ways/volunteer-at-the-hospital/how-to-become-a-volunteer/at-home-projects/mask-straps.html.

Waiting Room Fun Bags
Fill a sealed, zippered plastic bag with fun things a child or teen can do as they wait to visit the doctor. Make bags age-specific but generic enough for a boy or a girl. Include things such as: crayons, markers, colored pencils, paper, coloring books, and stickers. Items may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attention Vilma Carnahan and Volunteer Services, 595 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38105.

More Information
To share information at club meetings or to learn more, please contact Beth Perkins at 901-216-1148 or beth.perkins@alsac.stjude.org.

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CANINE COMPANIONS

GOLD LEVEL

Contact: **Meredith Harrison, Senior Manager of Events**
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E: MHarrison@canine.org
P: 614-699-5891; Toll Free 1-800-572-BARK (2275)

The concept of service dogs for people with physical disabilities began with Canine Companions in 1975 in a home office and a garage. In the 47 years since, thanks to the unparalleled generosity and dedication of our supporters such as GFWC, we've grown tremendously.

One in four Americans live with a disability and Canine Companions is here to help. As the leader of the service dog industry, we enhance independence for children, adults, and veterans with disabilities through expertly trained service dogs. We use cutting-edge research and training programs to ensure the success and quality of our teams.

SUPPORT CANINE COMPANIONS

Canine Companions is the largest provider of service dogs in the world and all follow-up support is provided free of charge to recipients. Demand for our highly trained service dogs is ongoing and growing. To support the mission, GFWC members can:

- Promote puppy raising. Volunteers are needed to raise puppies from eight weeks to 1.5 years old attending dog obedience classes and socializing the puppy in public settings. Assistance is needed in getting the word out on the need for volunteers.
- Give each member a container to save pennies during the month or pass the hat at every meeting collecting pennies.
- Visit and tour a Regional Training Center.
- Meet the Canine Companions chapter leadership near you and see how you can work together.
- Participate in the Canine Companions Signature Event – DogFest. For more information, visit www.canine.org/dogfest.
- Clubs near the regional centers could provide meals, etc., when team training is being offered.
- Make donations for dorm rooms or decorate the dorm rooms at Regional Training Centers.
- Contact your closest regional center to see if your club can fulfill any items on their wish lists.
- Arrange for a Canine Companions puppy raiser, staff member, or graduate team to speak at your club meeting to learn more about service dogs and Canine Companions.
- Volunteer at a regional center or staff a booth.
- Assist with outreach to veteran organizations, including presentations, outreach booth staffing, literature, as well as poster and video distribution.
- Raise funds to help place a dog with a veteran.

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- Join the Canine Companions Facebook page: (www.Facebook.com/CanineCompanions) and help them build their network of "likes."
- Follow Canine Companions on Instagram (@CanineOrg) and X (formerly Twitter) (@CanineOrg).
- Subscribe to their YouTube channel (www.YouTube.com/CanineCompanions).
- Sign up to receive monthly e-newsletters on Canine Companions updates and forward the emails to your friends (www.canine.org/signup).

CANINE COMPANIONS REGIONAL CENTERS

Support regional activities at one of Canine Companions' six regional centers near you:

Northeast
(New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine)
286 Middle Island Road
Medford, NY 11763
P: 631-561-0200

North Central
(Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas)
4989 State Route 37 East
Delaware, OH 43015-9682
P: 740-833-3700

Northwest
(Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Northern Nevada, Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming)
2965 Dutton Avenue
PO Box 446
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446
P: 707-577-1700

Southeast
(Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama)
PO Box 680388
Orlando, FL 32868-0388
P: 407-522-3300

South Central
(Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas)
7710 Las Colinas Ridge
Irving, TX 75063
P: 214-259-4700

Southwest
(Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Southern California, Southern Nevada, and Hawaii)
PO Box 4568
Oceanside, CA 92052-4568
P: 760-901-4300

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MARCH OF DIMES

GOLD LEVEL

Contact: **Michaela Penix, National Director, Community Mobilization & Partnerships**
W: www.marchofdimes.org or www.nacersano.org
W: marchforbabies.org/gfwc
E: mpenix@marchofdimes.org
P: 919-424-2146

March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies. We imagine a world where every mom and baby is healthy regardless of wealth, race, gender, or geography. Every family deserves the best possible start. But that's just not the case. The U.S. remains among the most dangerous developed nations for childbirth - with COVID-19 only elevating the stakes and exacerbating persistent health disparities.

Each year, one woman dies every 12 hours from pregnancy-related causes, and 1 in 10 babies is born too soon.

WE HAVE TO DO BETTER.

From advocacy to education to research, March of Dimes is working to level the playing field so that all parents, babies, and their families are healthy and strong. March of Dimes was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to combat polio. Since that time, our mission has evolved to fight for the health of all families. March of Dimes does this by:

1. Supporting research to find solutions so every family gets the best possible start.
2. Advocating for policies that prioritize the health of moms and babies.
3. Providing resources and programs to help moms throughout their pregnancies.
4. Educating health professionals to improve mom and baby care.
5. Uniting local communities across the nation through events and collaboratives.
6. Partnering with organizations and companies committed to helping moms and their families.

WE KNOW WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

When we come together as a community, even the toughest problems can be solved.
Since 1938, General Federation of Woman's Clubs have worked alongside March of Dimes to change outcomes for families through service, advocacy, and fundraising. By partnering with GFWC across the country, together we can create lasting change to make America more equitable for all and help every family get the best possible start.

Join us in the way that works best for you and your club members. From blankets to #blanketchange, our hope is that members will fight with us for the health of all moms and babies.

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WAYS TO HELP

VOLUNTEER:

- **Make blankets and hats for babies connected to Mission: Healthy Baby®.** Mission: Healthy Baby® is a March of Dimes program that is designed specifically for military families and provides free pregnancy and newborn health information, as well as support services to help them have one less thing to worry about and have healthy, full-term babies. Through the military baby showers, military families receive resources and health information along with donated products to defray costs of baby essentials. Every parent wants each child to feel cared for and special. These handmade hats and blankets go a long way in helping with just that.
  - Timing: Year-Round Activation; Great for club projects connected to our virtual military showers.
  - This is an activity for anyone who wants to use a little creative skill to make baby blankets and/or hats for babies and children connected to March of Dimes Military Baby Showers. Items can be handmade or purchased. Gender neutral preferred.
- **Assemble personal care kits for parents whose babies were born too soon, or unexpectedly.**
  - Timing: Year-Round Activation; Great for club projects connected to Prematurity Awareness Month in November.
  - Becoming a parent can be an exciting and challenging time. This activity puts together personal care kits for parents whose babies were born too soon, or unexpectedly. These kits can make a huge impact on the well-being of parents whose babies are in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)/hospital site due to pregnancy-related complications.
- **Make costumes for babies in the NICU.**
  - Timing: Year-Round Activation; Great for club projects during the summer.
  - This is an activity for anyone who wants to use a little creative skill to make handmade costumes for babies in the NICU. These costumes are simple to make but make a huge impact and help families connect with their babies. Instructions for making NICU costumes can be found in the "Affiliate Organizations" folder in the Member Portal Digital Library. Gender neutral preferred.

FUNDRAISE:

- **Fundraise through March for Babies A Mother of a Movement.**
  - Timing: Year-Round Activation; June 30th cut off for donations considered for National Awards Celebration.
  - When you join a March for Babies A Mother of a Movement, you make a statement that you want to live in a world where healthy moms and strong babies are a priority for us all. Together we hope, remember, and celebrate. Join a General Federation of Women's Clubs March for Babies Team at: www.marchforbabies.org/gfwc

ADVOCATE:

- **Join the #BlanketChange Movement.**
  - Timing: Year-Round Activation
  - General Federation of Women's Clubs signed on as a partner to demand #blanketchange. March of Dimes and partners across the country are calling on policymakers to demand #BlanketChange to improve the health of every mom and baby. The movement uses the hospital receiving blanket that most parents are familiar with to raise national awareness to call for equity, access, and prevention. Members can post a #BlanketChange message and tag friends to join the movement on social media and take action directly to call on Congress to improve mom and baby health here: www.marchofdimes.org/blanketchange.aspx.

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- **Get involved and raise your voice during Prematurity Awareness Month.**
  - Timing: Each November; World Prematurity Awareness Day on November 17
  - Unite around the health crisis of preterm birth – when a baby is born too soon (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) – by committing to taking action during November. Together we can raise awareness by wearing purple, educating others, and donating funds to fight for healthy moms and strong babies. Learn more and download the toolkit here: https://volunteer.marchofdimes.org/the-general-federation-of-womens-clubs/.
- **Register for March of Dimes Advocacy Action Alerts.**
  - Timing: Year-Round Activation
  - Be the first to get information on legislative efforts and learn how you can make an impact on the health of moms and their babies. Sign up today at: www.marchofdimes.org/our-work/policy-advocacy/federal-advocacy/bill-tracker

MAKE A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION:

Your donation helps March of Dimes tackle issues that threaten the health of every mom and every baby. Here are three ways to support the work of the March of Dimes:

- **Phone:** Call 800-658-6674 to speak to one of our representatives to make a donation. Reference GFWC and your club and state so we may code your donation properly.
- **Mail:** If you are writing a check, please make it payable to March of Dimes, include GFWC and reference your club in the memo line. Mail your donation to: March of Dimes, Donation Processing Center, PO Box 18819, Atlanta, GA 31126.
- **Online:** You may make a one-time or ongoing donation to support the important work of the March of Dimes at www.marchofdimes.org/ways-to-give. It's a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of a baby or grandbaby. You will have the option of making a donation in honor of a baby or in memory of a baby.

Become a Volunteer Leader - Lead the fight for the health of all moms and Babies
Leverage your leadership, experience, and network to support the health of all families by committing to a longer term volunteer role. Volunteer Leaders support our work at the local and/or national levels through Market Boards, Event Leadership and professional committee roles in Maternal and Child Health or Advocacy. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer leader, we encourage you to complete our volunteer profile form and we will begin to match your skills and experience to a volunteer role we may have open. Fill out the form here: marchofdimes.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_profile_form.

Questions? Contact your local March of Dimes staff partner or reach out to your March of Dimes liaison PattyGentry at pgentry@marchofdimes.org.

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OPERATION SMILE

GOLD LEVEL

Contact: **Melanie Hittinger, Development Manager**
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P: 757-901-4621
W: www.operationsmile.org

SUBMITTING CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send all contributions to:
Operation Smile
Attn: GFWC
3641 Faculty Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA 23453
Reference your official club name in the memo line of your check.

OPERATION SMILE

Together, we can heal children's smiles! We believe every child suffering from cleft lip or cleft palate deserves exceptional surgical care.

Why worry about the smile? Children born with a cleft lip and/or palate face serious medical problems. The immediate concern for babies is if they are able to receive the proper nutrition to be healthy. Other issues facing children include speech development, hearing loss, and dental. Children often face serious cultural stigmas, too. In a safe surgical setting the defect can be easily corrected. However, for too many families in the world, safe surgery is not possible.

Each year, Operation Smile provides safe, effective, and well-timed surgery to more than 20,000 patients in 30+ countries. For the last 35 years, Operation Smile has provided hundreds of thousands of free surgeries for children and young adults in developing countries who are born with cleft lip, cleft palate, or other facial deformities.

As one of the oldest and largest volunteer-based organizations dedicated to improving the health and lives of children worldwide through access to surgical care, we work to build self-sufficiency and sustainable health care infrastructures through training, capacity building, and engaging in public-private partnerships in the countries where we work.

Your club can help heal children's smiles worldwide by joining Operation Smile to:

- Fundraise to help cover the cost of surgery, medical missions, education, and training.
- Fund a surgery – as little as $240 can change a child's life forever!
- Host a fundraising contest, tournament, event, or charity auction.
- Request an Operation Smile Donation Box to collect change at the register of your favorite hot spot.

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- Participate in our Service Projects to provide comfort to our patients during missions.
- Make Smile Splints (formerly No-No Armbands), children's hospital gowns, blankets/quilts/afghans, and SmileBags for our patients.
- Collect needed items for our Child Life Therapy list and Smile Bag kits.
- Please help ensure your club gets credit for your donations by including your club name and contact information with each donation and by writing GFWC on the memo line. An inventory form or donation form are both available by contacting gfwc@operationsmile.org or 877-240-7196.

Thank you for helping us to give children bright smiles and brighter futures!

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UNICEF USA

GOLD LEVEL

Contact: **Kelly Procida, Assistant Director, Global Cause Partnerships at UNICEF**
E: kprocida@unicefusa.org
P: 212-922-2522
W: www.unicefusa.org/GFWC

SUBMITTING CONTRIBUTIONS

Electronic contributions are preferred, and you can submit them online at: www.unicefusa.org/GFWC

If needed, you may also send a check to:
UNICEF USA
c/o Global Cause Partnerships
125 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038
**In the memo, please note your GFWC club name. During times of emergency, if you wish to direct your funds to UNICEF's emergency response, please note in the memo line the country you wish your funds to go towards.*

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Check out the website for more resources on the program, how to get involved, and ways to fundraise and spread awareness in your community.

FOR EVERY CHILD

Flexible funds are UNICEF's most important, most effective and most valuable tool to help children worldwide, because they're able to be deployed when and where they're needed most.

Flexible funds enable UNICEF to maintain its presence in 190 countries and territories. This flexible funding helps UNICEF country offices make informed, real-time decisions about how to best address the needs of the children in their care.

Examples of how UNICEF uses flexible funds:

1. **Copenhagen:** UNICEF's unique supply division can use this funding to help deliver aid and supplies anywhere in the world within 72 hours.
2. **Mali:** Flexible funds were used to reach 760,000 children under age 1 with essential childhood vaccines.
3. **Lebanon:** After a series of hard-hitting economic and other disasters, flexible funds were used to hire experts to address a growing mental health crisis.

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Using UNICEF USA's interactive graphic, learn more about how your funds are used by UNICEF and the impact it has on children and communities around the world.

Your support of the Every Child Fund allows UNICEF to continue progressing toward a world where all children can reach their full potential. Your gift of flexible funding makes it possible.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

There have been an unprecedented number of humanitarian emergencies unfolding around the world. UNICEF, a global leader in humanitarian relief, responds to hundreds of emergencies every year – delivering lifesaving relief, safeguarding children's rights and protecting them from harm. Children who live in a conflict or disaster zone are more likely to be living in poverty. They are more vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. And they are more likely to be out of school.

During times of emergency, UNICEF focuses on providing safe water, health care and hygiene kits, nutrition and psychosocial support; identifying children who have become separated from caregivers and reuniting them; and establishing Child-Friendly Spaces. UNICEF also supports recovery and rebuilding, working with governments and communities to strengthen emergency preparedness and increase resilience to future shocks.

UNICEF is on the ground before, during, and after emergencies strike, working to respond quickly and reach individuals who are most in need. With program offices in 157 countries, 7 regional offices, and global headquarters in eight cities, UNICEF taps into existing partnerships and systems to mobilize a rapid and efficient response when disaster strikes, reaching even the hardest-to-reach children and families.

GFWC clubs can make a difference and, through your support, it enables UNICEF to stay ever ready to help the most vulnerable children whenever and wherever they're in crisis.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

Today, communication entails a Four-Step Process which is planning, strategizing, executing, and evaluating tactics used to get your message out. What is a tactic? Some tactical forms include using visual, written, digital, and audible forms of communication. For your club to become even more efficient and resourceful, you must consider taking the time to develop and execute a marketing communications plan, one that encompasses the Four-Step Process to effectively engage your members, prospects, and your local community leaders.

Engaged members are more satisfied, will see more value in their membership, and will participate in more activities. But how do you create an experience that's truly meaningful to your members?

You need to first create a MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS PLAN. It is the first step in understanding your membership! It is how you will shape content that will educate, inform, and motivate current members as well as potential NEW members. Executed properly, a good communications plan will also help you RETAIN members.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN - ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS!

What do you want your communications to do? Once you define your goal, you'll need to figure out how to reach it by employing one or more of these tactics or tools.

Next, you'll want to establish how you expect your communications to influence your members. What do you expect to happen as a result? Understanding and having a realistic expectation of results defined in your overall strategy is key when evaluating the success of each tactic and can help when adjustments are needed.

This guide will walk you through creating a solid marketing communications plan, define the following tactics, and outline the tools that you can utilize to reach your club's goals and objectives.

- Branding
- Public Relations
- Club Communications
- Website
- Social Media
- Digital Meeting Capabilities

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CLUB CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TOOLKIT



The GFWC Communication and Public Relations Toolkit is a bountiful resource for club members. Topics include newsletters, websites, social media, body language, public speaking, proper use of emails, public relations, marketing, and all types of communication tools. These resources are located in the Member Portal Digital Libray, in the "Toolkit" folder. These could be used to help members grow in understanding and improving communications and public relations skills, or they could be used as a club program. Your club is encouraged to utilize one of the tips and post a picture on social media using the tool and tag #GFWCCPRTOOLKIT. A shout out in the Advancement Forum Facebook group will recognize clubs taking advantage of the Toolkit and sharing on social media. Using the rebranded GFWC Emblem could result in extra focus.

DOWNLOAD THE GFWC EMBLEM FROM THE MEMBER PORTAL

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FEATURED PROJECTS



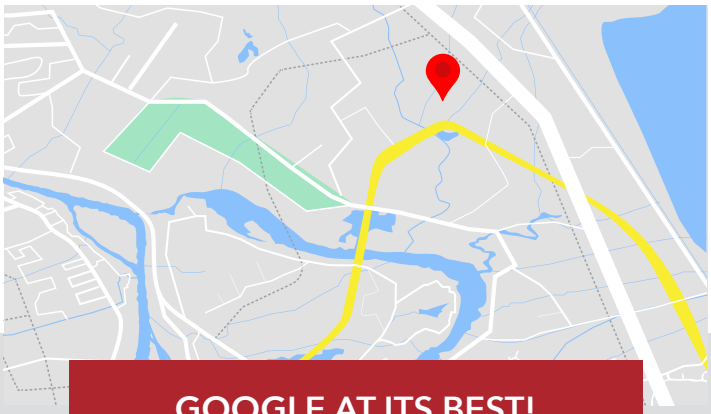
SCAVENGER HUNT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club (GA) celebrated its 50th anniversary with a virtual scavenger hunt developed using the online app, Eventzee. Challenges included in the hunt are related to projects the club has spearheaded over the years. Founding members and partner organizations created videos. Participants used the app to complete the hunt, which required them to watch videos and visit local sites. Donated prizes were given to those who completed the hunt.



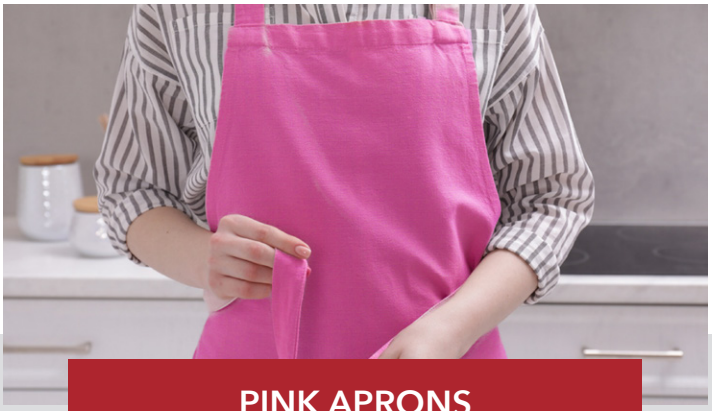
COLOR ME LEXINGTON

GFWC Woman's Club of Lexington (MO) reprinted a coloring book titled "Color Me Lexington," which was first printed by the club in 1977 with pictures drawn by local artists. It tells the history of their town in pictures. They also included information about the club and what they do in the community. This project taught many children and families about the town's history and the GFWC Woman's Club of Lexington.



GOOGLE AT ITS BEST!

Woman's Club of Matawan (NJ) created a Google website and Google Map location for their clubhouse, which means they come up quickly on Google search results and appear on GPS maps. The search results take you to their website which includes information on events, members, and contacts. They also use Google Voice which creates a business phone number that is forwarded to an app for members to answer without giving out a personal cell number.



PINK APRONS

The GFWC Pea Ridge Woman & #39's Club (WV) is known in their community for their hot pink aprons embroidered with the club's name in lime green. They reported the Mayor of Barboursville, WV, stated one of the pink aprons would get you into anywhere in Barboursville. These ladies also have a variety of club shirts, GFWC WV H.E.R.O.E.S. shirts plus numerous past administrations and GFWC shirts. Many members display GFWC WV decals on their vehicles.

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GFWC COMMUNICATIONS

BRANDING

What does "having a brand" really mean? Your brand emotionally connects you to your audience. It is what you stand for as an organization; it is your reputation. Someone may have heard of your club, but a good brand ensures they already know what you do. There is a difference!

The GFWC brand is our image to the public—it is the collective GFWC identity that conveys an image of friendship, connections, and volunteer service to our target audiences.

The GFWC brand consists of the Emblem, the organization's full name, the tagline, design guidelines for using the Emblem, a clear definition of the organization's personality, and its values. It is the GFWC moniker commonly recognized by clubwomen, Affiliate Organizations, and key stakeholders. Branding aims to establish a significant and differentiated presence that attracts and retains loyal members.

The GFWC emblem is the foremost example of our brand identity and our image to the public. It is an intangible image of our reputation. Club members themselves participate in developing and protecting the GFWC brand by being ambassadors of our image through branded volunteer activities within the community.

Additionally, the GFWC brand is made up of other communication tools and identifying features, such as our registered motto GFWC Unity in Diversity® and tagline *Living the Volunteer Spirit!*

All GFWC members must continue to enforce strict guidelines set to protect, advance, and establish our unique brand. It is this image within our community that represents our members as an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

Create a Branding Kit for your club that includes club signage with the GFWC Emblem, club brochures and business cards, letterhead for club correspondence, club shirts or aprons, a tablecloth/throw for events, and various other GFWC Branded merchandise. Directions for using the GFWC Emblem are included in the *GFWC Emblem Use and Corporate Colors* brochure and *GFWC Style Guide*.

GFWC EMBLEM USE & CORPORATE COLORS

Brand identity is the statement of who we are, what we stand for, and how we serve our audience. It defines our values and embodies our vision, mission, and values. The GFWC Emblem with the full name is a registered corporate logo and should feature prominently in all our communications, whether digital or print. It should never be altered and the ® must always appear. The guidelines are outlined in the *GFWC Emblem Use & Corporate Colors* brochure located in the Member Portal Resources under section "Branding & Emblems". Please read and follow the guidelines in the usage of the GFWC Emblem and corporate colors.

GFWC STYLE GUIDE

The *GFWC Style Guide* is the primary reference and consists of standards for writing, formatting, and Emblem use to assist GFWC members in maintaining brand consistency in look, feel, and sound. This reference tool ensures the GFWC brand is presented the same when used by everyone in the Federation. It also provides guidance for word choice, tone, design, merchandising, and more.

All GFWC clubs and members have responsibility for the use of the Emblem to protect and enhance our brand. Members responsible for creating communication tools should familiarize themselves with the *GFWC Style Guide*. To download a copy, visit memberportal.gfwc.org/resources/branding-emblems/23/gfwc-style-guide.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

The primary goal of public relations is to foster positive relations between GFWC and the local communities we work to help. An example of a PR strategy would be garnering positive publicity for your club's activities. In this section, we will define public relations tactics with an emphasis on media relations.

Public relations extend *beyond the media.* It includes building relationships with key stakeholders in your community such as elected officials, business leaders, community organizations, and key community segments with your Community Service Project (CSP) benefits. The following tactics provide vehicles for getting your club's messages out.

- Create a public service announcement highlighting your club's selected charity and ask local news outlets to promote it. Ask the charity to also promote with their media contacts and constituency.
- Invite news outlets to promote and attend your events/fundraisers.
- Write op-eds and letters to the editor focusing on causes and issues your club is involved with.
- Promote your club events and activities in community social media groups through county, city, and state media platforms.
- Invite a local respected community member to attend your convention or event to speak first-hand about a cause they are championing and to share information, knowledge, and updates.
- Ask to be recognized by your city council or village board. For example, proclamations commending your club for supporting a cause or the work you do on behalf of your community is a great third-person endorsement, which is invaluable in advancing the GFWC brand.
- Get involved in the local Chamber of Commerce, which will increase your exposure in your community and build important relationships for partnership and strategic alliances.
- Always include the GFWC Emblem in your media posts including all promotional materials, such as press releases, correspondence, and print collaterals.

MEDIA RELATIONS

"Media relations" refers to a communications function to foster relationships with local press, which includes editors and reporters for newspapers/community publications and broadcasts (television and radio). The tool most often used is a press release. A press release provides the media with the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of your announcement. It should be written in a concise and straightforward manner. It is appropriate to issue a press release to announce club projects, progress, and outcomes; introduce a new club program or initiative, and highlight the news value of GFWC's work in the community. Develop a news angle or hook to pique the media's attention to increase the chances for media coverage. When deciding what to share with the media, consider the following:

- Is this relevant beyond GFWC?
- What is the impact (i.e., dollars raised, people served, community improvement)?
- Why is this story significant?
- Is it unique or unusual?
- Does it improve people's lives?
- What are the major achievements (i.e., significant anniversary, recognition from a program partner or legislative body)?
- Is there a human-interest angle?

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Be sure to do the following:

- Proofread! Always do so before sending the release.
- Include the GFWC Emblem.
- Follow up with your media contacts to ensure they received the press release. Also, this is your opportunity to "pitch" to the reporter why the information you sent is of value to the community and deserves space/time. If information submitted is time-sensitive, make the connection for the reporter why the community needs to be informed, answer any questions, and ask when they plan to cover the story.

PRESS RELEASE SUBMISSION TIPS

News stories should emphasize your club's activities and accomplishments, focusing on why they are interesting. Human interest and innovative ideas make the best story topics. Be sure to include the GFWC Emblem on your Press Release letterhead.

- Has your club implemented a modern solution to an old problem?
- Is your club engaged in any legislative efforts or working on any projects that relate to GFWC Resolutions?
- Numbers and statistics along with a good narrative makes your story compelling and more newsworthy.
- Include photographs! Send photos as email attachments, never embedded in the body of your email or in a Word document. Photos should be in the highest resolution possible, but no less than 300 dpi (dots per inch).
- Include GFWC's boilerplate at the end of the press release. *See GFWC Boilerplate on next page.



DEVELOPING A GOOD EYE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

A good photograph tells a great story. Photographs entice people to read the article.

- PLAN YOUR PHOTO so something is happening. People standing or posing together do not make interesting photos.
- LIMIT PHOTOGRAPHS to no more than five people. Do not cram a lot of people into the frame. The exception is a group photo.
- STRIVE FOR SIMPLICITY. Remove water glasses, soda cans, purses, wastebaskets, and anything that clutters the photo.
- CREATE EMPHASIS. If you're photographing a person, bring the subject forward from the background so the emphasis is on him or her. Subjects should not be leaning up against a wall.
- POSITION THE SUBJECT so his or her body is slightly angled (not directly facing the camera) with the head turned to face you.

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- EXPERIMENT with different angles and try several different ideas. Try moving the person in the scene. Have them move forward or position themselves differently.
- SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY has become the popular choice for taking pictures, the tips above still hold true. Other tips for Smartphone Photography are:
  - Hold your smartphone sideways to take pictures.
  - Keep your smartphone still to get a clear shot.
  - Clean the camera lens – your smartphone can get dirty "living" in pockets, purses, and bags.
  - Avoid using digital zoom as it decreases the quality.
  - Observe camera etiquette.
  - Use a selfie stick or tripod to include everyone in a picture when no photographer is available.
- Be mindful of photographing children. Ask permission before including them in your photos.

Photo Circle is an excellent app for capturing pictures from many people at an event. Create the circle, invite friends via text or the QR code, and everyone can add pictures. The result is a collection of memories from many perspectives that capture the event's influence and history.

GFWC BOILERPLATE

All members are encouraged to use the following GFWC boilerplate in written communication, such as press releases, letters, newsletters, etc.:

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international organization dedicated to improving local communities through volunteer service. GFWC has state federations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are 21 International Affiliate Clubs in 12 countries worldwide. GFWC members are community leaders who advocate for domestic violence awareness and prevention programs, and efforts to support children. Volunteers work locally to impact their communities by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting healthy lifestyles, and encouraging civic involvement.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

1. Always use the GFWC Boilerplate on all press releases to ensure brand continuity.

2. Always review potential platforms and tools with your boards/ committees and general membership before implementation.

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

Creating effective ways to communicate with your membership is crucial to the HEALTH of your club/State Federation/Region. Do you know how your members like to receive information? Print or electronically? If not, you will want to take time to survey them. Are they open to change? If not, you may need to create a MIX of new AND familiar ways of communication.

You can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars by knowing the answers to these questions. More importantly, by taking the time to understand the communication style and needs of your membership, your members will feel "heard" and will feel valued.

NEWSLETTERS (PRINT OR EMAIL)

Club newsletters are one of the most effective and efficient methods of informing GFWC members about projects, programs, events, partnerships, and issues. Appoint a newsletter chairman for your

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club and/or State Federation.

- Identify a layout and media (electronic, hard copy, or both) that works best for your membership and budget.
- Determine the newsletter's frequency (i.e., monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).
- Create an editorial calendar and set deadlines for article submission. Suggested topics include:
  - President's Column – Letter from your club, District, State, and/or Region president.
  - Member Profiles – A glimpse into the lives of fellow club members and their experiences. Feature a different member in each issue.
  - Calendar of Events – Important dates, such as meetings, programs, events, Federation Day, your club anniversary, holidays, observances, and member birthdays.
  - Club News – Program updates, accomplishments, recent events, awards, accolades, and community recognition.
- Include information distributed from all levels of GFWC leadership and solicit articles from all levels, as well.
- Cover Community Service Program projects that were completed with or for GFWC Affiliate Organizations and use their logos/emblems whenever possible.
- Assign article writing to club members based on responsibilities as leaders and project organizers.
- Convey knowledge, generate enthusiasm, and enhance your club's public relations outreach, membership recruiting and retention, program development and reporting, and strategic plan.
- Include action photos, when possible, as they add interest to your newsletter.
- Always provide club contact information.
- Include relevant time-sensitive information.
- Always include the GFWC Emblem in a prominent place.

EMAIL PLATFORMS

To communicate with your members via email, look at two of the most popular email marketing platforms.

CONSTANT CONTACT

This platform is extremely easy to use and has a free offering, but only one month per the plan you choose. It offers a gallery of stock images to choose from and has numerous template selections. It also allows you to easily manage your club database and offers outstanding customer support. Importing data from other programs is very easy. You can track who is opening the emails, the bounce rate, unsubscribe rate and those sharing your email.

MAILCHIMP

MailChimp is a great resource for club communications because it offers a free option for up to 2,000 email addresses. If you use for your state communications,

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

1. There are many email marketing platforms out there! Be sure to research what is best for you and your club.

2. A well-designed website is the single best way to attract new members and donors to your club as everyone will visit it before joining or doing business with you.

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it may push you over that limit and into a paid model, but it is still very affordable as it is far less than the traditional fees associated with a print magazine or newsletter! It is the largest email marketing application you can use. It also offers easy to read reports and analytics; you can easily see which recipients opened and read your communications. This platform also offers more options for template customization, which is important in keeping your brand identity intact. It also includes survey options.

Other platforms to consider are Vertical Response, Brevo, and Benchmark. Some will collect funds for your club's events, which can be helpful for conventions or special fundraisers.

WEBSITE

Your club website is the public's first and last impression of you and your members! It is always open, 24/7, for all to see, so please make sure it is up-to-date and contains fresh and timely content. Find someone in your club who can create and/or maintain a website. Another resource might be to inquire at local high schools or higher education institutions. This is an important part of your branding, and something you will want to invest in with a third party.

- Appoint a website chairman for your club and/or State Federation.
- Create a club email account (i.e., GFWCStudyClub@gmail.com) and assign someone to check it regularly. Gmail is the preferred email platform.
- Identify a technology solution that works for your level of knowledge. Possibilities include working with a website developer or designer; securing assistance from tech-savvy friends, family, or volunteers from local schools looking for practical experience; or running and maintaining the website on your own.
- Secure a domain name that clearly portrays your name and includes GFWC (i.e., www.GFWCFlorida.org or www.GFWCWarrenJWC.org).
- Link to www.GFWC.org to show that your club/State Federation is a part of GFWC.
- Include your club's website address in all printed materials, including press releases, business cards, brochures, fliers, and posters.
- Provide the following information on your website:
  - A calendar of meetings, project-related activities, and other club/State Federation events.
  - Club/State Federation history, noting important milestones and accomplishments, officers, past presidents, and other achievements.
- Develop a plan for updating the website and share the responsibilities for writing new content.
- The GFWC Emblem should be displayed at the top of the website.
- Include pictures that always tell a story. Be sensitive to the rules involving pictures of children.
- Keep the site current.
- Further recommendations are included in the GFWC CPR Toolkit.

SOCIAL MEDIA

According to Google, there are 4.95 billion social media users worldwide, representing 61.4 percent of the global population. In the U.S., 54 percent of social media users are females spending an average of over 2 hours a day. There are many social media platforms or sites. Some of these platforms simply do not fit with our goals and interests. Below are some of the most popular ones used, but feel free to research what will work best for your club and members.

If you cannot decide where to start, consider ranking your club's priorities; it may be more effective for your club's brand to focus on maximizing the capabilities of one or two platforms. Whichever

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platform(s) you choose, set up a team to monitor it regularly. The platforms that allow followers to interact come with (unspoken) expectations that someone will respond very quickly and that there will be a steady stream of real-time content. Assign a content editor and ask club members to submit information. When appropriate, invite contributors to help create and post on social media platforms. Be mindful who you choose to serve as editor and contributors. All should be trained and provided with the *GFWC Emblem Use & Corporate Colors* brochure and the *GFWC Style Guide*. Always include the GFWC Emblem in your social media.

FACEBOOK

Facebook is the largest social networking site in the world. If you have not yet established a Club, District, or State Federation page, you should consider doing so during this Administration!

Use your club's name, including GFWC, as the title. The GFWC Emblem should be in a prominent place. Appoint someone in your club to manage it. Continually post updates and photos of your activities, create events for your meetings, and make sure to keep your contact information and club website up to date.

Encourage all members of your club who are on Facebook to like your club's page so they can share the information you post with their friends. Your club's page should also like pages of groups you work with, such as national and local partner organizations, news stations, civic organizations, or other groups with Facebook pages.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

Do not forget to like GFWC's Facebook page as well! View it at www.Facebook.com/GFWCMembers

Facebook Live is hard to "practice" since it is live, so be prepared! Do something simple the first few times until you get the hang of narrating. Prepare a script and/or questions beforehand.

FACEBOOK LIVE

Facebook Live is a live video streaming service that lets anyone broadcast from their mobile devices straight to their Facebook News Feed, which is perfect for GFWC clubwomen! You can do short, live video clips from your fundraisers, installations, meetings, and just about anything you would like to promote in your Facebook feed!

To host Facebook Live, you must create a business account. To create a business account, a member must serve as the host and create a business account attached to the member's personal page. After the business account is created, the person can assign administrative and posting privileges to contributors to help create content.

Here are basic instructions on how to use Facebook LIVE.

- Log into your club's Facebook page
- Go to create "post"
- Select "Live Video" at the bottom of post composer
- Add a description of your video. Tag friends, check in to location, and add a feeling or activity.
- Tap "Start Live Video"
- Tap "Finish" to end your broadcast.

For more information on Facebook Live, visit https://www.facebook.com/business/help/626637251511853?id=1123223941353904.

If you have not already given Facebook access to your camera and microphone, you will be prompted to do so. Follow the steps.

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INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a free photo and video sharing platform. People can upload photos or videos to share with their followers or with a select group of friends. It is similar to Facebook and can be connected to your Facebook account. You can post via your mobile device or computer. Instagram is a storytelling app that uses photos to inform about the activity to your followers and publicly. Content editors and contributors are also able to post via the "Professional Dashboard" through the "Meta Business Suite" under Platform tools.

PINTEREST

Pinterest is another social media platform that most of our members have heard of and use personally. It is a great platform to share "How To's" and so much more! It is a great place to look for inspiration for your meetings or conventions and even fundraising! Users create and share collections (called "boards") of visual bookmarks (called "Pins") that they use to do things such as plan trips and projects, organize events, or save articles.

We encourage you to look at and try this platform for your club. It is very visual with lots of photos and can be a useful way to show off a project or event and attract new members with like-minded interests to your club. Include the GFWC Emblem on your posts to brand the volunteer work we do. The club account, aka business, will need to be connected to the editor's personal page, and they can assign administrative and contributor privileges.

LINKEDIN

LinkedIn is a free social media platform that focuses on professional networking. It is useful to organizations in collaborating with related businesses and nonprofits that align with your club's core values and interests. Use this platform to establish your club's authority on a cause, issue, or event being organized. This is a thought leadership platform that distinguishes your club as an expert source of information. Be sure to use hashtags and tag people and businesses your club is collaborating with.

These are the primary social media platforms used by GFWC. There are others available and new ones popping up. Be sure to DO YOUR RESEARCH to determine which are best to promote your club's activities and membership recruitment/retention.

VIDEO SHARING

It is no secret that people love to watch others in action and posting your club/State Federation/Region's videos can be a terrific way to attract new members. In this section, we will look at the four largest and most well-known platforms: YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, and Vimeo.

YOUTUBE

YouTube is the video sharing giant with more than one billion users and people watch more than one billion hours of video on the site daily. YouTube allows users to upload, view, rate, favorite, share, flag, report, add to playlists, comment on videos, and subscribe to other users.

To sign up for a YouTube account, you must have a Google ID or sign up for a new Google account. To start, go to the YouTube.com homepage and click the "Create an Account" button at the top of the screen to go to the basic Google sign-up form and then follow the prompts. Once you have created your account, you can upload your videos and then share them on social media or in your email communications.

TIKTOK

TikTok is a short-form video-sharing app that allows users to create and share videos between 15

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seconds and 10 minutes long. The target demographic is young people. You can record and post videos on your mobile device promoting your fundraisers, club events, meetings, and other activities. Creating an account is free and would entice Juniorettes and Junior clubwomen.

VIMEO

Vimeo has similarities and differences with YouTube. Like YouTube, it lets people upload and share videos. Unlike YouTube, the platform has no advertising, and most users must pay for the privilege of uploading their videos. Plans are inexpensive depending on data amount, but there is also a free, basic plan.

Vimeo might not be as open and accessible as YouTube, and it has a smaller audience of around 170 million. To sign up for a Vimeo account, go to Vimeo.com homepage and click "Join." Create a username and password and enter your email. Confirm your email by following the instructions sent to your inbox, and you will be in business!

X (formerly Twitter)

X is a "microblogging" system that allows you to send and receive short posts called tweets. Tweets can be up to 280 characters long and can include links to relevant websites and resources. You can create your own tweets, or you can retweet information that has been tweeted by others. Retweeting means that information is shared directly from the source with your followers who in turn can share with their followers.

The most important thing to understand about X is it serves as a "news" medium. Activities happen in real-time, including national and local events, celebrity news, and weather-related information. It is one medium to get the attention of big brands for sponsorship or to release a public service announcement. When citing X as a news source, be sure to check your facts before using them.

SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a free mobile messaging application used to share photos, videos, and text messages that users can only access from a mobile device. It is different than other forms of social media in that its messages disappear from the recipient's phone after only a few seconds. If your club is marketing to younger members or sponsors a GFWC Juniorette club, Instagram and Snapchat are must-haves in your communications strategy.

CPR TIPS

When posting on social media, use short, complete, and clear descriptions. Use photos or videos to help tell your story. Be sure to summarize your club's activities in 50 words or less as concisely as possible. In some cases, a post warrants additional words which is fine as long as the message being relayed is important. Make every word count. Get to the main idea of your post in the first sentence.

Hashtags are an effective tool for group conversations or content. When creating a new hashtag, always include GFWC in the wording. Recommended hashtags for social media posts for GFWC members include:

- #GFWC
- #GFWC_HQ
- #WeAreGFWC
- #UnityInDiversity
- #LivingTheVolunteerSpirit
- #IamGFWC

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An effective communication product is Adobe Acrobat. Consider purchasing the Pro version, which allows you to modify PDF documents, organize pages, combine pages into a new document, and many more tools. The cost is reasonable and includes training.

Canva is a free-to-use online graphic design tool. It can be used to create social media posts, presentations, posters, videos, and much more.

The GFWC Advancement and Programs Facebook Forum is a private group that contains valuable information for GFWC clubwomen. The Membership, Leadership, and CPR Chairmen lead the Forum. You can invite other GFWC members to join or request to join. A few simple questions must be answered since it is a private page. The videos include a variety of topics and have been stored since their creation in 2018. Every GFWC clubwoman is encouraged to join. It does require a Facebook account to participate.

Gen Z and Millennial Snapchat users share a common personality trait: FOMO (fear of missing out). By promoting your local events to FOMO-motivated young ladies, you can make your club relevant to a broader audience and bring in new members!

The way people communicate is changing, and we need to keep up with the trends to both survive and thrive!

X (formerly Twitter) is especially important if you need to contact or influence members of Congress. For example, Shot@Life has found that when they tweet photos of their visits to Congressional Members, their efforts are more effective!

SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

The saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words" is true when it comes to social media. A photo, video, or graphic is extremely important in conveying messages. The most successful posts on these platforms include pictures. Use photos showing your club members in action so that potential members can see themselves as a member of your club. Crop your photos so that there is not a lot of wasted space around the action, and the action is clearer to see. Also, investigate using paid posts on FB to promote your club's Membership Drives or fundraisers. It is inexpensive and usually yields impressive results. Try it and see an increase in your results. Encourage members to always wear GFWC branded items to club projects.

VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORMS

VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORMS

A necessary piece of your communications strategy is utilizing digital communication tools, such as online meetings, text reminders, webinars, and podcasts.

Online or mobile collaboration means improved efficiency and increased productivity, but only if you have the right tools for collaboration. It also means monetary savings for your club, District, or State Federation budgets.

ZOOM

This product allows for easy video calls, online demos, or webinars with your virtual teams. Advanced features include selective screen sharing where some participants can see the presenter's screen and others cannot. If your members use Microsoft Outlook, then this is a top selection: it's easy to schedule video conferencing meetings from Outlook through the Zoom plugins. The free version allows for a 40-minute meeting. There are monthly and annual subscriptions which allow for unlimited meeting time.

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MICROSOFT TEAMS

This is a Microsoft product included with the Microsoft Office product subscription. Meetings can be scheduled with video calls and screen-sharing options.

GOOGLE DRIVE

All club records can be stored on Google Drive and can be accessed by all members at any time. No more waiting for someone to send something to you! Google Drive also offers a ton of storage for a low price, so implementing Google Drive and G Suite tools for your whole team is simple and definitely worth the price.

WE TRANSFER

WeTransfer is an easy way to share large files! You can move whole folders at the touch of a button by sending them through a link. WeTransfer is safe and secure, and plans start at free. The platform makes it easy to share files without limitations and gets them where they need to be. Free plans include the ability to send up to 2 GB of files, while the largest plan (annual fee) can assist with storing club information in a cloud setting to keep your records safe. Your transfers are shared via a link, which allows users to download and receive files. Links expire after 7 business days. You are notified when the receiver downloads your files.

DROPBOX

Dropbox is a cloud storage app used to share documents. It has a user-friendly interface and is simple to use. Once the software is downloaded, you store documents and notes on your hard drive by dragging the appropriate files over to the icon. You can share files and notes to non-Dropbox users with a simple link.

SHAREPOINT

SharePoint is a Microsoft product that comes with their monthly/annual subscription. It is a highly effective way to save files on the Cloud. Any Microsoft user can access the files once shared with them. The downside to this product is the cost and only Microsoft users can access the files.

So many choices and options! When you survey your members, be sure to include a question about digital meetings and communications. Investigate what will work best for you and your club/committees/boards/memberships, and you will be rewarded with more efficient and (in many cases) more affordable ways to conduct club business, all while streamlining communications with your members.

PODCASTS

Podcasts are a tremendous way to stay connected to your members, especially if they cannot make a workshop, or State Federation or Region presentation. Information can be recorded so members (and potential members) can download and listen to it when it is convenient for them.

People listen to podcasts while driving, flying, working, and exercising. It is all about convenience and access to information anywhere, anytime, anyplace – saving time. Many podcasts are free to download, and some are even free of commercial advertisements.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

Research which podcast hosting sites/plans will suit your club/State Federation/Region best!

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Podcast productions can range from carefully scripted to totally improvised discussions; what is important is the topic discussed. **Buzzsprout** is a wonderful resource for hosting your club/State Federation/Region's podcast(s), offering a free plan and several low-cost plans, depending on your needs.

CONTESTS

The Communication and Public Relations Committee oversees two contests: Newsletter and Website. Certificates are awarded to the top three club entries while State Federations compete for top billing within each membership category. Please refer to the Awards, Contests, and Grants section of the GFWC Club Manual for further information.

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Communication and Public Relations projects, as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Awards Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Communication and Public Relations Advancement Plan. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

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FUNDRAISING

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKING A DONATION, IT'S ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE." KATHY CALVIN

Fundraising plays a vital role in your efforts to make a difference in your community, club, and with club members. Fundraisers provide an opportunity to work with others in your community to support local projects, charitable causes, affiliate organizations, your club's community service and outreach projects, or GFWC. Successful fundraising can increase your club's visibility in the community, foster cooperation, provide a sense of accomplishment, cultivate pride and ownership in the organization, and create life-long friendships—all while building a stronger and better club.

Educate, Energize, and Empower your members to choose a fundraising idea, plan a successful event, advance and promote your club and GFWC, and gain recognition for your fundraising efforts. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact any of the Fundraising Committee Members, who are happy to help.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

FIRST FRIDAY FOODIES



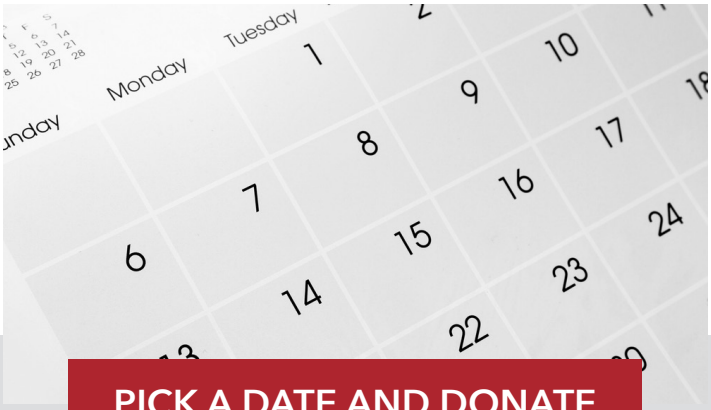
First Friday Foodies is a project that gives members multiple opportunities to connect with each other as they work together on a regular community-wide fundraiser. Frequently, local workers have limited options and time to enjoy a good lunch. This project involves taking orders from employees of local businesses and delivering them a hot midday meal on the First Friday of every month. Club members work together in teams to advertise and take orders, collect payment, purchase groceries, prepare the food, package the meals, and make deliveries.

As members' schedules and obligations may change from month to month, this project will allow the flexibility to connect with different members and work on varied tasks each month. This project is adaptable to your club's available resources. If there are enough volunteers, your club could expand to weekly deliveries on every Friday. If a full meal is too great an undertaking, your club could sell Tuesday or Thursday Treats and take orders for baked goods or healthy snacks. This project can also be adapted to the number of available customers. For example, in a smaller community, you may be able to deliver to several businesses (such as the local dentist, doctor, florist, hairdresser, courthouse, insurance agency, boutique, or plant); in a larger community, you may choose a small number of office buildings or adjacent businesses and offer food deliveries to them.

Regular interaction in support of one project will give club members opportunities to connect throughout each month. Be sure to check the applicable food service regulations in your area. As always, a good fundraiser can reflect positively on your club and its members, so each time you take an order, package a meal, or make your deliveries, you will have a new opportunity to increase awareness of your club and the many ways you serve the community and the potential for membership recruiting.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



PICK A DATE AND DONATE

The GFWC Fundraising Committee suggests a "pick a date" calendar drawing as an easy fundraiser. This is a simplified raffle that does not require members to sell tickets. Prize(s) could include items, services, or cash (either donated/sponsored or given from the proceeds of the fundraiser). To get started, make copies of the calendar for the month in which you sell tickets or use an online template. Include information about the club, instructions for the fundraiser, date of the drawing, and prize(s). The dates on the calendar represent the number of $1 entries that the donor will have in the drawing. For example, the person who chooses the 1st of the month will donate $1 for 1 entry, and the person who chooses the 30th of the month will donate $30 for 30 entries. Members fill in each date on the calendar with the name and phone number of the donor who selected that date and collect the money. A donor can select one date or any combination of dates. When the calendars are completed and collected, make the appropriate number of drawing entries for each purchaser and conduct the drawing. Each member who completes a 30-day calendar will collect $465 for the fundraiser.



HALLOWEEN MYSTERY MANSION

The GFWC Woman's Club of Chevy Chase (MD) transformed its clubhouse into a thirteen-room Halloween community event for younger children. Tickets were sold, and the theme for the event was: Tell a Scary Story. In each room, characters from books such as *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Where the Wild Things Are* surprised the guests. The event concluded with a trip through a haunted forest to the tea party from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Outdoor activities under the stars encouraged people to linger and enjoy the event. Boy Scout Troops and local students volunteered and accumulated over 900 volunteer hours. Seven local musical groups donated their time and shared their talents with the community.



PET PHOTO CONTEST

The GFWC Coal City Junior Woman's Club (IL) hosted a pet photo contest. The photo entries were sent to the chairman, who posted them on the club's Facebook page. Twenty pet photos were received. Virtual votes were sold, and payment was made via Venmo or PayPal. Donated cash prizes were given for first through third places, and donated doggy treats were provided to all three winners.



CAR SHOW

The GFWC Hot Springs Woman's Club (NM) hosted its first annual car show. They had over 40 sponsors and 70 car entries. Performers donated live music for the event. Vendors sold various items. The club sold concessions, T-shirts, and raffle tickets for gift baskets. They also invited residents of the New Mexico State Veterans Home to enjoy the day and a meal.

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FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Begin your fundraising process with a brainstorming session for club members. Discuss pros and cons, then make your choice. Here are some ideas to get your brainstorming session started:

COMMUNITY CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- Adult Spelling Bee
- Baby Photo Contest
- Bunco, Bingo, or Card Party
- Children's Puppet Show or Magician
- Dance Off/Dancing with the Stars
- Festival Face Painting or Photo Booth
- Movie-Themed Costume Contest and Sing-Along
- Mother/Daughter Tea
- Paint the Porch Pink (Breast Cancer Walk)
- Pajama Party or Pajama Day
- Rubber Duck Races
- Shredding Events
- Style Show or Fashion Show
- Trivia Night
- Wine, Women, and Purses

DANCES AND DATE NIGHTS

- Casino Night
- Dances/Galas–Daddy/Daughter, Rock and Roll, Line Dancing, Ballroom Dancing
- Kentucky Derby Party–Hats and Bowties
- Mad Hatter's Tea Party
- Murder Mystery Party/Dinner
- Oscar Extravaganza
- Paint Night
- Progressive Dinner–Three Restaurants/ Three Courses

FABULOUS FOODS

- Baked Goods Sales
- Baked Potato Bar
- Chili Supper
- Chocolate and Wine Sale
- Coffee or Brunch Event with Recipes
- Hot, Medium, and Mild Pepper Jelly Sale
- Ice Cream Social
- Kitchen Tour with Host Chefs
- Meat Sale
- Meatballs and Martinis
- Pancake Breakfast
- Restaurant Share Nights (percentage of evening sales)

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Christmas Tree Delivery
- Egg My Yard–Easter
- Festival of Trees
- Haunted House or Halloween Party
- Holiday Expo, Festival, or Bazaar
- Holiday Gift Wrapping
- Holiday Open House or House Tour
- July 4th–Fireworks, Flea Market, Parade, or Cookout
- Mardi Gras Party
- Paint a Pallet-Flags, Pumpkins, Snowmen
- Poinsettia and Wreath Sale
- Polar Express Event–PJs, Hot Chocolate, Cookies, and Santa
- Santa or Bunny Breakfast
- Scarecrow Contest/Festivals

HOUSE AND GARDEN GOODIES

- Garden Tour
- Flamingo Flock–Pay for Removal
- Drawing for Truck Load of Gravel or Mulch

PAMPERED PETS

- Dog or Pet Show
- Pet Treat Sale
- Pet Photo Contest

RAFFLES AND SALES

- Art and Craft Auction/Show
- Art in the Park Show and Sale
- Bazaar–Host the Event or a Table
- Book Sale–Used and New, Invite an Author

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- Children's Consignment Sale
- Furniture Upscale and Resale
- It's in the Bag! (Brown Bag Auction)
- Kitchen Utensil Demo and Sale
- Make It, Bake It, or Fake It! (Arts, Crafts, Foods)
- White Elephant/Re-Gift Auction
- Vintage Jewelry and/or Accessories Sale

VIRTUAL IDEAS

- Bingo
- Drive-by Decorated House Tour
- Online Auctions
- Online Gift Card Sales
- See and Sell
- Spin it to Win it
- Trivia Night

WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS

- Baseball or Softball Tournament
- Bowling Tournament/Candlelight Bowl
- Cornhole Tournament
- Fishing Tournament
- Golf Tournament/Golf
- Kickball Tournament
- Pickleball Tournament
- Walk or Race

STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING

RESEARCH AND FOLLOW THE APPLICABLE LAWS

Charitable fundraising is regulated in most states. Nonprofit organizations are usually required to register with the state PRIOR to fundraising or soliciting donations and to renew or update that registration periodically. The government official responsible for processing charitable solicitation registrations varies (e.g., Attorney General, Secretary of State, or others). Some states do not allow certain types of fundraisers, raffles, or contests. Some states have reporting requirements after the fundraisers. It is important to know and follow the law that applies to your fundraising efforts. Consider organizing a program or workshop and inviting speakers to explain the relevant regulations.

APPOINT A CAPABLE FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN

Appoint a talented Fundraising Chairman to organize your fundraising. A team effort is required for successful fundraising, and the Chairman is the leader of that team. The Fundraising Chairman should be:

- Energetic and enthusiastic.
- Organized.
- Experienced at setting and meeting goals and objectives.
- Skilled at delegating tasks and monitoring progress on projects.
- Responsible for matching the many tasks to be accomplished with the skills, interests, and comfort level of each member.

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SET GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A great fundraising program can have boundless outcomes for your club and its mission, including increased public awareness, goodwill, and membership. Fundraisers are excellent publicity, networking, and membership recruitment opportunities. Set goals for maximum impact.

- Evaluate your financial needs.
- Establish your ongoing and specific projects.
- Estimate expected earnings/outcome of the fundraiser.
- Define the desired impact for the community.

PLAN ALL ASPECTS AND FACETS OF YOUR FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Once your research is done, your leader is in place, and your goals and objectives are set, it is time for your members to brainstorm and plan every detail of how you will conduct the fundraising needed to sustain your club or State Federation and those causes that are a priority for your members.

- What type of fundraising?
- Which chairmen and committees are needed?
- What is the budget?
- What type of cooperation is needed from local leaders, businesses, and civic groups?
- What is the timeline?
- What is the plan for Marketing and Publicity?



EVALUATE YOUR EFFORTS

After any fundraiser, take time to evaluate what worked and what did not. The chairman should prepare a written report on the success of the fundraiser. The report should detail the expenses and income. In addition, the chairman should distribute a survey to the members and compile the results in the report. The survey and report should address the following questions:

- Were the goals realistic and achievable?
- Was the budget adequate?
- Was the cooperation with all entities beneficial and constructive?
- Were the publicity/marketing strategies effective?
- Was the fundraiser well-received by the community?
- Were members assigned to tasks that matched their skills and interests?
- Is this same fundraiser recommended for the future? If so, what adjustments need to be made for greater success? If not, did this fundraiser spark interest in other or similar fundraisers that might be more successful?

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SHOW APPRECIATION TO YOUR MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY

Remember to maintain the friendly and positive tone of your fundraising efforts until the last expression of gratitude is conveyed. All donations should be acknowledged in a gracious and timely manner and all funds used efficiently for the cause for which they were solicited. Be sure to communicate the successful results of your fundraising project with all those who supported your efforts and with the public. Build on your success to realize an even more successful project in the future.

After evaluating your effectiveness, thanking the members of the community for supporting your efforts, and writing a comprehensive report, it is time to celebrate your success.

There are endless ways to show your appreciation to community entities and your members:

- A small bottle of hand soap or sanitizer with a note that reads, "Thanks for getting your hands dirty!"
- A cute tin of candy with a note that says, "Thank you for being so sweet!"
- An article, picture, or some other recognition on social media.
- A handwritten thank-you note.
- A small award or certificate.
- Small get-togethers, such as a pizza party or social gathering.

GFWC ENDORSED FUNDRAISERS

LADY JAYNE



The Lady Jayne collection is an economical way to accessorize in today's market by using interchangeable GFWC emblem charms. The same charms can be used in earrings, pendants, bracelets, or necklaces and are easily changed from one to another. Twelve percent of GFWC emblem purchases will benefit GFWC.

To purchase or order for your own fundraising from Lady Jayne, Ltd., go to their website, www.ladyjayne.com. Go to "Associations" and find "General Federation of Women's Clubs" in the drop down menu which will take you to GFWC's page, or use this link to the GFWC page, www.ladyjayne.com/gfwc

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LEADERSHIP
ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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LEADERSHIP IS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFLUENCE

This Advancement Plan contains valuable information, including practical ideas and resources to assist States, Districts, and clubs in developing leadership skills in their members. Whatever talent you use, leadership always involves taking risks, being innovative, and promoting new directions. Some may talk about being born leaders, but most of us learn how to be a strong leader, and we should never stop learning and stretching. Just as "management" as a philosophy has evolved through the years into "leadership," there has also been a growing realization that leadership development involves personal growth and improvement and influencing and fostering others.

Specific leadership areas have been addressed in this plan, and we are pleased to revise and expand the Leadership Toolkit. An index and directions for accessing the Member Portal are available in this plan. Additionally, we will continue to offer leadership development, resources, and opportunities.

2024-2026 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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CLUB CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

TRAINING NEW LEADERS



Be proactive and develop a comprehensive plan for training and equipping potential new leaders over time. Adopt a LEADS philosophy and offer leadership education and development-type programs in your local club. Be sure to provide comprehensive orientations for new leaders. Introduce the Federation's culture, mission, and values. Apply and share what you learn at GFWC Annual Conventions as you identify and groom new leaders. Develop a succession plan and arrange succession sharing as new leaders assume responsibilities. Build skills and experience and prepare potential leaders for success. Register new leaders on the GFWC Member Portal and the Legislative Action Center so they have immediate access to GFWC's comprehensive resources and tools.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



CLUB MENTORS AND SUPPORTIVE TRANSITIONS

GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) believes that developing and supporting leaders is important to keep the club vibrant and growing. Therefore, the nominating committee promotes the role of Co-Presidents. Past presidents are encouraged to team with and mentor less experienced members. The hope is that each newer Co-President feels more familiar with the president's responsibilities and confident enough to continue into a second year, taking on the mentoring role to another inexperienced member.



THIS CLUB MAKES LEARNING FUN!

The president of the GFWC History Club of Whitesboro (TX) was a LEADS graduate in 2022. She applied what she learned in her club, District, and State. She knew members learn new skills when presented in a fun manner; thus, she developed skits and games and adapted songs used at various levels. Two games were GFWC Trivia and GFWC Communication Jeopardy, both great ways to teach members about GFWC.

What an entertaining way to teach members about leadership. You can Google "Jeopardy PowerPoint Template" and find different templates to use. These can be tailored to meet the needs of your club and can add that element of fun to training your future leaders.



TRANSITIONING NEW OFFICERS

The Woman's Club of Hammonton (NJ) had a change in leadership, with mostly new officers. As the new board prepared for new roles, they shadowed the outgoing board members for a month. Both boards met after the installation to hand over files and exchange ideas about their roles. The new officers felt more comfortable taking over their new positions through this mentoring process.



MEMBER-AT-LARGE BOARD POSITIONS LEADERSHIP IN ACTION!

The Woman's Club of Newport News (VA) had three Member-At-Large positions on the Board of Directors. These three members were selected based on their desire to explore the possibility of eventually running for an elected office. Although Members-At-Large were non-voting members, they were placed on the agenda and allowed to speak at each board meeting. These At-Large members were also encouraged to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

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EVERYONE IS A LEADER EVERY DAY

A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader, a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves." - **Eleanor Roosevelt**, author, politician, and diplomat

From mothers, wives, and sisters, to club presidents, officers, and members, everybody has the opportunity to be a leader in their daily lives. Each day you make decisions on what to wear, the next book you want to read, what project your club will pursue, or how you will fundraise for your local charities. No matter how small a decision may seem, this is leadership. As a leader, you set the example for those around you and take on the responsibility that comes with this role.

Let us spin the concept of "everyday leadership." Here are seven acts of everyday leaders:

1. **Commit.** Passion is a strong desire that can get you to do amazing things. Passion is an emotion to be acted upon. Without action, passion yields no worthwhile results. Passion is the fuel for the fire of action. When you have passion for something, you love it even when you hate it. What are you passionate about? Gardening, exercising, helping animals, teaching, reading, writing, politicking, volunteering, shopping, organizing, art?
2. **Listen.** It is rare for someone to say, "I am a lousy listener." Almost everyone says, "I am a great listener." The fact of the matter is that we are terrible at listening. Everyday leaders engage their power of listening; listen more than you speak. Listen to experts and fellow enthusiasts, including those you disagree with. Absorb their perspectives, insights, and experiences.
3. **Communicate.** You have feelings, experiences, opinions, and a voice. All have value, so share them often. You become an everyday leader by expressing your thoughts and ideas. Unconventional, way-out-there input from you is better than silence.
4. **Be humble.** We all know so-called leaders who are described as arrogant, entitled, and controlling. Do not be that leader! See yourself as an everyday person whose experiences and voice matter as much as the next person's, no more and no less than others. Think of it as coming from a place of community and in the spirit of making life happier for everyone.
5. **Innovate.** There are formulas for everything, and they are copied and followed. This shows in predictable books and movies, architectural blueprints and housing developments with no originality, meeting agendas that leave little room for innovation, and how about the unspoken rules! You do not have to shock and awe every chance you get but think about offering something fresh to further the conversation or something original to move the ball.
6. **Learn.** If you are human, you have failed. Failure, however, is not an end to the story, it is a beginning. The trick is to "Fail Forward." What did you learn, and what will you change next time? Then, you get back up and keep moving forward. Failure is an everyday leader's protein; it is where the energy comes from.
7. **Smile!** Your smile can change the world. It is a powerful tool. Your smile brings hope, light, acceptance, and gratitude.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BUILD LEADERSHIP?

It is important for leaders to be aware of the challenges involved in identifying and developing prospective leaders and to create an action plan to ensure strong, competent leadership for the future. Most often, people will be more likely to accept leadership positions with a clearer understanding if they have a good idea of what is expected and know that you, as the leader, will nurture and support them along the journey.

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The leader—whether it is the president, director, or chairman—may consider the following strategies for growing new leaders:

- Consider officers and their responsibilities and prepare a detailed handout for each. Hold a team planning meeting for the new officers, share the responsibilities for each office, discuss the status of activities, and develop a preliminary plan for future projects. By engaging these leaders in understanding their duties and in developing plans, you will help build their understanding and skills.
- Pull members together from time to time to reflect on progress and needs and to consider next steps or necessary changes to accomplish the goal.
- Conduct mini-leadership presentations to help members gain a better understanding and develop new skills.
- Step back and allow new leaders to work and grow. While mistakes may be made, if you nurture your new leaders as they find their way, they will grow in skill and confidence. Praise new leaders for the job they are doing.
- Encourage new members to contribute to various activities where their fresh ideas will be helpful.
- Incorporate reports on GFWC activities at club meetings to connect members with the Federation and other GFWC clubs.
- Take advantage of member diversity. Each individual member brings unique skills to the club.
- Mentor new leaders. Support them with suggestions. Encourage participation in all GFWC activities. Travel with them and help with expenses when possible. Provide them with GFWC resource materials. This is an investment that will pay off!
- Share the work. It is easier if members help plan meetings, participate in projects, and write reports.
- Be generous with your appreciation.
- Nurture and prepare successors for their work. Leaders should be supportive.

Leadership roles often include public speaking and that may include asking a member to step out of the "comfort zone." Public speaking is often reported as one of the top social fears. Don't hesitate to encourage someone to assume a leadership position because of a fear of public speaking. Leaving an area of comfort requires a little preparation and practice but does result in success. A great resource to help a new leader plan and deliver presentations can be found in the new Communication and Public Relations Toolkit.

WHERE TO FIND POTENTIAL LEADERS

"The way to achieve your own success is to be willing to help somebody else get it first." - **Iyanla Vanzant**, inspirational speaker & author

As the leader, it is essential that you equip your officers and committee chairmen to function effectively. Together you will help your club make a real difference in your community. To do that, regular training will be extremely helpful to ensure they handle their duties and are growing in their leadership capacity. Reviewing and discussing the guidelines for the various officers, and brainstorming ways your leadership team can grow beyond expectations, will help to build strong leadership. To encourage leadership succession, look to the following:

CLUB MEMBER

- Accepts responsibility and takes initiative even when not serving as an officer.
- Motivates others by their enthusiasm and may recognize that their interests lie in planning and

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implementing projects.
- Demonstrates creativity and is energetic.
- Grows through being included in projects and club work.

FORMER CLUB OFFICER

- Serves at the District or State level and has served the club in several positions.
- Has experience and knows the members and their skills.
- Offers valuable suggestions.
- Continues her service to the club when encouraged.

CURRENT CLUB OFFICER

- Accepts responsibilities that require attendance at additional meetings and has good organizational skills.
- Demonstrates confidence from other club members who have elected her to the position.
- Asks questions when they are unsure and seeks the advice of respected mentors.

NEW MEMBER

- Wants to become involved while being an enthusiastic new member.
- Accepts responsibilities if asked by a club leader.
- Serves as a breath of fresh air because she is not limited by preconceived ideas of how things are usually done.

DELEGATING AND SHAPING NEW LEADERS

As club members are entrusted with responsibility, they will become invested in the project and more likely to take on a leadership role. One may be hesitant to delegate because of the desire to ensure the task is performed correctly. However, by keeping an open mind, you will find there are a variety of ways that a job can be done.

REASONS TO DELEGATE

When leaders delegate responsibilities, members:

- Become more enthusiastic, involved, and dedicated.
- Share tasks, allowing the club to undertake more projects and activities.
- Complete club projects in a time-efficient manner.
- Develop skills and confidence to gain experience to step into club leadership roles.
- Grow a club that runs smoothly and effectively.

BENEFITS TO LEADERS

- Maintain calm by not spreading themselves too thin and "burning out."
- Gain satisfaction from watching members grow and develop.
- Improve leadership skills in executive and administrative functions.

WAYS TO DELEGATE

After thoroughly explaining the requirements and deadlines:

- Ask for volunteers by a show of hands or sign-up sheet.

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- Appoint or suggest someone for the task. This shows confidence in ability and potential.
- Assign the task to a committee to take the pressure off the individual or new leader.

GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE DELEGATION

- Know members' talents and abilities in order to set them up for success.
- Support members by sharing resources, information, knowledge, and plans with them. Delegate meaningful segments or portions of tasks.
- Discuss the assigned task and set mutual goals and objectives. Clearly define the responsibilities, expectations, and bounds of authority for each delegated task. Emphasize the end goal, rather than the steps, to encourage creativity and innovation, while retaining focus. Communicate on the progress of the task but avoid micromanaging.
- Give accurate, honest, and tactful feedback to encourage growth.
- Delegate! As a leader, it can be hard to let go because you like being the "doer," but let your appointees have ownership of their assigned jobs.



SETTING THE TONE & CREATING A HEALTHY CLUB CULTURE

Setting the tone for your organization can be difficult at times, as leadership roles inherently come with stress and a glaring spotlight that can be unforgiving if not handled properly.

Be a leader whom you would want to follow.

When setting the tone for your organization always remember to put yourself in your team's shoes first. If you know that members look forward to coming to club meetings, you have taken a great first step in establishing a culture of success. If the opposite is true, your club's cultural climate could be headed in the wrong direction. Assess your club's activities and how club members interact with each other. Do they respect others' ideas and opinions and work together as a team? Are they invested in the club's projects? Or should a new format or ideas be introduced at meetings to increase interest and engagement? Recognize challenges and do not be afraid to propose changes when needed.

Always be accessible.

In setting the tone for your club, it is always a good policy to make yourself as accessible as possible to your club members. A collaborative atmosphere where people feel at ease with providing their input on any given topic fosters trust within the club, which contributes greatly to a culture of success.

Always maintain your composure.

Maintaining composure at all times is a key component to setting a positive tone for any organization. If the leader of a club regularly succumbs to the pressures around her and often loses her composure, the team around her will likely follow suit. A cool and levelheaded leader helps to foster a calm, steady culture within the organization.

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Stay positive when adversity hits.

It is a given that every club is going to be hit with adversity. However, maintaining an eye on the future, keeping a positive outlook, and realizing that every setback is only temporary has a direct impact on how the members around you react. Showing confidence that brighter days lie ahead, which they always do, imbues that confidence in the members around you and goes a long way towards building a positive culture for your club.

Make the mission bigger than yourself or the club.

As the leader of any club, you have the power to inspire. One of the most effective ways to do this is to clearly articulate the mission you have undertaken and what it contributes to the world around you. Whether serving in the club, District, or State Federation, when members fully understand the lasting impact their efforts will have, there's a buy-in and a passion for fulfilling the mission that goes a long way towards creating a sustainable culture of success. In leadership roles, it is impossible not to contribute to the culture within the organizations we serve. Setting the right tone and staying focused on maintaining it over time can, and should, ensure that leadership efforts have a lasting impact.

DEVELOPING A LEADERSHIP ACTION PLAN FOR YOUR CLUB

A Leadership Action Plan helps leaders understand the club's strengths and weaknesses. The plan assists clubs in setting goals and taking actions to become stronger clubs. Consider making a Leadership Action Plan that will encourage self-examination and evaluation, develop action steps to achieve the goals in the plan, and set a timeline for accomplishing goals. Tools located in the GFWC Member Portal in the Leadership Toolkit can be helpful in creating the plan.

Steps to include in a Leadership Plan:

1. Determine the strengths of club volunteers using surveys and small group meetings to determine interests.
2. Provide training:
    a. Develop procedure books for Community Service Program (CSP) chairmen or large project chairmen.
    b. Develop a comprehensive list of responsibilities for officers and chairmen.
    c. Hold group training meetings:
        i. Provide resources (i.e., GFWC and state websites).
        ii. Share club reporting information (the "how to," recording, and tracking data for projects, activities, and forms, etc.).
    d. Establish important dates for club calendar, including deadlines for newsletters.
    e. Determine financial needs either from the club or through donations.
3. Assign mentors to provide guidance for new leaders.
4. Hold a yearly planning meeting to establish goals and set timelines for the year.
5. Hold routine CSP or Advancement Plan committee meetings to plan projects and activities.
6. Evaluate your club projects at the completion of the work.
    a. Were they successful/did they achieve the goal established?
    b. If not, why? What could you have done differently?
    c. Should they be done again?

A Leadership Action Plan is an important tool to ensure that the goals of your club stay at the forefront of all decisions and serve as a guide throughout the year. Revising the Leadership Action Plan periodically will keep the club energized and focused on manageable goals.

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CREATING A PLAN OF SUCCESSION

An orderly transition of officers is the glue that holds an organization together. It implies stability, confidence, and continuity of operation. We must also be prepared for unexpected vacancies with a written succession plan in place. This can help the club handle the inevitable challenges of leadership transition.

TIPS FOR LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

- Identify present and future challenges and the qualifications necessary for a leader to meet them. Prepare a job description to provide a complete depiction of the role and responsibilities.
- Have an established timeline for leadership succession.
- Establish an Emergency Plan, similar to a lesson plan, to include delegation of duties and authority during an unexpected transition.
- Provide leadership development for all members so they will have a broader knowledge of the club, state, and international activities.
- Be sure to get the support of all members for newly placed officers.
- Help new officers feel confident enough to find their own voice.
- Avoid micromanaging new officers. Give them the opportunity to do their job but assist when asked to do so.

Careful planning is the most important part of a successful transition. Plus, a strong transition plan helps members feel confident and secure. Create a structured process to ensure leadership continuity and to retain and develop knowledge and relationships in the future. A powerful succession plan focuses on ensuring the flow of information is open and concise for the new leadership.

Transition planning also helps the current leaders "let go" through sharing of information. There's no "easy" button for leaders, but those who have served long-term positions can face especially tough transitions. They are proud of their achievements and are attached to the projects they leave behind.

No matter how long or well a leader has served, it is best for all clubwomen to have a plan for transferring knowledge and authority and letting go of role "ownership." Somehow, all the information that is stored only in the leader's head must be accessed and captured. But how? Consider creating a Transition Plan Checklist or use the one that can be found in the Leadership Toolkit.

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

BOOKS

Turn Around, Lisa Gable

The Power of Presence, Kristi Hedges

Tribes, Seth Godwin

Take Action Fighting for Women and Girls, Stephanie Foster

Eat That Frog, Brian Tracy

Dare to Lead, Brene Brown

Developing the Leader Within You 2.0, John Maxwell

Find Your Why, Simon Sinek

Getting Things Done, David Allen

How Women Rise, Sally Helgesen & Marshall Goldsmith

Never Split the Difference, Chris Voss

Start with Why, Simon Sinek

Ted Talks Guide to Public Speaking, Chris Anderson

The Infinite Game, Simon Sinek

The Motive, Patrick Lencioni

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The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Steven Covey

The Speed of Trust, Steven Covey

Think Again, Adam Grant

Tiny Leaps, Big Changes, Gregg Clunis

Who Moved My Cheese? Spencer Johnson, MD

WEBSITES

LivingAsALeader.com: Good blog articles and book summaries

ctb.ku.edu/en/building-leadership: Community Tool Box, Building Leadership resources

Readitfor.Me: Paid subscription service 200+ book summaries

JamesClear.com: Building systems and habits

Trello.com: Free project management

Genhq.com: Leader in generational studies

TED TALKS

Amy Cuddy: *Your Body Language May Shape Who You Are* (power posing, the book is *Presence*)

Simon Sinek: *How Great Leaders Inspire Action* (the book is *Start with Why*)

Brene Brown: *The Power of Vulnerability* (books are *Dare to Lead, Doing Greatly, Rising Strong*)

Dan Pink: *The Puzzle of Motivation* (the book is Drive)

Natalie Fratto: *3 Ways to Measure Your Adaptability, and How to Improve It*

Stanley McChrystal: *Listen, Learn, then Lead*

Drew Dudley: *Lollipop Moments*

PODCASTS

Craig Groeschel Leadership

Next Level Leaders with Nichole Harrop

Tiny Leaps, Big Changes

Women Taking the Lead with Jodi Flynn

APPS

GLOSE

Libby, by OverDrive

Hoopla

Cloud Library

THE GFWC LEADERSHIP TOOLKIT

This well-received resource contains a variety of topics available in the GFWC Member Portal and is updated frequently.

To access the toolkit, you must first have a GFWC Member Portal account.

- To create an account, or login, go to GFWC.org and click on Member Login at the top right corner of the page. Or directly login from memberportal.gfwc.org
- Click on the Digital Library Page
- The Leadership Toolkit can be found under "Toolkits." The entire toolkit will download as a .zip file. To open the folder, just double-click.

Topics are recommended by GFWC leaders and include the following resources, some of which are also available in this plan:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Access personal development resources.
- Discover your unique personality and strengths.
- Explore the principles of empowered well-being.
- Learn effective time management.

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- Set achievable goals and cast a compelling vision.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS

- Build leadership and encourage new leaders.
- Create a plan of succession and checklist for leadership transition.
- Provide and receive constructive feedback.
- Refine leadership development strategies to be more relevant.
- Set the tone and create a healthy club culture.
- Strengthen conflict resolution skills.

CLUB, DISTRICT, AND STATE FEDERATION LEADER RESOURCES

- Accept your fiduciary responsibility.
- Adhere to principles of protocol.
- Celebrate GFWC history and highlights.
- Conduct business utilizing an agenda.
- Develop an effective club budget.
- Enjoy the benefits of belonging to GFWC.
- Follow parliamentary procedure.
- Identify all GFWC Deadlines/Awards/Contests.
- Investigate applying for 501(c)(3) status.
- Know GFWC governance and organizational structure.
- Plan State, District, and Region Meetings.
- Review officer duties & responsibilities.
- Start with sample GFWC club bylaws.
- Survey your members to understand their needs.
- Teach parliamentary procedure in a workshop.
- Understand nonprofit financial statements.

GFWC LEADS

The GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS) identifies GFWC members at the local level who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their State Federations and/or GFWC on the national level. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help up-and-coming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher leadership roles or offices and serve with distinction.

GFWC LEADS is held annually on the day prior to the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. The program may include the following:

- Overview of public speaking, time management, vision casting, and conflict resolution.
- Explanation of GFWC resources, materials, and assistance.

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- Outline of GFWC policies, parliamentary procedure, and protocol.
- Discussion of tips and techniques for pursuing personal growth and developing leadership opportunities.

One attendee from each State Federation and International Affiliate Club is eligible to participate in the annual GFWC LEADS program. GFWC demonstrates its commitment to training leaders by funding a portion of the expenses of candidates who are members of per capita dues paying clubs. State Federations may also offer to fund a portion of expenses. LEADS candidates are asked to be responsible for a portion of expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment to their leadership development and training. Contact your state leadership chairman for an application and deadline information.

STATE AND DISTRICT LEADS PROGRAMS

States and Districts are encouraged to hold a LEADS program to identify and develop strong potential leaders prepared to assume club, District, and State leadership positions. By implementing a well-designed LEADS event, the leadership experience gap will be addressed, and the talent and enthusiasm of a trained, confident group of volunteers will be more effectively used. The individual members, as well as our organization and communities, will benefit. State leadership can determine when the state or District LEADS program is best conducted. A new resource section has been added to the Leadership Toolkit for use in creating half- and full-day LEADS events using materials available in the toolkit.

Members of the 2024-2026 GFWC Leadership Committee are experienced and have diverse and comprehensive backgrounds. We are dedicated to GFWC and look forward to developing strong leaders through our partnership. The vision we cast as leaders while engaging our members will ensure an even greater impact by our GFWC clubs. Each GFWC Region has a representative on the Leadership Committee. Please reach out to these talented leaders for their assistance and guidance.

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Leadership projects, as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- $50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Leadership Advancement Plan. Entries should be submitted to the State Leadership Chairman.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

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LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2024–2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

"EVERY GREAT DREAM BEGINS WITH A DREAMER. ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU THE STRENGTH, THE PATIENCE AND THE PASSION TO REACH FOR THE STARS TO CHANGE THE WORLD." HARRIET TUBMAN

For more than 130 years, GFWC members have raised awareness of specific issues requiring attention at the national level through their advocacy efforts. GFWC members' advocacy efforts are practical, not political. GFWC members worked to pass laws affecting highway safety, juvenile justice, women's suffrage, the rights of the disabled, equal pay for women, and increased resources for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Our efforts can change lives! Our empathetic members use public advocacy to seek solutions to local, state, and national concerns. Our organization is strengthened by resolutions and advocacy, which make a difference.

During the 2024–2026 Administration, the Legislation/Public Policy Committee is guided by our theme, *Raise Our United Voices*. The goals of the Legislation/Public Policy Committee during this Administration include:

- Increasing advocacy through the Legislative Action Center.
- Educating members about GFWC's legislative priorities.
- Promoting Legislative Advocacy as the natural extension of our members' volunteer work for each of the Special Programs and all the Community Service Programs.
- Building relationships with the local, state, regional, and national decision-makers.
- Establishing the GFWC name as a brand that lawmakers and the community recognize.
- Mobilizing our members to raise a united voice to advocate for GFWC and its legislative priorities.

2024-2026 LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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CLUB CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

LEGISLATIVE LADDER



ACTION PLAN: During 2024-2026, GFWC clubs are challenged to "step up" to EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER through the concrete steps of the Legislative Ladder, found in the Member Portal Digital Library. Steps do not need to be completed sequentially. Individual steps may be reported only once each reporting year but may be engaged in multiple times during the club year. The point values identified for each step is the total that may be accumulated annually. Certificates will be awarded for clubs reporting activities with point values totaling 35 points or more. Individual club recognition will take place during the 2025 and 2026 GFWC Annual Conventions.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



INFORMATION BOOTH

GFWC Sylvania Junior Woman's Club (GA) held a political "party," inviting all local and state politicians to participate by having a booth with information about themselves and issues of importance. The party was open to the public and was held on the courthouse lawn with food trucks selling refreshments.



BIRTHDAY CARDS

The club members of GFWC Naperville Woman's Club (IL) wrote birthday cards to students turning eighteen in the five area high schools, encouraging them to vote. The club was provided lists of students identified by first names and numbers, so members could assemble for the teachers to distribute. The club worked with the League of Women Voters on this project.



GFWC NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRACY QUIZ

GFWC of Holden Beach (NC) members, in preparation for the mid-term election season, had a GFWC North Carolina Democracy Quiz in the October newsletter, and all members were encouraged to take it. The answers were distributed and reviewed at the November meeting and published in the newsletter.



LEGISLATION TASK FORCE

GFWC of Pewaukee (WI) formed a Legislation Task Force to focus on safety related issues in their community. The task force identified the need for walking trails and bike paths and contacted elected officials.

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MAKING GFWC'S PRESENCE KNOWN: THE 2024-2026 LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

During the 2024-2026 Administration, the Executive Committee will work with the Legislation/Public Policy Committee to identify federal legislative priorities for each of the Community Service Programs areas and Special Programs - Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention and Advocates for Children. These will be announced on a calendar year basis to coincide with the Congressional sessions and will be available on the GFWC website. The GFWC Legislative Action Center will be utilized to educate clubwomen about timely issues and urge them to contact their members of Congress. It is critical that GFWC members respond to these requests for action. Just being a member on paper is not enough, you must advocate.

THE GFWC LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER: A DIRECT LINK TO CONGRESS

The GFWC Legislative Action Center (LAC) is the primary tool that GFWC uses to educate and mobilize its members. Members who sign up for the LAC receive updates on specific legislation GFWC is supporting. These updates let members know when to contact their national legislators about a bill. The Alert will include information about the issue and a prepared message directly related to a GFWC Resolution(s). Once activated by enrolled members, the message will automatically be sent to the member's respective Congressional leaders.

The GFWC Legislative Action Center is now available for use by individual state federations. State federations may now contact their membership through GFWC to request they reach out to their elected officials on statewide legislative issues. Before taking action, the following GFWC LAC policies and procedures must be followed:

- States may request that GFWC send state alerts in the following areas:
  - GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention
  - Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children
  - Community Service Program Area: Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health and Wellness
- Issues must be germane to GFWC Resolutions.
- The State President must submit required material to the GFWC Programs Department and GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days from the date the alert is scheduled to be sent.
- All LAC state alert requests are subject to approval by the GFWC Programs Department, GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman, GFWC Second Vice President, and the GFWC International President.

To realize the full potential of this tool, however, members must sign up for the LAC and then take action.

REGISTERING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER (LAC) IS EASY

You can sign up for the LAC by going to the GFWC website (GFWC.org), clicking on the "What We Do" tab, then clicking on Legislation/Public Policy, and click on the linked words "Legislative Action Center." Members fill in their name, address, and email address then click in the boxes under "Remember Me" and "Email Opt-In" to receive the notifications issued by GFWC and then "TAKE ACTION" by responding to the notifications that the member supports. (The direct link to the LAC is https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home)

Members are encouraged to share the information from the LAC notifications with their family, friends, and local community.

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ACTION PLAN: Make signing up for the LAC a club meeting event. Bring a computer to your club meeting to enroll members. Invite a representative from GFWC or your State Federation to answer questions. Explain that those enrolled will be notified via email with language for action GFWC would like to see taken on a bill. After reviewing the provided language, members can inform their Congressional delegates simply by clicking "Take Action."

ADVOCATING AT THE LEGISLATIVE LEVEL

Most of GFWC's advocacy efforts take place at the legislative level – our members advocate for or against a specific piece of legislation. We also advocate for the legislature to fund specific programs. Effective advocacy at the legislative level requires that our members engage decision-makers and learn that there is an opportunity to advocate at every stage of that process. The Legislation/Public Policy Committee wants you to understand your role in the legislative process and how every club member can make an impact.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: ENGAGING WITH DECISION MAKERS

On the local, state, and national level, legislative work begins with the introduction of a proposal in the form of a bill. One of the most effective ways a GFWC member can influence the passage of legislation is by encouraging her senators or representatives to sponsor or co-sponsor a bill. After a bill is introduced, it is assigned to a committee. GFWC members can express their opinions to their legislators serving on the committee. The committee process represents one of the best opportunities for GFWC members to express their opinions. If a bill is scheduled for vote, GFWC members are encouraged to contact their congressmen to advocate for passage or defeat of the bill. The LAC uses its notification process to alert GFWC members about upcoming legislation actions that require attention.

EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

To be an effective advocate, GFWC members need to build relationships with the decision-makers who impact their lives. This requires members to contact their legislators. Contact occurs in three ways: personal meetings, emailed correspondence, and telephone calls. Here are some suggestions to help maximize the effectiveness of your advocacy efforts.

MEET WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Schedule an appointment in advance.
- Open the meeting by identifying yourself as a constituent and explain your GFWC affiliation. Emphasize the fact that you are speaking for yourself and others, if appropriate.
- Assume that neither the legislator nor the legislator's staff has any detailed understanding of the issue at hand or any knowledge about GFWC.
- Be prepared with a short, direct, and fact-based statement of the issue in question and the specific action you are asking the legislator to take. Relate how the issue affects you, other constituents, and/or specific groups. Let them know why the issue is important to their constituents.
- Have a "Leave Behind." Bring information you can leave with the legislative staff. Include the following: a succinct, one-page fact sheet; in-depth materials (for legislative aides who may want more information); information on GFWC and your State Federation or local club; your name and contact information. Place all of these items in a single folder and, if possible, affix a GFWC logo sticker to the front of the folder or purchase GFWC folders through the Marketplace.
- Be sympathetic to the time demands made on legislators and their staff.
- Remain fact-based and focused on the action you want the legislator to take. Do not argue with the legislator or staff member. Always remember that advocacy is about educating so action

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can be taken. Be passionate – not personal.

- Follow-up after the meeting with a thank-you email and to see if there are any questions or any requests for additional information.
- Once you have established contact with your legislator's office, keep a line of communication open by touching base periodically with new information on the issue you met about or on other issues. Build that relationship.

EMAIL YOUR LEGISLATOR

- The best way to communicate in writing with your Congressional representatives is by email. Due to security concerns, mailed correspondence can be delayed for weeks. Email is a more effective and timely means of communication.
- Each member of Congress establishes their office's policy related to the processing and management of email. Generally, if a member has a public email address, it can be found on the member's website. The office may list a public email address or provide a form directly on the member's website.
- Place your name and address at the top of the message. The first thing your representative wants to determine is if you live in his or her district.
- Address your legislator as The Honorable, Senator, Representative, or Congressman/Congresswoman in the greeting. Insert the GFWC emblem on your correspondence.
- Remember to identify yourself and your GFWC affiliation.
- Explain the reason for your correspondence and refer to the specific legislation you want addressed. Be specific about the action you want your legislator to take. Explain how the issue in question directly affects you, your family, and/or your community.
- Keep the correspondence succinct and direct. Include as many relevant facts as possible, citing sources for those facts, if available. Keep it as short as possible while still getting your point across.
- Address no more than one issue in your correspondence.

CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR'S OFFICE

- Phone calls are an excellent advocacy tool when an immediate vote is scheduled to take place on a bill of interest.
- Keep in mind you will typically speak with a member of the legislator's staff. Ask that your position be transmitted to your senator or representative and request a written response from the legislator's office.
- At the outset of the phone call, give your full name, address, and GFWC affiliation.
- Identify the specific action you want your senator or representative to take.
- Keep your call short and focused. Remain fact-based and do not engage in debate or argument.
- Do not abuse the phone system – flooding the phone switchboard can result in a negative image of GFWC. Find that happy medium of a recognizable number of phone calls but not an abusive activity.

INVITE YOUR LEGISLATOR TO SPEAK

- Every GFWC club, State Federation, and Region needs speakers for events. Your local, state, and national legislative representatives (or their local staff members) are free speakers.
- Invite them to update your members on important local issues or areas of concern they are passionate about.
- Ask a legislator to present a keynote speech at your event. Remind your guest that the

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legislator may not solicit campaign contributions or ask for your members' vote in the upcoming election.

- Always remember to be respectful. You may not agree with everything the legislator talks about, and it is okay to ask difficult and thought-provoking questions, but never be disrespectful.
- A speaking invitation can open the door to further communications. Once opened, keep your foot in the door to develop a productive relationship.



ADVOCACY AND ISSUE AWARENESS: PROCLAMATIONS

A significant part of advocacy includes bringing attention to a specific issue or group. State Federations and local clubs can help raise awareness by asking their state or local governments for a proclamation recognizing a specific awareness day, week, or month or the anniversary of a club or State Federation. Sample proclamations may be found in the Legislative Toolkit.

Your chances of receiving a proclamation are greatly enhanced if you present a draft of the proclamation. When drafting a proclamation, follow these guidelines:

- Proclamations usually consist of two to five factual statements about the organization, issue, or event being recognized. Each of these statements should be preceded by the word "WHEREAS." (For example: "WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.")
- Following the factual statements, you should have one or more sentences that present the organization or event being recognized. The first of the sentences begins with the words "THEREFORE RESOLVED," and subsequent sentences begin with the phrase "AND FURTHER RESOLVED." (For example: "THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Jones recognizes April 24 as Federation Day.")
- When presenting the proclamation to officials, have them sign in descending order of rank. You may request proclamations from more than one entity (e.g., you could ask for a proclamation from your state, your county, and your city).
- For each proclamation ask that the entity apply the state/county/city seal to mark your proclamation as official.
- Promote the fact that the proclamation was issued with a photo on your website and on social media. Send a copy of the photo with a thank you letter to the issuing dignitary, with the request that the photo is shared on their website/newsletter.
- Share the proclamations with GFWC's Legislation/Public Policy Committee Chairman so GFWC can share in your success.

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CLUB LEVEL ADVOCACY - EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER

Individual GFWC clubs can educate members to enable advocacy and empower them to be effective public advocates. Once a clubwoman becomes an advocate, she plays a vital role in the legislative process.

EDUCATE MEMBERS ABOUT GFWC'S ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Appoint a club Legislation/Public Policy Chairman or designate a member to be responsible for reporting to the club on GFWC's advocacy efforts and resolutions.
- Give a club presentation on the GFWC Legislative Action Center. Have one or more members bring their computer to the meeting and help club members sign up for this advocacy tool.
- Educate members on the GFWC Resolutions by reading one at every club meeting and asking members why it is important in your community.
- Include a short article about a GFWC Resolution in every club newsletter. Do not just reprint them, talk about what it asks from members and why.
- Give a presentation on the Legislative Priorities for the 2024-2026 Administration.
- Reprint information from GFWC in your club newsletter or forward it to members via email.
- Invite a Legislation/Public Policy Chairman or committee member from the National, State, or District level to speak about GFWC's impressive history of advocacy and its current advocacy efforts.
- Provide club members with information about the Woman's History and Resource Center and the history of GFWC, which can be obtained from the GFWC website or purchased through the GFWC Marketplace.

EDUCATE MEMBERS ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND HOW TO ADVOCATE

- Present a club program on how a bill becomes a law. Consider playing the video "I'm Just a Bill" from Schoolhouse Rock (available on YouTube), which provides lots of information about the legislative process.
- Encourage club members to contact their senators and representatives via email, the LAC, or phone calls. Provide them with the tips for communicating with their legislators found in the Club Manual.
- Draft and distribute a sample letter or email for club members to send on a specific issue.
- Bring paper, envelopes, and stamps to a club meeting and have members write to their senators/representative urging passage of a bill or write to the senator or representative chairing the committee to which the bill was sent urging it be voted out of the committee. It is helpful to have sample language previously drafted. Do not forget to include the GFWC emblem in your correspondence.
- Write to the senator or representative chairing the committee to which the bill was sent urging it be voted out of the committee. Do not forget to include the GFWC emblem in your email. If your members do not live in that legislator's district, mail letters to a local office. This address can be found on the legislator's website.
- Present a program to teach members about the various levels of government (city, county, state, and national) where they can use their advocacy skills.
- Develop and distribute a directory that lists contact information for public officials and their staff. Include this information in your club directory and update it frequently as local office addresses often change.

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ENGAGE MEMBERS ON THE ISSUES

- If your club becomes interested in a specific issue, invite an elected official to a meeting to discuss the issue. Make this an open meeting, where you invite the public to attend.
- Become familiar with women's caucuses at both the state and national levels. Determine what issues they are focused on and if those issues also interest your club.
- Develop information for your members and the community on the effect of budget cuts on programs designed to benefit women and children.
- Ask members to share information on public policy issues that are of interest and/or concern to them. Email these articles to other members or provide them with copies at the club meeting. Use these articles to foster discussion and debate on public policy issues.

EMPOWER MEMBERS TO TAKE ACTION

- Make an appointment with a state or national legislator in his or her home office to discuss GFWC's top legislative priorities.
- If there is an issue before a legislative body that you want to advocate for or against, hold a letter-writing (email) campaign in your club.
- Hold a legislative day for your club, visiting your state legislature or local council meeting to advocate for an issue or piece of legislation that is important to you and your community. Consider partnering with other groups. For instance, if the issue is domestic violence, consider partnering with a state or local advocacy group whose sole focus is domestic violence awareness and prevention.
- Sponsor a voter education night in your community to inform voters.
- Sponsor a voter registration drive in your community. Visit NonprofitVote.org (www.nonprofitvote.org) for information, resources, and handouts.
- Ask a GFWC member who works as a public servant to share how her membership encouraged her to seek her current position and/or enhance her skills.

BUILDING GFWC RECOGNITION: USE THE GFWC EMBLEM

GFWC's advocacy efforts raise awareness of the organization as one working to influence change. To maximize this awareness, GFWC encourages members to use the GFWC emblem on all communications, promotional materials, and advocacy efforts.

GFWC members impact our nation and communities through the power of one. One member telling another who tells another is like compound interest – GFWC legislative and public policy initiatives will grow into waves that cannot be ignored! Members can share to their social media accounts and to the social media accounts of legislators when they "take action" on a particular bill.

- The GFWC emblem can be downloaded from the GFWC website via the Member Portal.

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Primary GFWC Emblem

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Vertical GFWC Emblem

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ADVOCACY DO'S AND DON'TS

GUESS WHAT?

A §501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION CAN ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY AND IT IS OK WITH THE IRS!

Some members are under the impression that because GFWC (or their State Federation or local club) holds Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 501(c)(3) status, its members cannot advocate or lobby. IRS guidelines do not ban advocacy activities. Rather, the IRS rules limit the types and amount of lobbying that a 501(c)(3) organization may engage in. A 501(c)(3) organization may advocate to raise awareness of an issue or to lobby for or against a piece of legislation. Lobbying may not be the primary purpose of the organization, nor may it constitute a substantial part of the organization's activities. If organizational funds are spent in lobbying efforts, those expenses must be reported on the organization's IRS Form 990 that all 501(c)(3) organizations may be required to complete. A 501(c)(3) organization may not endorse or oppose specific candidates or political parties.

Advocacy by GFWC members is important, and GFWC encourages it!

Here is a list of Advocacy "Do's and Don'ts" to ensure that your State Federation or local club stays within these guidelines:

DO

- Advocate for action on a specific issue or for a specific piece of legislation.
- Contact your national, state, and local elected officials directly, either in person or via email.
- Participate in voter registration drives.
- Hold nonpartisan forums to educate the public about one or more specific issues.
- Sponsor candidate forums, ensuring that all candidates receive a formal invitation to participate.
- Give only facts when referring to or speaking about a specific candidate or incumbent.
- Educate candidates on GFWC's resolutions and legislative priorities.
- Use the GFWC emblem when advocating on a GFWC-endorsed issue.

DON'T

- Endorse or oppose a specific candidate or political party.
- Use club funds, facilities, in-kind donations, publications, or events to promote a specific candidate or political party.
- Ask candidates to sign a pledge on any issue.
- Offer opinions about an incumbent or candidate.
- Support legislation that conflicts with a GFWC Resolution.

NOTE

A State Federation that takes a position in conflict with any GFWC Resolution must register a minority opinion with GFWC. If a State Federation takes legislative action on an issue that reflects this minority opinion, it must make clear that its position does not represent that of GFWC.

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AWARDS

GFWC recognizes outstanding and creative work in implementing the Legislation/Public Policy projects as follows:

- A certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- A $50 award to a single club for the most creative and effective project
- A certificate recognizing clubs that achieve status on the Legislative Ladder to be presented during the 2025 and 2026 GFWC International Convention.

To be eligible for awards, each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Legislation/Public Policy projects. Individual clubs must submit entries for activities included in the Legislative Ladder no later than March 15 to the Legislation/Public Policy Chairman and Programs@GFWC.org. See instructions included in the Legislative Ladder Form.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

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RESOLUTIONS AND ADVOCACY

GFWC advocates for or against an issue only if a resolution on the issue has been adopted by its members. Resolutions can be found on the GFWC website and the Member Portal. Resolutions are tools members should use to advocate and educate about important issues at the local, state, and national levels. If a subject is not addressed by a GFWC resolution, members cannot use GFWC's name to advocate for or against the issue but may advocate as concerned individuals. If members feel an issue needs to be addressed by GFWC, any local club can submit a resolution for consideration by their individual State Federation for adoption according to the State's rules. If adopted by the State, that Resolution can be forwarded to the GFWC Resolutions Committee for consideration. Every resolution currently in effect started with a proposal to the Resolutions Committee.

WHAT TO ADVOCATE FOR: UNLOCKING THE GFWC RESOLUTIONS

GFWC's national advocacy efforts are based on GFWC Resolutions that address issues of national or international scope that are germane to the work or interests of GFWC members. GFWC Resolutions address issues covering the Community Service Programs and Special Programs such as domestic and sexual violence awareness and prevention, education, women's health, promotion of the arts, conservation, highway safety, gun safety, and the United Nations/UNICEF. Many resolutions call for GFWC members to advocate not only for national legislation but also for state laws that address a specific issue.

The GFWC Resolutions are easy to find! Members can download a PDF of the GFWC Resolutions from the GFWC website and the Member Portal.

HOW ARE RESOLUTIONS DRAFTED AND ADOPTED?

GFWC individual members control the legislative agenda via the resolutions process. Under the GFWC Bylaws, the Resolutions Committee proposes all resolutions to the GFWC membership for adoption or rejection. The Executive Committee, individual State Federations, and the GFWC Community Service Program Chairmen, Standing Committee Chairmen, Special Committee Chairmen, and International Liaisons Chairman may submit proposed resolutions to the Resolutions Committee. The committee studies the proposed resolutions and determines which resolutions to bring before the GFWC membership. Additionally, the Resolutions Committee may propose resolutions based on its own research or input from GFWC members and/or any of the GFWC committees. Resolutions are debated and voted on by delegates at the GFWC Annual Convention. Prior to the Convention, proposed new resolutions (as well as any current resolutions proposed to be continued, amended, or rescinded) are posted on the GFWC website and are included in the *Call to Convention* distributed in the spring. When a resolution is brought to the convention floor, delegates can debate and amend that resolution. If a majority of voting delegates vote in favor of a resolution, the resolution is adopted and is a basis for GFWC public policy initiatives and advocacy activities. Attending the GFWC Annual Convention as a delegate makes each member an active participant in GFWC's legislative process. You are the decision makers!

HOW CAN STATES AND CLUBS USE THE GFWC RESOLUTIONS?

In addition to serving as a basis for national advocacy efforts, GFWC Resolutions can be used to advocate in your state or local legislative body. If a GFWC Resolution addresses an issue, members may

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2024-2026 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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advocate with respect to that issue at the state and local levels. If no GFWC Resolution covers a state-specific issue, then the State Federation should draft and adopt a resolution for action. NOTE: NO STATE MAY TAKE A POSITION OR PASS A RESOLUTION THAT CONFLICTS WITH A GFWC RESOLUTION.

HOW TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION

Resolutions consist of four parts: the title, the "whereas[es]," the "resolved(s)," and a "submitted by."

The title should be clear, concise, and convey the general idea of the topic of the resolution. If the resolution deals with a particular piece of legislation, you may utilize that in the title.

The "whereas" clauses contain facts that explain the rationale for the resolution. Each resolution should contain no more than three "whereas" clauses, each of which should identify a specific fact or set of facts, including statistics, if available; the effect of these facts on at least a part of the population; and why these facts demonstrate a need for action.

The "resolved" clauses should set forth, in positive terms, the action or policy called for by the resolution. If your resolution calls for action on a pending piece of legislation, include the bill number. Each resolution should contain no more than two resolved clauses.

The "submitted by," will be the last section of the resolution, and it should identify the name of the State Federation, GFWC Committee, or GFWC Chairman submitting the resolution for consideration. This information should be placed in the lower right-hand corner of the last page of the resolution. If a State Federation submits the resolution, the names of its President and Recording Secretary should be listed, followed by their signatures. If a committee submits the resolution, the chairman's name should be included, followed by her signature.

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO GFWC?

Before submitting a new resolution, you should review the current GFWC Resolutions to ensure a similar one does not already exist. If there is no resolution addressing that specific issue, any individual or entity eligible to submit a proposed resolution may draft one for consideration by the GFWC Resolutions Committee. Local clubs or individuals should submit a proposed resolution to their State Federation for consideration at its next state convention.* Resolutions passed at state conventions should then be forwarded to GFWC. Proposed resolutions must be typed and accompanied by supporting documentation.** All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the GFWC Resolutions Committee Chairman by November 1 of the year preceding the GFWC Annual Convention at which the resolution will be considered (e.g., resolutions to be considered at the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention must be submitted no later than November 1, 2024). For more information about the resolutions process, refer to the GFWC Standing Rules, available through the Member Portal Digital Library at memberportal.GFWC.org.

Before submitting a resolution, you should carefully consider the following: (1) Is this issue/topic of special interest to many, some, or only a few members? (2) Does this resolution fall within the scope of one of the GFWC's Community Service Programs or Special Programs? (3) Could the goal of the proposed new resolution be achieved by amending an existing resolution?

** Specific procedures for proposing and adopting resolutions at the state level should be outlined in each State Federation's bylaws.*

*** Supporting documentation would include articles, surveys, statistics, reports, and studies that support the facts on which the resolution is based. The Resolutions Committee needs to understand WHY this issue is important to GFWC members.*

QUESTIONS ABOUT RESOLUTIONS?

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LEGISLATIVE LADDER

EDUCATE
EMPOWER
ENGAGE

1. CLUB INFORMATION		
Club Name		
State Federation		
Club President's Name		
Phone	Email	

2. CONTACT PERSON		
Contact Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

3. SUBMISSION YEAR

☐ 2025 (July 2024 - March 15, 2025) ☐ 2026 (April 2025 - March 15, 2026)

4. INSTRUCTIONS

GFWC clubs are challenged to **annually** "step up" to EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER by tackling varied concrete steps of the Legislative Ladder. Steps do not need to be completed sequentially. Individual steps may be listed only once each submission year but may be engaged in multiple times. The point values identified for each step are the total that may be accumulated annually. Certificates will be awarded for clubs submitting activities with point values totaling 35 points or more. Individual club recognition will take place during the 2025 and 2026 GFWC Annual Conventions.

Completed Legislative Ladder forms must be emailed to Chairman Mary Pat Marcello (njsfwcmarypat@aol.com) and Programs@GFWC.org no later than **March 15** annually.

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4. GFWC'S LEGISLATIVE LADDER

Check applicable boxes

☐ 1. Increase club enrollment by 10% annually in the Legislative Action Center. (25 points)

Total club membership _____ Previously registered _____ Newly registered _____

☐ 2. Request a proclamation from a "decision-maker" (i.e., town council, mayor, state or U.S. Congressman, governor) recognizing, for example, a "week" promoted in one of the CSPs, a club anniversary, etc. (5 points)

Topic: _____ Issued by: _____

☐ 3. Conduct a program on GFWC's Resolutions and how and why they are created and adopted. (5 points)

☐ 4. Invite a local decision-maker to discuss issues relevant to your community. (10 points)

Whom did you invite? _____ Topic: _____

☐ 5. Identify a GFWC Resolution and develop a club project to support the Resolution. (15 points)

Resolution: _____ Project: _____

☐ 6. Take action on a current GFWC/State Resolution (i.e., write an email, send a "letter to the editor," speak at a local government meeting, or create a community coalition). (10 points)

Resolution: _____ Action: _____

☐ 7. Draft a Resolution to submit to your State for consideration. (15 points)

Topic: _____ Adopted? (Y/N) _____

☐ 8. Visit a State legislator/staff to advocate on an issue of your choice. (15 points)

Topic: _____

FOR GFWC USE ONLY: Total Points: _____

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MEMBERSHIP
ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is proudly represented in thousands of communities around the world by dedicated volunteers who work to better the lives of others, make cities and towns better places to live, and extend the hand of friendship to those near and far. We are individuals of diverse talents, interests, and backgrounds united by a dedication to community improvement through volunteer service.

GFWC offers a network of support for more than 60,000 clubwomen who volunteer on a local, state, national, and international level. Working together, we constitute a powerful, service-oriented organization that encourages volunteerism through training and coaching, leadership opportunities, personal enrichment, and many other benefits. Various GFWC resources, from members-only materials to legislative alerts, support individuals and clubs in their volunteer efforts.

The many benefits of belonging to GFWC include:

- **Strength in Unity.** GFWC members strengthen their voice in shaping public issues and policy through the combined efforts of women serving in their club, District, State Federation, Region, or at the national level.
- **Support and encouragement.** GFWC offers members a network of women with similar interests and concerns. Fun, fellowship, and lasting friendships are a large part of the GFWC experience.
- **Leadership training and professional development.** Knowledge and experience acquired through GFWC volunteer training and community service can enhance a personal resume and open the door to new career or personal opportunities. They can also prompt new academic pursuits and success in a wide variety of fields.
- **A varied volunteer menu.** GFWC offers many national resources to help clubs plan and create community service projects in the diverse areas of Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health and Wellness. GFWC also supports Special Programs that advance issues of Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention and encourages members to become Advocates for Children.
- **Health and happiness.** Studies show that the personal satisfaction that comes from making a positive difference helps volunteers live longer, function better, suffer fewer ills, and enjoy life to the fullest.

2024-2026 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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Darlene Adams,
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CLUB CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



At the start of each week, highlight a member of your club, District, or State on your social media platforms and use the hashtag **#WeAreGFWC**. Hashtags are used to raise awareness as they bring social media traffic to your tagged posts. And that is what we want—more people to learn about the General Federation of Women's Clubs! Be succinct when creating your social media content and always include a picture of the member being highlighted. Be sure to obtain the proper media releases before publishing her name and photo, however. Also, tag your club and state pages to broaden your reach and increase exposure!

FOLLOW US ONLINE

facebook.com/GFWCMembers
Daily GFWC Updates

@gfwc_hq
GFWC News

@gfwc_whrc
Women's History & Resource Center

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FEATURED PROJECTS



WHO AM I?

Who am I? That is the question GFWC Semper Fidelis Club (ME) wanted to know about all their members. So, the club president introduced a game to do just that. Each member was given a list of fifteen questions to answer about themselves, such as "What is next on your bucket list? What did you want to be when you were small? What is the coolest place to which you have ever traveled?" The completed sheets were all turned in to the President, and two lists were read at the start of each meeting. The club reported how fun it was to go around the room with each attendee, trying to match up the answers to the members!



JUNIORETTES PLAN MEMBERSHIP EVENT

GFWC Dominion Juniorette Club (VA) demonstrated leadership skills in planning a membership event. The girls arranged the event and planned to give an informative presentation about the club. Each member had an opportunity to contribute to the presentation, some preparing the PowerPoint and some speaking. They explained what the club did and the fun they had while completing projects to ignite interest in joining the club. Only minor guidance from the sponsoring club was given to these girls early on.



BUILDING A GREAT YEAR

GFWC Austintown Junior Women's League (OH) held a construction theme membership mixer with hardhats, safety vests, and construction theme décor, such as orange cones, dump trucks, rocks, and dirt. As members and guests arrived, they were each given a construction cone with a number on it to guide them to the table where they were to be seated, mixing members with guests. Food and desserts were enjoyed by all. Everyone assessed their skills with a game of ring toss on orange cones, and each table was given a construction kit, complete with graham crackers, frosting, and candies, to test their team-building skills. The results were imaginative, and the event was successful as they "built" several new members.



MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

GFWC Thompson Falls Woman's Club (MT) has less than one-third of its members who have been part of GFWC for more than five years. It became necessary to help all members understand what being part of the GFWC Montana Federation means. A committee was formed to present three one-hour sessions. **Who Are We?** – Brief history of GFWC, including headquarters building, GFWC Montana, the structure of GFWC, eight Regions, eleven States in the Western States Region, and GFWC Montana's three Districts. This session concluded with the presentation of a promotional video produced by GFWC. **What We Do** – The GFWC Club Manual and its contents were the topics of this session. **Nuts and Bolts** – This session covered awards, programs, LEADS, GFWC Digital Library, *News & Notes*, and *Clubwoman Magazine*.

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MARKETING GFWC MEMBERSHIP

The more you TELL, the more you SELL, so tell the benefits of GFWC membership whenever you can. Assure a prospective member that her experience will be rewarding, challenging, and stimulating. Bring GFWC and club promotional materials to all projects and events. Promote membership by wearing GFWC emblematic apparel, pins, and buttons.

PROMOTE THE VALUE OF GFWC

Do you realize that your annual GFWC membership dues are just $15 a year? Many people spend that much money for a movie and popcorn, without a second thought. Your dues provide:

- The GFWC Club Manual, which contains information and resources that strengthen your background knowledge and club's activities:
  - Special Programs - The Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention and the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children.
  - Advancement Plans - Communications and Public Relations, Fundraising and Development, Leadership, Legislation/Public Policy, Membership, and the Women's History and Resource Center.
  - The Community Service Programs, which offer tools for developing and executing action plans to create effective projects in Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health and Wellness.
  - The GFWC Awards, Contests, and Grants, which provide recognition and/or financial rewards to GFWC members, clubs, and State Federations.
- The GFWC Communication Tools, which offer up-to-date information to keep members and clubs informed and connected:
  - GFWC's website (www.GFWC.org) is our cornerstone communication channel that provides organizational history and current information, notice of upcoming events, member and club highlights, GFWC Marketplace access, and various resource and program materials.
  - *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, our quarterly electronic magazine, includes seasonal happenings and events, provides club information and support, including everything from administrative details to Affiliate Organization initiatives, guest articles, and more.
  - *News & Notes*, GFWC's weekly e-newsletter, provides timely information straight to your inbox, with highlights of various programs, member and club news, plus GFWC Marketplace sales. Look for a link to the GFWC Blog for an inside peek at many successful club projects.
  - GFWC Facebook provides daily updates on historic commemorations and current events. Join the conversation, connect with fellow members, and be the first to know about special offers. Go to www.Facebook.com/GFWCMembers to get started.
- The GFWC Member tab at www.GFWC.org/Membership, contains resources to help members and clubs reap the rewards of GFWC's dynamic network of community volunteers, including:
  - Member Discounts with a listing of companies offering special discounts
  - A Mediators Program that offers specialized, confidential assistance with difficult issues related to club members and/or club development.
  - A Top Projects lists of Award Entries may be found in the Digital Library. These projects are sure to stimulate new ideas and activities in clubs.
- The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center provides members with access to GFWC Headquarters and its archives through tours, exhibits, publications, and an interactive history timeline on the GFWC website. The GFWC WHRC publishes a quarterly newsletter that all members can subscribe to via the GFWC Member Portal.

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- GFWC affinity programs offer various member benefits and discounts, including travel and tour opportunities, auto, home, and pet insurance, office products through ODP Business Solutions, and hearing benefits. Information can be found on the website homepage on the Membership pull-down tab.

Add benefits and rewards to this list that are specific to your club. Take time at a meeting to have members share their own stories about membership in the club and how GFWC has been a valuable life resource for them. Personal anecdotes are the best way to effectively communicate the benefits of belonging to GFWC.



GFWC CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE

The quarterly electronic magazine of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, whose members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service, is available to all members in the Member Portal. It is located in the Digital Library under "Clubwoman."

RETENTION

After a summer break, many clubs renew their work in August or September. This is an opportune time to strengthen core groups of members.

Start the new club year right by surveying members. For example, you can ask the club officers to give a list of their "Wells and Betters." This includes what they thought the club did well over the past year and what they believe the club could do better. When you are honest with yourselves on your weaknesses, you can develop new approaches, highlight your strengths, and enjoy a renewed sense of purpose and focus.

Here are a few ways you can strengthen membership retention in your club!

EDUCATE YOUR MEMBERS

Research shows that a positive program on the benefits of belonging to GFWC can increase a club's overall retention rate. This program, or a "Federation Refresher," is essential for instilling a sense of pride and purpose in both new and seasoned members.

All members should be knowledgeable about GFWC, which offers many programs designed to keep members informed and connected. In any refresher, include information on why Unity in Diversity was chosen as the GFWC motto and why it is as important today as it was when it was adopted at the first GFWC Convention.

Create one-on-one connections with GFWC:

- Encourage attendance at District, State Federation, Region, and GFWC meetings. Plan to go to every GFWC meeting with a full car! Make every trip an adventure.
- Invite a State Federation Officer or another GFWC leader to speak at a club meeting. Use the speaker's area of expertise as the theme for the meeting.

Celebrate GFWC:

- Celebrate GFWC Federation Day on April 24 by organizing and conducting a fun community service project. Wear GFWC emblematic apparel so the color becomes associated with club events.

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- Ask the mayor to designate April 24 as GFWC (insert name of your club) Day, to recognize the contributions your club has made to the local community.
- Invite television and newspaper reporters to your club's major community service events. Be ready with stories and facts about the impact of your club.

ENGAGE YOUR MEMBERS

A stable core of experienced members is the backbone of every club. New members can lean on and learn from members who have an institutional memory and history. Working together, experienced members and new members can function like one healthy body—standing tall, moving forward, and making strides toward accomplishing your club's goals. Members who actively participate in club work are more likely to want to continue their membership.

To engage your members, your club should ensure an atmosphere of fellowship and friendship and provide varied opportunities for them to exercise their talents and abilities. Encouraging involvement from both longstanding and new members not only capitalizes on members' creativity, skills, and energy, but also increases their commitment and allegiance. Members need to feel useful and have a continuing reason to belong. Consider subsidizing a trip to a convention or conference to help members connect with other members and the Federation. Raffles or fundraisers could produce the revenue to offset the cost.

Find ways to use the talents of ALL members and engage every member in club projects to avoid conflict. Ask for and try to implement member suggestions to keep your club happy, strong, and growing.

Each club and community is unique. Adopt or adapt these suggestions to revitalize and engage your members:

- Encourage member input through a suggestion box, surveys, one-on-one calls, or by having an informal chat session at a club meeting.
- Establish and maintain an effective system of communicating with members:
  - Create a club newsletter, including a Club President's Message, news about recent program/project successes, upcoming club events, member highlights, and other pertinent information, such as notices from the State Federation, Region, and GFWC.
  - Remind members of regular meetings and special events.
- Encourage attendance at District, State Federation, Region, and national GFWC meetings and events to learn about important program information and other news. Club leaders should stress that all members are welcome and encouraged to attend GFWC meetings.
- Keep club projects fresh, relevant, and interesting. When members begin to tire of a project, it is time to change it.
- Initiate brainstorming sessions to give all members a voice in club activities and promote a sense of club ownership.
- Keep a tab on member satisfaction with periodic surveys. Individual interests change with time as members grow and evolve.

EMPOWER YOUR MEMBERS

Respect the limits of your members' time by being flexible and efficient, and they will be more likely to make GFWC a permanent fixture in their lives.

- Streamline meetings to ensure they are as convenient and productive as possible and ensure they meet the needs and diversity of club members.
- Schedule meetings at a time that accommodates as many members as possible or consider a "Morning Division" and "Evening Division."

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- Email the Treasurer's Report and minutes of the last meeting prior to a regular meeting so they can be reviewed in advance for corrections and/or additions.
- Make an agenda and stick to it. Typically, two hours should be adequate for a full meeting.
- Use committees to consider preliminary planning and develop a project proposal to present at the meeting. The time saved through such committee brainstorming minimizes the length of the meeting.
- Keep reports brief and to the point by sharing lengthy program considerations and project and personal news in the club newsletter.
- Allow time for discussion but set a time limit on debate.
- Ensure an outside speaker's topic will be interesting and relevant to the club's goals. Inform the speaker of the time limit and be sure it is respected.
- Schedule a period of social time with refreshments before or after the business meeting, so members can attend as their time allows.
- Consider scheduling some social opportunities outside of meeting times. These opportunities can be on a regular basis, like a "Morning Moms" group that meets once or twice a month for coffee after dropping children off at school, or intermittent, such as an impromptu lunch or after-work "wine down." Or, invite members to start a yoga group, book club, or other common-interest activity.

Remember rules, regulations, requirements, and traditions are not set in stone. Parliamentary procedure outlines a set of rules to assist a club in best practices, but those rules are not meant to stifle the fun and enthusiasm of your club. Routinely review club bylaws and standing rules and amend those that no longer serve the club or member concerns, situations, and/or interests. In doing so, pay special attention to those that require attendance at a certain number of meetings or call for a set number of volunteer hours of service.

MAKE IT EASY TO RENEW

When it is time to pay club dues, make the process as easy as possible for members. Consider setting aside a time before or after a meeting or sending an email notice or invoice, in addition to the typical newsletter reminder. Provide a breakdown of annual dues ($15 GFWC, plus state and club dues), so members understand what their money supports.

If a member is delinquent, contact them discreetly. Family illness, job layoff, or other unfortunate circumstances might be a limiting factor. Perhaps a payment plan can be suggested, or the club can establish a fund for such purposes.



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RECOGNIZING AND REWARDING MEMBERS

Members are more likely to remain enthusiastic about a club that has a positive and fun outlook. Members do not join a club to be recognized, but everyone needs and appreciates affirmation. Positive words can mean a lot. Honor and celebrate your members. Look for an opportunity, such as after a big project or fundraiser, to have an awards ceremony with some funny certificates, such as the "Duct Tape Award," for the member who can fix anything, and the "Little Miss Sunshine Award," to the member who is always smiling. Share a laugh and make them feel special at the same time

RECOGNIZE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

You can never say thank you enough! Let members know how grateful you are by celebrating their GFWC service with a GFWC membership recognition pin:

- GFWC Gold Pins are awarded by GFWC to 50-year members. The member's club president must request the Gold Pin, which is free of charge, by filling out a request form available on the GFWC Member Portal. If State Federation and District leaders also want to recognize long-term members at their meetings, they may request information about recent Gold Pin recipients in their area from GFWC Membership Services at GFWC@GFWC.org.
- GFWC Silver Pins that recognize 25-year members, may be purchased through the GFWC Marketplace.
- Other pins available for purchase from the GFWC Marketplace include five-year, 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, 30-year, 35-year, 40-year, 45-year, 55-year, 60-year, 65-year, and 70-year pins.



CELEBRATE CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Each year provides an opportunity to celebrate your club's anniversary, which can be a very meaningful time for all members. Whether it is five or 50 years since the founding of your club, consider honoring one member each year with a "GFWC Clubwoman of the Year" award for their dedication and service. You can also honor a new member with a "GFWC Rookie of the Year" award for efforts to get involved with projects.

GFWC acknowledges milestone club anniversaries with a certificate, letter from the GFWC International President, and recognition in *News & Notes*. GFWC defines milestone anniversaries as

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25, 50, 60, 70, and every five years thereafter. Anniversary dates are based on the date when the club joined GFWC, not the date when the club was founded. GFWC was founded in 1890. Therefore, 1890 would be the earliest year used to calculate an anniversary, even when a club had been founded prior to that time.

To request recognition of a club's milestone anniversary, contact GFWC@GFWC.org or mail your request to GFWC Membership Services, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, ATTN: Club Anniversaries. Please allow a minimum of 3-4 weeks to process your certificate request. The request must include:

- Complete name of the club.
- Anniversary year being celebrated (25, 50, 60, 70, and every five years thereafter).
- Date (year and month, if possible) when your club federated with GFWC.
- Name and address of current club president.
- Name and address where certificate and letter should be sent.
- Club's deadline for receiving the anniversary certificate.

RECRUITING MEMBERS

Communities across the country and around the globe benefit from the work of GFWC club members every day. One of the most important goals we have is to continue to move forward. New members can be found everywhere we go. The key is to share GFWC with everyone!

During recruiting season, ask every member to bring a friend to your prospective-member event or first club meeting, reaching out to women from various parts of the community. Reward members for bringing in new members—make a game of it! For example, every member who brings a guest to a meeting could receive a free ticket for the next month's raffle. If the guest joins as a member, her host gets five free tickets. Ensure the raffle item is something everyone will want, such as a gift certificate for the mall or a popular restaurant. Regardless of the outcome, recognize all members who participate in recruitment.

Neighbors, friends, co-workers, and relatives all deserve the chance to be a part of GFWC, because GFWC has, does, and will continue to change lives and communities for the better. Recruiting is vital to GFWC success, so it is important that we invite and encourage women to join our clubs.

Recruiting and welcoming new members is an ongoing process that requires the focus and commitment of everyone. The most important aspect of recruitment is the determination to succeed. Without dedication and follow through, no recruitment campaign will be as successful as it could be. The process must have the full support of every club member and be viewed as a shared responsibility.

NEW members will always be attracted to a strong, solid, and engaged club. During this administration, we encourage you to build membership and continue to track and submit the number of NEW members joining your club quarterly. In addition, this committee is asking you to concentrate on these **internal** focus areas, designed to help your club strengthen membership **retention**, as discussed above.

Clubs that successfully secure three new members through their recruiting efforts will be featured in *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. Send the recruiter's name and the contact information of the new, active, dues-paying members to your State Membership Chairman.

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PARTICIPATE IN GFWC'S "EDUCATE, ENGAGE, & EMPOWER" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

During this administration, we encourage you to build membership and submit the number of NEW members joining your club quarterly. Join GFWC clubs nationwide and report your successes in membership recruitment and development!

July, August, September
Focus On: Clear Communication
Concentrate on providing your members with regular updates through email, newsletters, social media, and your club website. Be sure to note a way for them to contact leadership with feedback or any concerns they may have.
Report Due: October 1

October, November, December
Focus On: Member Value and Benefits of Belonging
Clearly educate and communicate the value of being a member of your club and GFWC. Review membership benefits regularly based on member feedback and adjust accordingly.
Report Due: January 2

January, February, March
Focus On: Diverse and Inclusive Programming
Be sure you are considering all members' needs when organizing your calendar of events and activities. Ensure club programs are accessible and open to a diverse membership base.
Report Due: April 1

April, May, June
Focus On: Professional Development
Offer leadership workshops and seminars or training that could contribute to your members' personal growth. Provide access to tools and resources that can help them advance in their careers, such as project management and public speaking.
Report Due: July 1

REFERRALS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FACILITATING TRANSFERS

The GFWC website is often visited by women interested in joining a volunteer community service organization. Typically, an email is received by GWC Membership Services. These potential members have already taken the first step in learning more about GFWC; they are already interested in information about clubs near their home. The hard part is done! Here is what happens next:

- When Membership Services receives an email inquiry, a return email is immediately sent, and the original email is forwarded to the State Membership Chairman.
- The State Membership Chairman (or Junior Membership Chairman, if appropriate) contacts the local club president and provides her with the prospective member's contact information.
- If your club is contacted, do not let this promising lead slip away. A quick phone call or email is all it takes to acknowledge the person's interest and provide an invitation to a club meeting or event.

Likewise, when a loyal member is relocating to a new community and must leave your club, help her contact GFWC Membership Services so she can connect with a GFWC club near her new location. It can be easy to put aside an effort to find a new club during a move, and once she becomes busy with new activities and commitments, a valued member could be lost.

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CELEBRATE CLUB MEMBERS' RECRUITMENT SUCCESSES

Star Recruitment Pins and Circles are incentive rewards for successful recruiters. The first five awards, recognizing those who have recruited five to 29 new members, are small star-shaped pins with a butterfly clasp and small chain that attaches to the stem of the GFWC Member Pin. Members who have recruited 30 or more members will be awarded a color circle to wear behind their star pins. Awards are cumulative and can cross Administrations. There are 10 levels:

- Recruiters earn a white star for 5 to 9 new members.
- Recruiters earn a red star for 10 to 14 new members.
- Recruiters earn a blue star for 15 to 19 new members.
- Recruiters earn a silver star for 20 to 24 new members.
- Recruiters earn a gold star for 25 to 29 new members.
- Recruiters earn a white circle for 30 to 34 new members.
- Recruiters earn a red circle for 35 to 39 new members.
- Recruiters earn a blue circle for 40 to 44 new members.
- Recruiters earn a silver circle for 45 to 49 new members.
- Recruiters earn a gold circle for 50+ new members.
- Recruiters earn certificates for 60, 70, 80, ect., new members.

Send the names of your club's successful recruiters and the names and contact information of the new, active, dues-paying members to your State Membership Chairman. **Only this Chairman can order Star Recruitment Pins and Circles.** Clubs should maintain accurate recruiting records that can be passed from one Administration to the next.



GET AN EARLY START ON RETAINING MEMBERS

The process of retaining club members can never start too early. The addition of new members signals the start of the most critical part of any membership plan—new member retention. The first year is the most crucial in a GFWC clubwoman's membership. New members must immediately feel they can make a meaningful contribution to the club and community. By inviting and encouraging new members to be involved, you will build loyalty and commitment to the club's service projects and GFWC's mission. At the end of a new member's first year, let them know how much you appreciate their work and enthusiasm. Then, continue to build a solid foundation by asking for their feedback. Did the club meet their expectations? What did they enjoy most about their membership? How would they like to participate in the coming year?

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ESTABLISHING NEW GFWC CLUBS

GFWC clubs and individual members are encouraged to look for opportunities to build a new GFWC club or federate an existing, non-GFWC club. The Membership Chairmen should be well-versed on the points of the GFWC resource, "How to Build a NEW GFWC Club." An existing GFWC club can sponsor any type of club. A Woman's Club might sponsor a collegiate club at a local university or a Juniorette Club at the high school. A Junior Woman's Club might start a cyber club. Whatever the case, State Membership Chairmen and the GFWC Membership Services Department will be glad to provide assistance as needed.

GFWC MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Before federating a new GFWC club, it is important to understand the many GFWC membership categories specified in the GFWC Bylaws, as well as those defined by membership practices. The following types of clubs are recognized by GFWC.

ACTIVE

WOMAN'S CLUBS

These clubs are clubs that are not otherwise designated as Junior, Juniorette, International, or National Clubs. This group constitutes the largest portion of active membership.

JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUBS

These clubs hold active membership status and participate in the regular programs of GFWC. Junior Clubs vary in age range and not all states have Junior Clubs or membership categories. Some State Federations have an age cap on Junior membership, while others do not. At the GFWC level, Junior Clubs are represented by the GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, a nationally elected officer who serves as a member of the GFWC Executive Committee for one Administration and presides over all Junior functions at GFWC meetings.

JUNIORETTE CLUBS

These clubs are composed of young women in middle school or junior or senior high school with an age range from 12 to 18 years old. Juniorette members can have voting privileges at the GFWC Annual Convention, are eligible for awards, and have state reporting responsibilities, like other active clubs. Juniorette Clubs must be sponsored by a Woman's Club, Junior Woman's Club, District, or State Federation. It is recommended that each Juniorette Club have a GFWC State/Club Advisor. For guidelines on establishing a Juniorette Club, refer to the Juniorette Club Manual section of the Club Manual in the Member Portal.

NATIONAL CLUBS

These clubs are clubs that have a nationwide membership composed of Past Region Presidents, Past State Presidents, and Past State Directors of Junior Clubs from one administration or multiple administrations. The GFWC Booster Club, composed of friends and relatives of individual members, is also a National Club. All National Clubs pay per capita dues to GFWC.

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

These clubs are composed of members who reside outside the United States and **pay per capita dues** to GFWC.

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ASSOCIATE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations are national in scope and their work is germane to GFWC programs.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

These clubs, federations, and associations are composed of members who reside outside the United States. Their work is germane to GFWC programs, and they **pay flat-rate dues**. If you or someone in your club has an international connection, consider facilitating the creation of a GFWC International Affiliate Club. For assistance, contact GFWC Membership Services and the Chairman of the GFWC International Liaison Committee, **Nancy Ames**, nancygfwcames76@gmail.com who is responsible for maintaining communications and a strong bond with these clubs.

ALTERNATIVE AND FLEXIBLE CLUB MODELS

In addition to the traditional club models, unique and flexible club models open new opportunities to engage in GFWC's volunteer efforts. Among such alternative models are:

SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS

Special Interest clubs are active clubs paying per capita dues that function in different ways than traditional clubs.

COLLEGIATE CLUBS

A collegiate club functions in the campus setting and provides service opportunities that accommodate the student lifestyle. Juniorettes who have graduated from high school can maintain their GFWC affiliation with a Collegiate Club.

CYBER CLUBS

This type of club is designed for members who want to engage in volunteer service and membership opportunities but cannot attend meetings. Club business is transacted through electronic means. Some traditional clubs may even have "cyber members" who attend meetings via Skype, Zoom, or other electronic means.

SINGLE ISSUE CLUBS

GFWC offers a diverse array of Special and Community Service Programs, but clubs alone determine their work. It is okay for a club to work on a single issue.

WORKPLACE CLUBS

Members who work together already have something in common and often spend many hours together. They have the flexibility to meet during work breaks, such as at lunchtime or outside of work. Meetings scheduled just before or after work can be very convenient.

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY CLUBS

Retirement Communities often gather retirees together from various states. Connecting with other clubwomen offers a ready group of friends with common interests.

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GRANTS

GFWC grants are available to clubs to assist with recruitment efforts and to State Federations to assist in the development of a new membership recruitment project/campaign at the state level. Designated for each GFWC fiscal year, which begins July 1 and ends June 30, GFWC offers $50 to clubs for member recruitment programs and $100 to State Federations for new state-level membership projects/campaigns.

To apply, download the Membership Grant Application for clubs or State Federations from the Member Portal.

Return the form to GFWC at least 45 days prior to the event. GFWC will award no more than one grant per club or State Federation per GFWC fiscal year. If you have any questions or need help accessing the grant application, contact GFWC@GFWC.org or call 202-347-3168.

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Membership Advancement Plan projects as follows:

- A certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- A $50 award to a single club for the most creative and effective project

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for Membership Advancement Plan projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

An award certificate will be given at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention to each state that federates one or more new clubs with GFWC during the 2024-2026 Administration, plus a financial award of $50 for each club that is federated. State Membership Chairmen must send the completed New Club Form to GFWC Headquarters within 60 days of the new club's federation date for the new club to qualify, with a copy to the GFWC Membership Chairman. The award is based on information provided to GFWC via the New Clubs Forms submitted between July 1, 2024, and February 15, 2026, and with new club dues paid by February 15, 2026.

Additionally, each state federation that retains at least 90% of its membership between July 1, 2024, and February 15, 2026, will be recognized onscreen at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention. The recognition is based on information provided via the State Retention Form, submitted by February 15, 2026.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

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THE GFWC JUNIORETTE MEMBER AND CLUB

MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026
JUNIORETTE CHAIRMAN

Darlene C. Adams, Chairman
101 Woodridge Lane
Picayune, MS 39466-8850
601-590-0251
darlenecadams.gfwc@gmail.com

"DO YOUR LITTLE BIT OF GOOD WHERE YOU ARE; IT IS THOSE LITTLE BITS OF GOOD PUT TOGETHER THAT OVERWHELM THE WORLD." ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

One is never too old, and one is never too young to make a difference. GFWC's Juniorettes are examples of how the call to do community service can be answered at any age.

A Juniorette Club offers its members the following opportunities:

- To contribute to a meaningful community life
- To learn the pleasures and rewards of working with a group
- To develop leadership skills
- To become aware of community problems and how they could be remedied
- To learn how to become advocates through civic engagement

The GFWC Juniorette Membership category was introduced during the 1966–1968 Administration of GFWC International President Carolyn Pearce (GFWC Florida), who stated, "I can think of no better means of assuring the continuity of Federation work and influence for community good that we represent than by encouraging the formation of GFWC clubs for Juniorettes."

According to GFWC Bylaws, Juniorette Clubs are comprised of young students in middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools.

Juniorettes have school, extracurricular activities, and social lives to juggle, but they find time to make positive changes in their communities. Look for GFWC posts where project suggestions for the Juniorette age group and their club advisors will be shared.

Experience has shown that each club is unique. GFWC Clubs have sponsored and organized their clubs with different types of membership:

- Some note that their Juniorette Club is more successful when organized for either a middle/junior high school or high school club, but not both. This is due to differences in interests, abilities, and maturity.
- Others indicate that their Juniorette Club is more successful when organized, combining middle/junior high schools with high schools. Putting the two age groups together does more to develop leadership as the older "seasoned" students mentor the younger students. The younger students gain more confidence knowing a high school student is willing to befriend and mentor them in club work.

SPONSOR A JUNIORETTE CLUB

Federating a Juniorette Club requires a commitment from a sponsoring club, which must be an active GFWC Woman's Club or Junior Woman's Club in good standing, and a dedicated member to serve as a club advisor. It is required that sponsoring club members accompany Juniorette Club representatives to all levels of GFWC meetings, including State Federation, Region, and/or GFWC.

GFWC JUNIORETTE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION



GFWC has initiated a six-month certification program in which Juniorette Clubs may participate. The intent of the certification program is to allow all members to obtain additional leadership skills at the club level, through their GFWC experience. Clubs would participate each month in six of the eight categories. More information and Form of Intent can be found in the GFWC Member Portal, Digital Library in the "Junior & Juniorette" folder.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



JUNIORETTES PLAN MEMBERSHIP EVENT

GFWC Dominion Juniorette Club (VA) demonstrated leadership skills in planning a membership event. The girls arranged the event and planned to give an informative presentation about the club. Each member had an opportunity to contribute to the presentation, some preparing the PowerPoint and some speaking. They explained what the club did and the fun they had while completing projects to ignite interest in joining the club. Only minor guidance from the sponsoring club was given to these girls early on.



ESO PROGRAM - CAJUN NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

GFWC Mississippi Juniorette Diamonds (MS) at their December meeting, had an advisor dressed in Cajun attire and read in Cajun dialect the book, "Cajun Night Before Christmas," from the GFWC Mississippi ESO Reading List. Papa Noel, a character from the book, made a surprise visit and handed out treats to everyone in attendance.



BABY SUPPLY DRIVE FOR EARLY HEAD START

The GFWC A.L. Brown Juniorettes Club (NC) partnered with the Early Head Start center in their community. The club created a drive for students to donate items needed by the center. Collection bins were placed around their school for 4 weeks, and donations were delivered to the Early Head Start center.



MANGROVE RESTORATION

The GFWC Juniorette Club of Jupiter-Tequesta (FL) volunteered to help restore mangroves at Tarpon Cove in Palm Beach. They planted red mangroves and spartina grass, partnering with the County Environmental Resources Management and MANG, an environmental apparel company, in working for the restoration of their coastal ecosystems as well as to educate future generations.

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HOW TO FORM A NEW JUNIORETTE CLUB

PART 1. GETTING STARTED – BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING

The age range of potential Juniorette Club members will determine where and how to recruit prospective members.

Potential members might be:

- Children or grandchildren of club members.
- High school students with a community service requirement for graduation.
- Those looking for scholarship opportunities through clubs, Districts, or State Federations.
- Young people responding to volunteer opportunities posted on the club website.

Potential members might be recruited through the assistance of:

- Using Social Media.
- Post in the school paper.
- Teachers and school administrators.
- Home school groups.
- Local business leaders.
- Referrals sent from GFWC Headquarters.

Another membership recruitment strategy:

- Like other society clubs at schools where students are selected to join, send potential members an invitation letter stating that they have been "selected" to join the Juniorette Club. One successful club's advisor states, "This has increased their membership because students see that it is an honor to be a member."

Finally:

- Remember that "Juniorettes come in pairs."
- Encourage initial contacts to provide additional names to grow a list of potential members.
- Do not limit membership to one school; consider recruiting members in all public, private, and home school groups in the area.

Typical platforms Juniorettes use to communicate are Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and Facebook with the majority of teens using TikTok and Instagram. Remember platforms most often used by club advisors and keep them informed. These can be used as communications or for club meetings.

Juniorette social media pages are beneficial as a recruitment platform for potential Juniorette members. They can reach Woman's Clubs and Junior Woman's Clubs, as well as community, business, and municipal leaders that typically use Facebook and other popular social media platforms.

Juniorette Clubs are established by the same method as other GFWC clubs. However, the sponsoring GFWC club and advisor are key components of the club's formation, development, and success.

THE ROLE OF THE SPONSORING CLUB:

- Accepts responsibility for ensuring the success of the Juniorette Club.
- Serves as a model of leadership, cooperation, and understanding.
- Ensures that the Advisor of the Juniorette Club is also included in the sponsoring club's Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy.

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- Understands that homework and school activities come first.
- Provides guidance and advice when asked or needed.
- Allows Juniorette Club to assume and practice as much autonomy as possible.
- Keeps lines of communication open.
- Assumes some (optional) financial obligations, including:
  - Providing seed money to organize the club and/or support club projects,
  - Paying for or providing the club's liability insurance, if not included in sponsoring club's policy,
  - Assisting the club in establishing an annual budget and opening a bank account
  - Providing other financial assistance as needed.

THE ROLE OF THE CLUB ADVISOR(S):

- Attends all Juniorette meetings and activities.
- Is a member of the Sponsoring GFWC Club and knows about GFWC and the State Federation.
- Serves as a model of leadership, cooperation, and understanding.
- Works to ensure the progress and development of the Juniorette Club.
- Provides guidance and advice on an ongoing basis.
- Encourages the Juniorette Club to assume and practice as much autonomy as possible.
- Understands the principles of leadership and helps meetings run smoothly.
- Serves as a liaison between the sponsoring club and the Juniorette Club.
- Enjoys mentoring young people and is patient and flexible.

THE ROLE OF THE JUNIORETTE CLUB MEMBERS:

- Attend meetings.
- Participate in projects.
- Promote membership in the club.
- Are positive and enthusiastic about the club.
- Commit to developing leadership skills to expand the club's impact.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK OF THE JUNIORETTE CLUB:

Begin with a core group of potential members:

- Bring 3 or 4 girls together with the club advisor and one or two sponsor club members for an exploratory meeting to determine interest. Check the number required to start a club in your state's bylaws.
- Brainstorm ideas for where and how to find other interested Juniorette members.
- Encourage prospective members to make lists of friends/acquaintances to invite to the first "meeting."

The sponsor club is responsible for organizing the first few gatherings of potential Juniorettes, including:

- Time and place:
  - Make sure the meeting doesn't conflict with exams or major school activity (prom, big football game, vacation, etc.).
  - If the meeting is to be held in school, check with school administration regarding any requirements or restrictions.
  - The meeting place conveys a message about the club; select a neutral, easily accessible

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public facility.
    - If the meeting is held on a weeknight, consider adjourning early enough for a "school night."
- Invitations:
    - Can be hand-written, computer-generated, sent by email, announced on posters, advertised in school newspaper, telephoned, evite, Facebook, etc.
    - Keep the invitation friendly, informative, and brief.
    - Be sure to include "bring your friends."
    - Include a "hook" that will appeal to potential members, such as "we need your help to (mention potential project)" or "let us help you graduate (if community service is required for graduation)."
    - Include the phone number and email address to RSVP.
- Refreshments are absolutely necessary!
- Sign-in sheet/name tags/handouts:
    - Sign-in sheet should include:
        - Name
        - Address
        - Phone number
        - Email

PART 2. READY, SET, MEET!

FIRST MEETING: KEEP IT SHORT, SIMPLE, AND SATISFYING

- 90 minutes for the entire meeting is about right – it shouldn't be longer.
- 10-minute welcome/introduction of all present.
- Possibly include an icebreaker: everyone wearing blue sits together, red, green etc.
- 20 minute "orientation." No Longer!.
    - Brief explanation of GFWC.
    - Brief description of program areas, including examples of club activities in each area that will appeal to Juniorettes.
    - Brief introduction of officer's roles and duties.
    - If sponsor club officers are present, each one can briefly address her responsibilities.
    - Brief discussion about club, State, and GFWC dues.
        - Dues convey voting rights and representation at all levels of the Federation.
        - Dues provide eligibility for awards and recognition at the national level.
        - Dues enable the club to receive all materials and information from the State and National Federation.
        - Dues support the national and international mission of GFWC
        - Juniorette club sets its own dues.
- 15-20 minutes for Questions and Answers.
    - Could go longer if enthusiasm and interest warrant.
    - It might help to have a "plant" in the audience who is prepared to get the ball rolling by asking the first question, if necessary.
- 5 minutes for declaration of intent to form a club.
    - Explain and ask for a motion indicating the desire of the group to form a new GFWC Juniorette club.

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- 5-10 minutes to establish time and place for a second meeting.
- Organize communications committee for follow-up and reminders.
- Emphasize "bring a friend" to the next meeting.
- 30 minutes for refreshments and informal Q&A.

SECOND MEETING: LET'S GET ORGANIZED

- Advisor plays an important role at this meeting by providing guidance and advice on procedural issues – and brings refreshments!
- Prior to the meeting, the advisor consults with the core group to establish an agenda for the meeting.
- The communications committee is informed about the agenda prior to calling potential attendees.
- Advisor opens the meeting with a welcome to returning attendees and, hopefully, first-timers.
- Advisor distributes copies of the Juniorette Pledge to recite together.
- Introductions/Icebreaker:
  - Icebreaker to split up and/or avoid cliques (i.e., first names starting with A-G sit together, H-P, Q-Z).
  - Name tags should be used.
- Elect officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
  - Advisor needs to have brief descriptions available of responsibilities of each position.
  - Advisor should know and explain proper parliamentary procedure for nominating/electing officers.
  - Check state bylaws for the minimum number of club members.

THIRD MEETING: GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

- President opens meeting with a welcome:
  - Group recites Juniorette Pledge.
  - New members/guests are introduced.
- Bylaws are presented:
  - Discuss bylaws.
  - Adopt bylaws by majority vote.
- Collect dues:
  - Advisor and Treasurer will open a bank account.
- Survey the interests and abilities of members:
  - Brainstorm types of activities members are interested in pursuing. Every idea is an idea to consider.
  - Be reasonable and realistic: consider time and money constraints.
  - Narrow down suggestions to 3 or 4 real possibilities.
  - Vote.
- President asks for (or appoints) volunteers to form a committee to start organizing the first project.
- President asks for (or appoints) a Communications Committee:
  - Committee will contact members to remind them of the next meeting and any assignments or things needed for the meeting.
- End meeting with refreshments/social time.

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PART 3. WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?



THE SPONSOR CLUB MUST BE AN ACTIVE GFWC WOMAN'S OR JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

- A committee of knowledgeable GFWC clubwomen will serve as advisors.
- Sponsor club members are required to accompany all Juniorette Club representatives to District/State/International GFWC meetings if Juniorettes attend.

THE GFWC SPONSOR CLUB PROVIDES AN ADVISOR WHO:

- Attends all Juniorette meetings and activities.
- Has familiarity with the parliamentary procedure to help meetings run smoothly.
- Is a member of the sponsoring club and knowledgeable about GFWC and the State Federation.
- Serves as a liaison between the sponsor club and the Juniorette Club.
- Gives a monthly Juniorette report at the sponsor club's monthly meetings.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE SPONSOR CLUB ARE OPTIONAL AND CAN INCLUDE:

- Sponsor club can help Juniorette Club establish an annual budget.
- Sponsor club can assist Juniorette Club in mechanics of establishing a club bank account.
- Sponsor club can provide "seed money" to help Juniorette Club get started on a project or program.
- Juniorette Clubs are NOT automatically covered by the sponsoring club's liability insurance.
- Juniorette Clubs should carry their own club liability insurance. The sponsor club may choose to cover the cost of this insurance for the first year or two while the Juniorette club gets on its feet.

JUNIORETTE CLUBS RECEIVE ALL MATERIALS AND MAILING SENT TO ACTIVE GFWC MEMBER CLUBS*

- The Juniorette Club president promotes the GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine* located in the Member Portal.
- The Juniorette Club receives every GFWC "all club" mailings.*
- The Juniorette Club is eligible to receive any free GFWC materials.
- The Juniorette Club may apply for GFWC grants.
- The Juniorette Club members are encouraged to subscribe to GFWC *News & Notes.*

**Clubs must provide GFWC with contact information to recieve mailings.*

DUES

- Per capita annual GFWC DUES for Juniorettes are $10.

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PART 4. JUNIORETTES AND GFWC

The Juniorette Club becomes a member of the GFWC state federation. It is the responsibility of the state federation to forward the dues payment and Juniorette Club information to GFWC as soon as the club joins the state federation.

When the Juniorette Club information, including dues, is received at GFWC:

- The Juniorette Club becomes a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.
- The Juniorette Club is entered into the GFWC database.
- The Juniorette Club will receive a certificate of membership, a letter of welcome from the GFWC International President, and the GFWC New Club Welcome Packet.
- The New Club Welcome Packet includes a welcome letter and certificate, GFWC brochures, Member Portal Flyers, and other resources of value to a new club. They can also be added to the mailing lists for GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine*, *News & Notes*, and other special messages.*
- The Juniorette Club president will be able to download the GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine* through the GFWC website and the Member Portal.
- The Juniorette Club will receive all mailings sent to GFWC clubs.*
- The Juniorette Club will receive voting credentials for the GFWC Annual Convention.

**Clubs must provide GFWC with contact information to recieve mailings.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ADVICE FOR ADVISORS

(Adapted from Points of Light Foundation)

1. Make sure Juniorettes are involved in the planning process right from the start.
2. You are a role model; Juniorettes will reflect what you teach them.
3. Consider the opinions and feelings of Juniorettes seriously; be willing to learn from them.
4. Keep your promises.
5. Consider the situations Juniorettes have to deal with: transportation, schoolwork, and outside activities.
6. Be upfront, fair, and honest; they don't expect you to be perfect.
7. Communicate: ask questions and listen to the answers.
8. Clearly explain expectations.

CLUB BUILDING BASICS

- Choose club name
  - Remember: club name must include GFWC.
  - Name of club conveys a message about the club.
- Decide on permanent meeting place, if possible.
- Establish meeting schedule (i.e., once a month, twice a month, etc.)
- Establish meeting time.
- Establish dues amount (include GFWC and State dues.)
- Start discussing potential projects and programs.

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  - Introduce and refer to GFWC and state programs and projects
  - Ask each member to come to the next meeting with suggestions
- End meeting with refreshments/social time

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER:

In some communities, it may make sense to organize a Juniorette club in conjunction with the local middle or high school or hold your meetings in the school. In that case, it is MANDATORY that you contact the appropriate school administrators as your first step. Write a letter or pay a personal visit to the person at the school who is responsible for coordinating student/school activities. Find out what requirements you need to meet to use school facilities. Emphasize that GFWC clubs—and the Juniorette club—are involved in community service, volunteerism, and leadership training, with supervision provided. To coordinate a Juniorette Club through a school, be aware that the school may have specific requirements for the club, such as depositing club funds into school accounts. Be sure to include GFWC brochures in an initial letter of introduction or during an initial visit.

Required forms for Club Members, Chaperones, and Advisors shall be completed and signed by the appropriate person. These forms shall be held in the member's file for easy access as needed.

- Juniorette Membership Application
- Juniorette Chaperone Form
- Juniorette Agreement Form
- Juniorette Permission/Medical Authorization & Release
- Juniorette Medical & Insurance Questionnaire
- Juniorette Photo Release

PROJECT IDEAS

TEEN DATING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION:

Organize a Teen Dating Violence Prevention event in February for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Members can make posters and display them throughout their school. As a way to promote healthy teen relationships, they can organize special emphasis days at school.

DONATION BOXES FOR PROJECTS:

The school can be a highly visible and convenient place to accomplish its projects. Donation boxes can also be put in churches and local businesses. Talk to your school to set up donation boxes and consider some of these great projects:

- Organize a donation drive for the local food bank.
- Collect winter coats for the homeless.
- Start a book drive for the local library, hospital, school, or relevant charity of choice.
- Collect toiletries for the area women's shelter.
- Have a holiday toy drive for children from low-income families.

VISION BOARDS:

Have members create vision boards as a tool to inspire them to focus on their goals and dreams in life. Information on creating a vision board can be found in the Member Portal, in the Digital Library.

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OTHER GROUP PROJECTS

Besides projects that involve donations, there are many more ways that teenagers can make a difference in their communities.

- Organize a car wash (or dog wash!) for a cause.
- Host a charity bake sale.
- Contact the local senior center or nursing home to learn how you can brighten residents' days, maybe by reading to them, etc.
- Create care packages for the homeless shelter.
- Do a run/walk charity event.
- Read to younger children in after-school programs.
- Volunteer at the local library to assist with their special events and book sales.

Juniorettes are trailblazers in their age group and show how community service is an important and worthwhile commitment. There are countless ways that they can give back to their communities, and they are doing just that! We hope some of these ideas spark your interest and become your next project.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- State Juniorette Advisors should send statistical data to the State Reporting Chairmen for inclusion in the State Statistical Forms.
- Exemplary Juniorette projects, when applicable, may be included in the GFWC Top Ten Projects within respective work areas.
- Juniorette Clubs that submit a report to the State Federation should submit the Juniorette Recognition Form to the GFWC Juniorette Chairman for recognition at the GFWC Annual Convention.

For additional information, contact GFWC Juniorette Chairman Darlene C. Adams at darlenecadams.gfwc@gmail.com.

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet and guidelines.

RESOURCES:

A Starting Point www.astartingpoint.com
Youth.gov www.youth.gov

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WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

WHRC: EDUCATE, ENGAGE, AND EMPOWER

2024-2026 Emphasis:

- To educate members and others about GFWC's history and impact and the historical contributions of others.
- To engage community leaders and citizens in projects and programs that document GFWC and local history, restore and preserve historic buildings and artifacts, and that honor and celebrate GFWC, individual, and community achievements.
- To empower GFWC and community members in collaborative efforts to create a better future.

Since the Federation's founding in 1890, GFWC members have understood the historic significance of the organization's mission to improve communities through volunteer service. To preserve and better document GFWC history and member's work on local, state, national, and international levels, the Women's History and Resource Center of the General Federation of Women's Clubs officially opened at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC, on May 1, 1984.

Regardless of the focus of a community service project, it may benefit from a historical perspective. The WHRC strives to educate and inspire GFWC members and potential members, the research community, and the public to explore the rich, historical role of women volunteers through GFWC's expansive collections.

The WHRC offers access to readily available reference services, an online research catalog, educational programs and publications, creative exhibits, and dynamic partnerships to all those interested in using its resources. Benefits of membership made possible through the WHRC include preservation of historic records, buildings, and artifacts; and creative ways to use GFWC's history for community outreach.

GFWC's history is full of examples of successful projects that demonstrate the important relationship between grassroots and international efforts, the significance of long-range planning and thoughtful organization, and the value of community service in developing strong and compassionate leaders.

The *GFWC Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Guide* encourages every club to investigate and document its own history by learning about GFWC's past. Use the guide to explore and share GFWC's amazing history while documenting your own!

2024-2026 WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER COMMITTEE

Marian St.Clair, Chairman
GFWC Southern Region
357 Riverside Drive
Greenville, SC 29605
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Dana Clark
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FEATURED PROJECTS



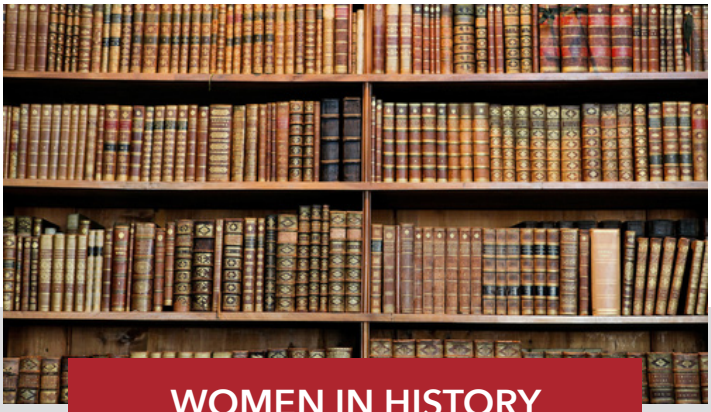
VETERAN FLAG PROJECT

The GFWC Barbourville Junior Woman's Study Club (KY) has flags made with images of servicemembers and women from their town. The flags are on display throughout the town. The project honors veterans from the past and those who are still serving. It is an "honorable" display to all who served. The community is proud of this Woman's Club project.



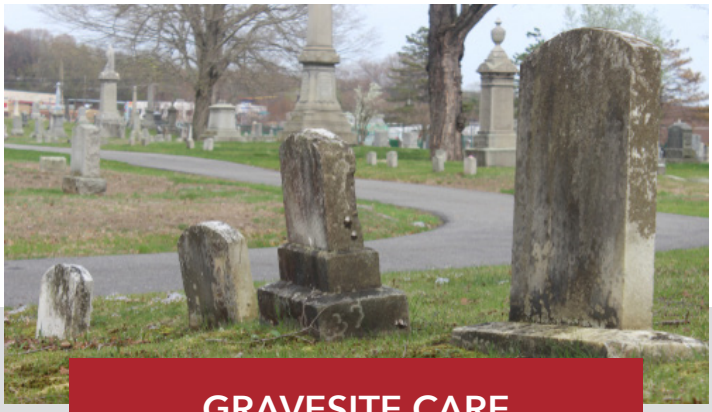
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

GFWC Grundy Woman's Club (VA) celebrated Black History Month with a quiz on famous Black women. Maya Angelou is the first African American woman to have her picture on a commemorative quarter; Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first Black female on the U.S. Supreme Court; and Winsome Earle-Sears became the first Black GFWC Virginia Lt. Governor of GFWC Virginia. The club also studied eight of U.S. history's most famous female doctors.



WOMEN IN HISTORY

GFWC Woman's Club of Caldwell (NJ) members found a unique way of learning about women in history. The chairman heard the U.S. Mint had initiated the American Women's Quarters Program. The thirty-eight club members were asked to participate in a "treasure hunt," collecting as many new quarters as possible. Biographies of the women were researched, a learning experience, as many of the historical women had been unknown to most members. The club will donate children's editions of the biographies to the local library.



GRAVESITE CARE

Four members of the GFWC Woman's Club of Olympia (WA) visited the gravesite of Abby Howard Hunt Stuart, founding member of the GFWC Woman's Club of Olympia in 1884. Abby died in 1902 in San Francisco, where she was caring for her aunt. Her body was brought back to Olympia for burial. Members of the club met the train. Clubwomen visiting her gravesite scrubbed the stone and cleaned the site, pledging to continue that project in her memory.

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OVERVIEW OF GFWC COLLECTIONS

The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center manages the organizational archives of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, related special collections, and a complementary research library. Our Archives document GFWC's historical development from 1890 to the present, including the role of GFWC clubwomen in promoting education, leadership, and social and political advocacy in the broad programmatic areas of art and literature, conservation, personal and public education, public and international affairs, and home and community life. GFWC members encompass some of the most prominent women of their respective eras, including Julia Ward Howe, Jane Addams, Julia Lathrop, Alice Lakey, Mary Belle King Sherman, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Margaret Chase Smith.

GFWC programs have included advocacy for women's suffrage, child labor and juvenile court laws, community and family health reform, the establishment of national parks, the preservation of Native American culture, peacetime uses of technology, libraries and literacy, wartime service, the Equal Rights Amendment, and international humanitarian efforts.

Special Collections held by the WHRC include State Federation and club histories, oral histories, photographs, and art and artifacts. GFWC's most significant "artifact" is its Washington, DC Headquarters, which was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

GFWC's Research Library consists of nearly 5,000 publications that provide a broad context for researching the history of GFWC and women volunteers. The GFWC Collections Management Policy, which defines how GFWC collections are acquired, managed, and preserved, can be found at www.GFWC.org/what-we-do/WHRC.

HOW DOES THE WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER SUPPORT MY CLUB?

- WHRC can help you preserve your club's archives, record the oral history of longtime members, and write an engaging historical narrative. The WHRC has prepared two guidelines to help you with these projects: A Guide for Recording Oral History and A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History. Email WHRC@GFWC.org or call 202-683-2028 for a free copy of these publications.
- The WHRC can help you develop programs using GFWC history to promote interest and membership. (Refer to "Suggested GFWC History Projects" below.)
- The WHRC helps manage the preservation of GFWC's National Landmark Headquarters building.
- The WHRC can help you navigate catalog and online exhibits and provide advice to clubs and State Federations on how to make their own collections accessible online. The WHRC uses the latest technology to make collections available to GFWC members throughout the world. Visit www.GFWC.org/what-we-do/WHRC.
- GFWC publishes the WHRC Newsletter, a quarterly publication available for a complimentary subscription, and other publications to assist and promote clubs doing projects related to GFWC history or historic preservation.
- With an approved appointment, GFWC offers complimentary tours highlighting exhibits at GFWC Headquarters for groups and individuals.
- The WHRC provides research opportunities for members and the public.

HOW CAN MY CLUB SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER?

- Support the WHRC financially with a donation through the GFWC Annual Giving Program specified for WHRC or with the purchase of the WHRC Book Pin from the GFWC Marketplace (www.gfwc.allegraromeoville.com/product/WHRC-40th-PIN). WHRC funds are used to purchase preservation supplies, collections management technology, books/reference

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materials for the WHRC research library, support preservation work, and community outreach efforts. During the 2024-2026 Administration, funds donated to WHRC can also be designated for the restoration and preservation of GFWC art and artifacts. In addition to many important paintings and art prints, the collection includes numerous ceramics, a variety of textiles, documents, and other objects. Some of these artifacts are in urgent need of conservation.

- Become an onsite volunteer. The WHRC needs help to make the thousands of club histories and hundreds of oral history transcripts accessible online. Onsite volunteers may work as GFWC Headquarters tour guides or under the guidance of WHRC staff. Members can also volunteer by participating in the newsletter.
- Help make the WHRC an internationally recognizable resource on the historical role of women volunteers by promoting WHRC collections, services, and student field study opportunities to local colleges, universities, and historical institutions.
- Participate in events that feature WHRC services and benefits, such as tutorials and workshops, as well as the Women's History Month event held each year in March at GFWC Headquarters.
- Encourage the appointment of a WHRC Chairman in State Federations and clubs.
- Keep the WHRC updated on the location of club and State Federation archives.
- Report your WHRC program activities to GFWC. We want to share your success stories to inspire others.

PROJECT IDEAS

Develop and incorporate club and community projects aimed at preserving and promoting women's history. Educate club and community members on the current relevance of GFWC and club histories. Develop diverse and creative projects to encourage active member participation.

- Honor GFWC Past State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs and/or Club Presidents by creating a profile of each leader, including their photograph if one is available, to preserve in their respective State or club archives.
- Write your club history and update it annually or biannually (once an administration) by recording significant projects, achievements, and community impacts. Request a free copy of A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History by contacting the WHRC at WHRC@GFWC.org or 202-683-2028.
- Create a brief "Club History Bullet" to submit with newspaper articles and other communications to educate the community about your club and its impact. Example: Chartered in 1963, the St. Andrews Woman's Club has benefited the local community with thousands of hours of volunteer service, especially through efforts that support education and the wellbeing of women and children.
- Celebrate significant club anniversaries with a display at a local library or other public space that highlights the club's community projects.
- Invite members to take turns each month giving a report on a well-known woman in history or one currently making history.
- Prepare a visual display or PowerPoint video of past and present members, major service projects, and historical artifacts to be used at membership orientations and displayed at club fundraisers and events.
- Choose a member each month who will be celebrating her birthday. Interview her and prepare a presentation for your meeting. Also highlight a member from the past or an event from the past.
- Educate the public about your history by inviting history teachers and students to visit your club. Share scrapbooks from early days and club histories.
- Observe Women's History Month in March with a community event. Consider one that honors a community leader who exhibits outstanding service and exemplifies the qualities set forth in

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Mary Stewart's Collect for Clubwomen, or perhaps one that celebrates several women, such as an educator, a community servant (fireman, policeman), a business leader, and a volunteer.

SUGGESTED GFWC HISTORY PROJECTS

- Contact the WHRC for tips on using WHRC publications and electronic resources for club program ideas. Use the booklet Rising by Light to Higher Things: Highlights of GFWC's Collections to create programs on GFWC's support of American Art; the GFWC Timeline to relate GFWC national service programs to local ones; or GFWC photographs of events, people, or unique publications and memorabilia to illustrate a PowerPoint presentation.
- Contact the WHRC to receive a scripted PowerPoint presentation that provides an historical and interior tour of 1734 N Street.
- Highlight your club's history to demonstrate the importance of your club to your community. For more information on membership recruitment activities, review the GFWC Membership Advancement Guide in the GFWC Club Manual.
- Gain inspiration for fundraising and community outreach by reviewing past GFWC Community Improvement Program Award winners in the WHRC online catalog. GFWC history is relevant to ALL program areas.
- Develop a proactive public awareness program by offering GFWC history stories to your local news media for Women's History Month (March), Federation Day (April 24), and Archives Month (October).
- Partner with local historical institutions to promote the role of your club in local history.
- Work with your local public schools to assist students with National History Day projects on women's history; offer to serve as judges for local History Day competitions.

WHRC PIN & TOTE BAG

The WHRC was founded in 1984, and GFWC is celebrating its 40th anniversary with the launch of a special logo that features books, a gavel, Jennie June's silhouette, and even Mildred "Madame Hawkins" Ahlgren's trademark glasses. Show your support for the WHRC by purchasing a magnet-back enamel pin with this delightful design! Proceeds from the purchase of 40th anniversary-branded merchandise will help fund the WHRC's mission to preserve and make accessible GFWC's long and important history.

HOW CAN I OR MY CLUB ARRANGE A TOUR OR SCHEDULE A RESEARCH VISIT?

A National Historic Landmark, 1734 N Street NW, is a Washington must-see for GFWC clubwomen and their guests. The WHRC manages access to GFWC's historic archives and collections, including tours of GFWC Headquarters. Tours and research appointments must be scheduled in advance by emailing WHRC@GFWC.org or calling the WHRC Librarian at 202-683-2028.

Tour and research hours are between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. GFWC is closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, the Wednesday-Friday of Thanksgiving week, and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Tour admission is free for GFWC members and by a suggested contribution for non-members.

GUIDE TO USING THE WHRC ONLINE CATALOGS

A primary goal of the WHRC is to make GFWC's valuable historical records more accessible to our members, the scholarly research community, and the public. Improved access will promote greater recognition for the contributions of GFWC clubwomen and inspire members to use the lessons of past successes to build solid membership, strong leadership, and meaningful community service projects. The WHRC online catalogs allow GFWC members and website visitors, including those who come to the catalog via a general web search engine such as Google, to explore a wide range of GFWC collections. The tips in this Guide are meant to be a quick outline to navigating the WHRC online

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catalogs. For additional guidance, please do not hesitate to email WHRC@GFWC.org or call the WHRC Librarian at 202-683-2028. To access the catalog through the GFWC website:

1. Go to www.GFWC.org/What-We-Do/WHRC
2. For photographs, objects, and archival material, click the link for the PastPerfect Web Edition Public Access site. For our reference library, including our state federation and local club history collection, click the link for the TinyCat Library catalog.

NAVIGATING THE ONLINE CATALOGS

PastPerfect Web Edition Public Access Site

KEYWORD SEARCH - This search field casts the widest net for information, like the simple keyword search feature of Google. The search covers all fields included in the catalog records, including donors, who may be individuals, clubs, or State Federations. As with Google, enclosing a multi-word search term in quotation marks will limit results to that phrase; for example, "South Dakota."
Interactive features in each record:

- Email Page (top, right)–send this image to a friend.
- Send Feedback (top, far right)–contact the WHRC with comments or questions.
- Order Image (below image)–request a copy for a club presentation or publication.
- Search Term (in record)–may provide additional information on that topic. For example, click on "GFWC Headquarters" to read details on the history of GFWC Headquarters.
- Person (not shown)–Click on the name of any GFWC International Past President to see her biography.
- Related Hyperlinks (not shown)–If digital content is available, a link will be provided to read a book, club or state history, or oral history online.

TinyCat Library Catalog

SEARCH FOR... box - Type a keyword, author, or title into the "Search for…" box on the landing page. From the search results page, or from the individual record, click the "Ask About this Item" button to send a message to the WHRC Librarian requesting more information or access. (As we are a non-circulating library, we are unable to accept "place hold" requests, but staff will be happy to help provide access to selected works to the fullest extent possible.)



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COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

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Columbia, SC 29212
Katiemoydell1020@gmail.com

THE GFWC COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD OFFERS GFWC CLUBS FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS DESIGNED TO IMPACT A SPECIFIC PROBLEM IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

Introduced in 1949 as the "Build a Better Community Contest," and later known as the "Community Improvement Program Award," this program has provided GFWC clubs with a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of their communities. As GFWC's longest standing project, it has also presented opportunities for growing club membership, enhancing leadership skills, building relationships with individuals and groups, and creating public awareness of club activities and GFWC.

Community Impact Projects should make a visual, physical, or emotional impact at the grassroots level. These projects should raise awareness of GFWC volunteering and the impactful efforts made by clubwomen.

AWARD PERIOD

January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025

SELECTING THE PROJECT AND PLANNING

Any grassroots project that makes a measurable impact in your local community and fits the criteria will be accepted for judging purposes.

GFWC clubs are encouraged to consider the Community Connection Initiative highlighted in each of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. These Community Connection Initiatives can be found in each of their respective sections in the Club Manual under the area of interest.

- **Signature Program: Become a Champion** – Be the Voice for Those That Have No Voice
- **Juniors' Special Program:** Be A Champion in the Lives of Children
- **Arts and Culture:** Developing Community Orientated Art
- **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Preparation Saves Lives
- **Education and Libraries:** Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs
- **Environment:** National and State Parks Engage in Nature
- **Health and Wellness:** Caregivers' Circle

DESIGN YOUR OWN GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

Here is an example of how a club can design a project eligible for Community Impact Program Awards.

BRAINSTORMING AND RESEARCH

Club members meet to discuss the needs of their local community by looking for grassroots projects that will require community partnerships, additional funds, and planning implementation. Clubs can also select a Community Connection Initiative from one of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs as noted in the GFWC Club Manual guides.

After brainstorming possible projects, ask club members to narrow the discussion to a couple of possible focus areas. Club members research the grassroots issues of focus with input from the community (schools, churches, local leaders and governments, businesses, etc.) and reconvene to finalize a targeted project.

OUTLINE THE PROJECT TO CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

The club creates a project plan that may include:

- Project goal statement describing a clear picture view of what is to be accomplished by the project and what benefits will be gained when the project is completed.
- Community connections for collaboration.
- Funding needed and possible sources.
- Media outlets and plan to promote the project in the news, online, and social media.
- Timeline for the project.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Each Community Impact Program Award Entry Form can feature one project based on community need or the Community Connection Initiative from one of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. The selected project must be undertaken by a club and accomplished during the award period of **January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025**.

Award Entry Form highlights the following:

- Brief description of the project and the issue/problem you are trying to solve.
- Project scope including:
  - the plan of action.
  - costs to implement and how the project was funded.
  - community collaboration, if any.
  - obstacles, if any, you overcame to implement the project.
- Results achieved and the long-term effects of the project on the community.
- Public relations and media (include internet, newspaper articles, social media, television, etc.) including pictures of the project activities.

Total entry cannot exceed 10 pages, including photos, media, etc.

OTHER GUIDELINES

- Clubs that have previously won this award must submit entirely new projects for consideration; expanded projects will not be considered.
- International Affiliates may submit an Award Entry to be judged in conjunction with other International Affiliates.

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- All deadlines and other rules must be followed.
- Joint entries of clubs and state-sponsored projects are not allowed.
- All monetary awards must be used to advance the winning Community Impact Project.
- Award entries of national winners will be kept in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

CALENDAR

JANUARY through FEBRUARY 2026
State Community Impact Program Award Chairman must obtain three judges. Judges may not be members of GFWC.

MARCH 1, 2026
Club entries must be sent to the State CIP Chairman via email (if digitally accepted by State Chairman) or mail, postmarked/timestamped no later than this date, to Community Impact Program Award State Chairman.

MARCH 5-15, 2026
Club entries are judged at the state level.

MARCH 20, 2026
Community Impact Program State Chairman – The Award Entry of the **first-place state winner only** must be emailed, or postmarked/timestamped no later than this date, to GFWC CIP Chairman AND to Second Vice President.

After award winners are announced at their respective State Conventions, GFWC will issue checks to the winning state clubs. **There can be no "ties" submitted; only one winning club is accepted by GFWC for the award process.**

Award Entries at the national level will be judged by a non-GFWC panel of judges and overseen by the Community Impact Program Chairman.

Mail to:
Katie Moydell
200 Conrad Circle
Columbia, SC 29212
katiemoydell1020@gmail.com

AND

Mail to:
Mary Beth Williams
8 Sequoyah Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
MBWilliams@GFWC.org

SPRING 2026
State Community Impact Program Awards are presented at State Conventions.

APRIL 2026
National judging takes place by a judging panel overseen by the CIP Chairman.

JUNE 2026
National and International Community Impact Program Awards will be presented at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

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SUGGESTED JUDGING CRITERIA FOR STATE JUDGING

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – 25 POINTS

- Procedures, plan of action, and input in choosing projects
- Plan details, execution, and effort
- Community collaboration with other groups and/or individuals

PROJECT COMPLETION – 50 POINTS

- Project completed within timeframe
- Financial support obtained
- Obstacles, if any, overcome

PROJECT CHANGE – 25 POINTS

- Increase in community awareness
- Degree of success of project and measurable impacts
- Viability of long-term efforts

AWARDS

GFWC awards up to $21,100 to winners of the GFWC Community Impact Program Award. Nationally, only first place winners are given monetary awards within the six membership categories.

GFWC STATE AWARDS:

First Place $100 *Total for 50 State Federations and District of Columbia $5,100*

GFWC NATIONAL AWARDS:

Category 1: $2,500
Category 2: $2,500
Category 3: $2,500
Category 4: $2,500
Category 5: $2,500
International Affiliate: $1,000 *Total National Awards: $13,500*

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COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD ENTRY FORM

2024–2026 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE EMAILED OR POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2026, TO YOUR STATE CHAIRMAN

*Submit to your GFWC Community Impact Program Award **State Chairman**. Digital submission is acceptable if your State chairman can accept a digital version. Otherwise, make two copies of the completed form and accompanying materials, one to submit and one to keep for the club's files.*

1. CLUB AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Submission Date		
GFWC Club Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
District	State Federation	
Region		
Number of Members in Club		
Number of Members Involved in Project		

2. COMMUNITY

Project City				
County				
Type of Community Served	☐ Rural	☐ Urban	☐ Suburban	☐ Other_____
Population Served				

3. COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE OR OTHER SELECTION

Indicate the project being submitted

- ☐ **Other:** Any grassroots project that meets contest descriptions and guidelines

  Title: _____

- ☐ **Signature Program:** Become a Champion – Be the Voice for Those That Have No Voice
- ☐ **Juniors' Special Program:** Be a Champion in the Lives of Children
- ☐ **Arts and Culture:** Developing Community Orientated Art
- ☐ **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Preparation Saves Lives
- ☐ **Education and Libraries:** Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs
- ☐ **Environment:** National and State Parks Engage in Nature
- ☐ **Health and Wellness:** Caregivers' Circle

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4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief description of the club project by explaining what issue/problem you are attempting to solve.
50 word limit

5. SCOPE OF PROJECT

Describe the scope of the project by explaining the following:

a) Plan of action
b) Costs to implement and how project was funded
c) Community collaboration, if any
d) Obstacles, if any, you overcame to implement the project

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5. PROJECT RESULTS

Explain the results achieved:
a) Long-term effects of the project on the community
b) Results within your club (new members, fundraising opportunities, media outlets, community relationships, etc.)

6. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA

List project public relations and media (includes internet, newspaper articles, social media, television, etc.)

7. PHOTOS

Attach up to 10 pictures of the project activities. Photos can be emailed.

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8. CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION		
Club CIP Chairman		
Phone	Email	
Club President		
Phone	Email	
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code

Club President's Signature

Date

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COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD STATE WINNING PROJECT FORM

2024–2026 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

(SUBMITTED BY STATE CHAIRMAN ONLY) Only one winner can be submitted to GFWC, no ties accepted.

Submit to your GFWC Community Impact Program Award ***Chairman****. Digital submission is acceptable if your state chairman can accept a digital version. Otherwise, make two copies of the completed form and accompanying materials, one to submit and one to keep for the club's files.*

1. STATE WINNER INFORMATION		
State Federation		
State CIP Chairman Name		
Email		
Winning Club Official Name		
Winning Club Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

2. STATE WINNER - CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION		
Winning Club Contact		
Phone	Email	
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code

Note: ***The Community Impact Program State Chairman*** *is responsible for sending the state's first place winning Community Impact Project documentation (digital or printed) to BOTH* ***GFWC CIP Chairman Katie Moydell*** *and* ***GFWC Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams*** *with this form:*

Mail to:
Katie Moydell
200 Conrad Circle
Columbia, SC 29212
katiemoydell1020@gmail.com

AND

Mail to:
Mary Beth Williams
8 Sequoyah Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
MBWilliams@GFWC.org

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JENNIE AWARD

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

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2024-2026
JENNIE AWARD

Deborah Allen, Chairman
550 Crestwood Dr.
Cookeville, TN 38501
debgfwc@gmail.com

THE GFWC JENNIE AWARD HONORS ONE CLUBWOMAN FROM EACH GFWC REGION FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO CLUB, COMMUNITY, AND FAMILY.

"I have never done anything that was not helpful to women, so far as it lay in my power." – Jane Cunningham Croly (placed on grave marker dedicated at GFWC's Centennial in 1991)

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at State, Regional, and National levels for the Federation's highest honor.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize Croly's spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Since it is an award for lifetime personal excellence, club presidents should consider utilizing the knowledge of club historians or members of long-standing for Jennie Award nominees. Club presidents should be mindful of first impressions and make the nominee's packet of supporting materials as professional as possible as it may be judged at the different levels by influential community leaders.

The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is included on the last page of this section and may be downloaded from the GFWC Member Portal.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Recognizing that families come in many different forms, the nominee might be a single parent, a grandparent raising grandchildren, an adult caring for an elderly relative, or an adult without children. The definition of a family member may include persons who are older or younger than the nominee. It may include immediate as well as extended family members. The nominee should exemplify outstanding concern for the well-being, health, and welfare of one or more persons by providing aid and comfort on an ongoing basis, separate and apart, from club and community work.

COMMITMENT TO GFWC

The nominee should have an outstanding record of success and achievement, not only in terms of her club's volunteer programs and projects, but also her role in a leadership position, her effort to build membership and promote the club to others, and her overall spirit of volunteerism. She should be kind, loyal, and positive in her relationships with other clubwomen, and her commitment should be continuous, rather than a one-time occurrence.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Community service must address real community needs and concerns. This service should go beyond GFWC club activities and be carried out through other community organizations (e.g. schools, hospitals, an elected/ appointed position, scouts, etc.) and the workplace. Activities should reflect an innovative or unique approach to volunteer work.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to recognizing the outstanding achievements of a club member, an important reason for participating in the GFWC Jennie Award is the tremendous public relations impact it may have on the club, State, Regional, and National levels. Below are some public relations suggestions for each stage during the 2024–2026 Administration:

CLUB

GFWC encourages clubs to recognize one member each administration who has excelled not only in club duties but in their personal life and in the community. Once your club selects its GFWC Jennie Award nominee and is ready to submit its narrative describing a nominee's qualifications, a news release or article about your nominee should be submitted to local media outlets. Consider holding a ceremony during a club meeting and inviting a reporter to cover the event or sending a photo and caption of the session to local media. GFWC clubs may submit only one Jennie Award nominee to their State.

STATE

State Presidents should appoint a state GFWC Jennie Award Chairman to assist in publicizing and managing the award process. State Presidents or Chairmen who receive multiple entries for review should form an outside panel of judges comprised of leading citizens to assist in selecting the single state nominee. This stage offers an opportunity to honor all nominees, either at a state meeting in summer 2025, or at another appropriate venue, such as your State Convention, where each finalist is awarded a special certificate. Reporters should be invited to cover the awards event, or a photo and caption of the event should be sent to relevant media.

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REGION

Region Presidents should consider appointing a Jennie Award Chairman to assist in publicizing and managing the award process, including assisting the Region President in choosing a committee of outside judges to help select the two regional finalists whose applications will be forwarded to GFWC Headquarters for consideration at the national level. The Region President and/or Jennie Awards Chairman should plan an event to honor all state nominees in their Region during the 2025 Region Conferences. Honor all state nominees from the Region and make them feel special by introducing them to the attendees, presenting special certificates to each one, and offering photo opportunities that they can share with their local media.

Reminder— Region entries to GFWC Headquarters must be postmarked by December 1, 2025. GFWC will prepare certificates for the 16 Region finalists and highlight them in the Spring 2026 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

NATIONAL

At the time of the awards ceremony during the GFWC Annual Convention in June 2026, which all eight national honorees are expected to attend, a news release will be issued by GFWC to major U.S. newspapers as well as to media in the states, cities, and regions of all eight honorees. Clubs and State Federations with GFWC Jennie Award medal recipients, as well as each GFWC Region, should also take the opportunity to inform their local media about the national honor. Club Communications and Public Relations Chairmen of the national recipients should notify local officials and organizations such as the mayor, Chamber of Commerce president, and state elected officials to arrange photo opportunities and recognition events.

The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is included on the last page of this section and may be downloaded from the GFWC Member Portal.

AWARD RULES

Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined under the judging criteria above for this award.

- The nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. Her tenure of service may be with several clubs. Years of service must be consecutive not concurrent.
- GFWC Executive Officers (past or present) are not eligible for nomination.
- Nominations should emphasize a member's entire lifetime of service.
- Clubs must complete and submit by June 1, 2025, the GFWC Jennie Award Nomination that contains no more than **25 pages total** (printed single-spaced) of required documents and supportive materials including the following:
    - **Title Page** - Cover sheet that could include basic information as:
        - GFWC Jennie Award Nomination 2024-2026 as heading
        - Nominee's Name, Club Name, State Federation
        - Picture (if desired)
    - **Letter of Introduction** – Provide information about the nominee that describes the reason for the nomination. Maximum of 500 words.
    - **Official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form** which includes narrative descriptions of the nominee's:
        - **Commitment to Family** - To her nuclear or extended family. Maximum of 250 words.
        - **Commitment to GFWC Club** - Through involvement in activities. Maximum of 250 words.

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  - **Commitment to Community** - Participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional. Maximum of 250 words.
- **Digital color photograph** of nominee (high-resolution/300 dots per inch or pixels per inch) submitted for use by GFWC
  Note: If the photo does not meet the required specifications, it will not be used.
- **Clips** of two or three newspaper (or other media) stories about successful projects to which the member contributed (it is not necessary for such articles to mention the member by name).
- **Letter of Endorsement** from the club president
- **Letter of Endorsement** from a representative of another organization

- Nomination packet, including all forms, supporting materials, and photographs, will not be returned.
- The 16 Region Finalists will be featured in the Spring 2026 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.
- One clubwoman from each of the eight GFWC Regions will be selected for national recognition as a GFWC Jennie Award honoree and is expected to attend the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- All eight national GFWC Jennie Award honorees will be awarded roundtrip transportation to attend the June 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

CALENDAR

August 2024 – State Presidents/Region Presidents
Encourage clubs to start looking for candidates to propose.
Announce the call for nominations at state meetings and publish reminders in newsletters, magazines, social media, and emails.

June 1, 2025 – Clubs
Submit nomination materials (1 per club) to respective State President, POSTMARKED by this date.

August 1, 2025 – State Presidents
Submit nomination materials (1 per State) to respective GFWC Region President, POSTMARKED by this date.

December 1, 2025 – Region Presidents
Submit nomination materials (2 per Region) to GFWC Headquarters, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990, POSTMARKED by this date.



March 2026 – 16 Region Finalists
Featured in GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine*.

March/April 2026
GFWC National Selection Committee Meets.

June 2026
One clubwoman from each of the 8 Regions will be chosen as a National Jennie Award honoree. All eight are expected to attend and will be honored at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. A special remembrance and certificate will be presented to the honorees by the GFWC International President and GFWC Jennie Award Chairman.

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JENNIE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

2024–2026 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

Follow instructions in the Award Rules for completing the Nomination along with required documents and supportive materials. Please attach a Letter of Introduction with a maximum of 500 words, double-spaced, using 12-point Arial font, and one-inch margins on all four sides.

1. NOMINEE

Please note that the nominee must attend the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, if selected as a national award winner.

Nominee Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Club	Current State Federation	
Year Nominee Joined GFWC		
First State Federation		
Region		

2. NOMINATOR/CONTACT PERSON

Nominator/Contact Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

3. COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Include examples separate and apart from GFWC club and community work. *250 word limit*

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4. COMMITMENT TO CLUB

Name(s) of project(s), duration, and results, if any, including leadership and positions held. *250 word limit*

5. COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Non-GFWC club service, names of the organization(s), titles held, unique approach to volunteer service. *250 word limit*

Clubs: Submit the title page, completed nomination form, letter of introduction, photos, press clippings, letters of endorsement, and materials by **June 1, 2025**, to your State President. Please note: materials will NOT be returned.

Contact the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman (Deborah Allen, debgfwc@gmail.com) or the GFWC Programs Department with any questions: 1-800-443-GFWC or ***Programs@GFWC.org***.

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NEWSLETTER CONTEST

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

NEWSLETTERS ARE ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF INFORMING GFWC MEMBERS ABOUT CURRENT, ONGOING, AND NEW INITIATIVES.

This GFWC Newsletter Contest encourages clubs and State Federations to establish a strong newsletter program aimed at increasing awareness about ongoing projects, programs, events, and issues that affect GFWC members and communities. This type of publication need not be elaborate or lengthy. Substance is more important than style. A newsletter should be informative and generate enthusiasm, all while contributing to public relations outreach, membership recruitment and retention, and program development. The newsletter should always display the GFWC emblem.

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2024-2026
NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Becky Bolden, Chairman
4510 Hidden Meadows Lane
Monroe, GA 30656

Correspondence:
beckybolden11@gmail.com

Contest Entries:
CPRentries@gmail.com and
Programs@GFWC.org

CONTEST RULES

- Each Club or State Federation may submit one newsletter issue for entry.
- The newsletter must have been published and clearly dated during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- The front page of the newsletter must prominently display the official GFWC emblem and mention membership in GFWC. Refer to the *GFWC Style Guide* for GFWC Trademark Use Policies at **www.GFWC.org.**
- Newsletter entries must include the contact information of at least one member, including an email address, telephone number, and/or mailing address.
- Printed entries must be sent via postal mail, postmarked no later than March 15 in the year in which they will be judged to:

  Becky Bolden, GFWC Newsletter Contest Chairman:
  4510 Hidden Meadows Lane, Monroe, GA 30656 **and a copy to**
  GFWC Programs: 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036
  The envelope must be clearly marked GFWC Newsletter Contest.
- Electronic entries must be emailed by 11:59 on March 15 in the year in which they will be judged to CPRentries@gmail.com and Programs@GFWC.org. The subject line must include GFWC Newsletter Contest and the name of the club or state.
- Your entry must include the attached cover letter with your 250 word essay describing the club's/State Federation's approach to utilizing its newsletter for members.

For ideas on creating an informative and engaging newsletter, refer to the Communications and Public Relations Toolkit by visiting the Member Portal.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries will be judged and awarded points on the following elements:

- Content quality, including timeliness, clarity, and member impact (30%)
- Presentation (30%)
- Design (25%)
- GFWC emblem Included (5%)
- Adherence to rules (10%)

DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked or emailed by **March 15** in the year in which they will be judged.

AWARDS

CLUB LEVEL

A first, second, and third place certificate will be awarded annually at the GFWC Convention to three clubs in the nation.

STATE LEVEL

GFWC certificates are awarded at the GFWC Annual Convention to one State Federation in each membership category to recognize creativity and outstanding achievement in producing a State Federation newsletter.

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GFWC NEWSLETTER CONTEST

2024–2026 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

1. ENTRY		
Date Submitted		
State Federation or Club Name		
State / Club President's Name		
Number of Members in State / Club		
Approximate Circulation		
Type of Newsletter ☐ Electronic ☐ Printed		
2. NOMINATOR/CONTACT PERSON		
Nominator/Contact Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
3. ESSAY		
Include an essay describing the club's/State Federation's approach to utilizing its newsletter for members as well as expanding GFWC's mission and brand. *250 word limit*		

If mailed, send the submission to Becky Bolden, GFWC Newsletter Contest Chairman, 4510 Hidden Meadows Lane, Monroe, GA 30656, and a copy to GFWC Programs, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. The envelope must be clearly marked GFWC Newsletter Contest.

If Emailed, the subject line must include GFWC Newsletter Contest and the name of the club or State and be sent to CPRentries@gmail.com with a copy to Programs@GFWC.org.

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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

TELL YOUR STORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

The GFWC Photography Contests encourage members' artistic expression and visual storytelling while recognizing originality, visual impact, and technical skill in photography. You don't need an expensive camera to take great pictures. Today's cell phones provide a way to take creative photographs that are contest worthy.

GFWC offers two opportunities to participate in the Photography Contests.

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2024-2026
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

Patricia (Tric) Heepe, Chairman
5145 Esteb Rd
Richmond, IN 47374
theepe@aol.com

THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST

These photographs showcase the people, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, as expressed in these three categories:

- **Our World Up Close**—Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world. Macro photography creates photos of small items that appear to be larger than life-size. Some common examples are bugs or parts of flowers.
- **Natural Wonders**—Use wide angles and panoramas, or landscape images, to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista. The emphasis is on NATURAL.
- **Reflections**—Feature an object, setting, situation, or landmark that is reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they actively meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate in groups or one-on-one.

CLUB CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Encourage members to participate in the GFWC Photography Contests.
- Foster participation in the photography contests. Consider selecting a subject for all members to photograph. Possibly suggest a different shape for each week—circles, straight lines, etc.
- Recognize member contributions by awarding certificates and/or ribbons.
- Remind members of deadlines for judging in the local and state contests.
- Forward the submissions for state and national judging as instructed.
- Verify that all rules for the contests have been followed. Entries that **do not** follow the contest rules will be disqualified.





RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
- All contest photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Photographs submitted for the first year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Photographs submitted for the second year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.
- Contestants must be considered an amateur photographer. (Pursuing photography for pleasure versus for financial benefits.)

ARTWORK GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

- Photographs may be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.
- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photo.
- Digital submissions are highly recommended.
- If print photographs are submitted, they must be:
  - An 8 X 10-inch high-resolution print.
  - Mounted on a rigid 8 X 10-inch board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch. No mattes, frames, or hangers are allowed.
- Qualified judges will look at the overall creativity of the subject while recognizing originality, visual impact, and quality of the photograph and technical skills in photography.
- Photographs may be taken using film or digital cameras and may be color or black and white.
- Photographs will NOT be returned.
- Print photographs must have a label affixed to its back with the following information:
  - Contest name: The World in Pictures with category or GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit
  - Photographer's Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, and Phone Number
  - Name and State of the sponsoring club
  - Title and brief caption giving location, date, and other pertinent info about the photograph
  - Arrow indicating top of the photograph
- Creative Arts Waiver Form for each submission is found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Member Portal under Resources in the Awards and Contests section.
- Digital prints must include the same information within the email to which the digital print is attached.

DEADLINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

State Level: Clubs must send entries to their respective State Photography Contest Chairman for judging. State entry deadlines are determined by the respective State Federation.

National Level: To be eligible for national judging, each State Federation may submit one winner for each contest and category, along with a cover letter from the respective State Photography Contest Chairman listing the names of the winning submissions and the signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver from each state winner.

New: If available, please email the photographs in high-resolution/300 dots per inch or pixels per inch using Dropbox, Hightail, or other large-capacity format software.

The submission must be postmarked or emailed by **May 15**.

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Digital Submissions and accompanying documentation should be emailed to Programs@GFWC.org with "Photography Contest" in the Subject Line and copied to: theepe@aol.com.

Print submission should be sent to:
GFWC Photography Contest
1734 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-2990

National level submitted photographs will not be returned.

** If your State Convention takes place on or about this deadline date, contact GFWC at Programs@GFWC.org or 1-202-347-3168).*

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The following awards will be presented at the GFWC Annual Convention for the top three national entries in each contest and category:

FIRST PLACE $100

SECOND PLACE $75

THIRD PLACE $50

DISCLAIMER

By submitting your photographs to GFWC for the GFWC Photography Contests on the national level, you are providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

GFWC CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER FORM

The GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Form is attached to this Photography Contests program. For further information contact GFWC at Programs@GFWC.org or call 202-347-3168.

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Top Seven Smart Phone Photography Tips That Will Make You Forget Your Camera: https://fstoppers.com/mobile/top-7-smartphone-photography-tips-will-make-forget-your-camera-626557

Tips and tricks to help you take better smartphone photos: https://www.popsci.com/take-better-smartphone-photos/

Top five photography lighting tips: https://www.simplebooth.com/blog/photography-lighting-for-beginners/

Photography Tips and Tricks: How to Take Good Pictures: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/get-inspired/inside-look/photography-tips-tricks-how-to-take-good-pictures/

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER

2024–2026 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled_____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.

☐ With my work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of other persons or entities.

The work in question is (please check one): ☐ Photography ☐ Poetry ☐ Short Story

☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or noncommercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if submitter is under 18 years of age) Date

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WEBSITE CONTEST

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"A WOMAN WITH A VOICE IS BY DEFINITION A STRONG WOMAN. BUT THE SEARCH TO FIND THAT VOICE CAN BE REMARKABLY DIFFICULT."
MELINDA GATES

Club and state websites can offer an almost unlimited amount of information for prospective, new, and current members. Having an online presence helps increase your club and state outreach while promoting the GFWC Brand.

The GFWC Website Contest aims to challenge clubs and State Federations to employ their websites as membership tools with organized and updated content that presents a professional and credible source of information. A website that is updated weekly presents the information to your members and potential members in a timely manner. This is a great source to spread the word of the Federation on the web.

CONTEST RULES

- Only one website per club or State Federation may be submitted.
- The website homepage must contain a link to www.GFWC.org and display the GFWC emblem.
- The website must include contact information for at least one member, an email address, telephone number, and/or mailing address.
- The website may continue to be updated after the contest deadline date.
- Submissions must be made via email to CPRentries@gmail.com and Programs@GFWC.org
- The subject line of the submission email must read Website Contest Entry and the name of your club/state.
- The submission email must be received by 11:59 p.m. on March 15 in the year in which website entries will be judged.
- The submission email must include the attached completed entry form, which includes the 250-word essay.

**Private Member Only areas will not be judged.*

DEADLINE

Entries must be received via email by **March 15** in the year in which they will be judged.

For ideas on creating an informative and engaging newsletter, refer to the Communications and Public Relations Toolkit by visiting the Member Portal.

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2024-2026 WEBSITE CONTEST

Becky Bolden Chairman
4510 Hidden Meadows Lane
Monroe, GA 30656

Correspondence:
beckybolden11@gmail.com

Contest Entries:
CPRentries@gmail.com and
Programs@GFWC.org

JUDGING CRITERIA

Websites will be judged on the following elements:

- Ease of navigation
- Overall appearance
- GFWC emblem is prominently displayed.
- Links to GFWC website and State website (if applicable)
- Links to GFWC/State/club affiliate organizations
- Current and relevant information
- Ease of ability to contact
- Ease of discovery via search platforms

AWARDS

CLUB LEVEL

A first, second, and third place certificate will be awarded annually at the GFWC Annual Convention to three clubs in the nation.

STATE LEVEL

GFWC certificates will be awarded at the GFWC Annual Convention to one State Federation in each membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in website implementation and maintenance.

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GFWC WEBSITE CONTEST

2024–2026 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

1. ENTRY			
Website URL			
State Federation or Club Name			
State / Club President's Name			
Phone	Email		
Number of Members in State / Club			
2. NOMINATOR/CONTACT PERSON			
Nominator/Contact Name			
Mailing Address			
City		State	Zip Code
Phone	Fax	Email	
3. ESSAY			
Include an essay describing why the club's/State Federation's website is a valuable resource to members and potential members. *250 word limit*			

When Emailed, the subject line must include GFWC Website Contest and the Name of the Club or State and sent to CPRentries@gmail.com with a copy to Programs@GFWC.org.

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WRITING CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"EITHER WRITE SOMETHING WORTH READING OR DO SOMETHING WORTH WRITING."
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Inspire creativity. Educate, engage, and empower members and your school communities through self-expression. Promote participation in GFWC-sponsored writing contests to foster community spirit, talent, and growth as writers. Contest entries in short stories and poetry are open to club members and youth in grades K-12. Encourage members and youth to write a story or a poem to express their thoughts and share their voices.

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2024-2026
WRITING CONTESTS

Hope Royer, Chairman
700 Hermitage Road, Manakin Sabot, VA 23103
hoperoyer@aol.com

GFWC MEMBER CONTESTS

Authors must be dues-paying members of an active per capita club.

- Entries must be:
  - Typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
  - Printed on white 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one side only.
  - If emailed, use Microsoft Word files only.
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Entries must include the following information on the top right-hand corner of each page:
  - Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of author's GFWC club and State Federation
  - Category
  - Title of work
  - Page number
- Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed $500 annually.
- Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be original works by the author.
- A completed, signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be included with each submission.
- **Short stories** are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be included at the end of the story.
- **Poetry entries** can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
- Entries are limited to one per member per category.



YOUTH WRITING CONTESTS

- Requirements:
  - Typed, double-spaced, one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
  - Printed on white 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one side only.
  - If emailed, use Microsoft Word files only.
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Entries must include the following information on the top, right-hand corner of each page:
  - Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of the GFWC club and State Federation submitting the author's work
  - Category
  - Title of work
  - Page number
  - Grade Level Category
    - Category 1: Grades K, 1, and 2
    - Category 2: Grades 3, 4, and 5
    - Category 3: Grades 6, 7, and 8
    - Category 4: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12
- Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed $500 annually.
- Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be the author's original work.
- A completed, signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be included with each submission.
- Entries are limited to one per person per category.
- **Short stories** are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be indicated at the end of the story.
- **Poetry entries** can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
- The "Six Traits of Writing" will be used in the judging of the Youth Writing Contest writing entries in categories 2,3, and 4.

ENTRY GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES

STATE LEVEL

- Clubs must send entries to their respective State Writing Contests Chairman for state-level judging.
- State entry deadlines are determined by the respective State Federation.
- State Writing Contest Chairmen shall select judges, who will evaluate entries and select a first-place winning entry in each category.
- State Writing Contest Chairmen should keep in mind the national deadline when arranging for state-level judging.

NATIONAL LEVEL

- One winning state entry per writing contest, per category, must be sent to the national GFWC Writing Contest Chairman, postmarked no later than April 1 each year.
- All entries must be accompanied by a cover letter from each State GFWC Creative Writing Contest Chairman with a complete list of state writing contest winners.
- All entries may be mailed or electronically sent to the GFWC Writing Contest Chairman and Programs@GFWC.org.

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CLARIFICATIONS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should keep a copy.
- By submitting a short story or poem to GFWC, the author is providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license the work in any media known at the time of entry, or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.
- A completed, signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be submitted with each entry.

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER

2024–2026 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled_____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.

☐ With my work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of other persons or entities.

The work in question is (please check one): ☐ Photography ☐ Poetry ☐ Short Story

☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or noncommercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if submitter is under 18 years of age) Date

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DEADLINES FOR GFWC AWARDS AND CONTESTS

2024–2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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Mary Beth Williams,
Second Vice President
MBWilliams@GFWC.org

This is a one-stop reference for all GFWC Awards and Deadlines. Please read the relevant sections in the GFWC Club Manual and all Award Entry forms for details. All deadlines call for emails to be sent by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on the due date, or for mailed entries to be postmarked no later than that date.

MARCH 15, 2025 & 2026

Statistical Report (*one* per state, sent by State President) Available in the Member Portal, send to Programs@GFWC.org AND jfrankfurth@gfwc.org

Community Service Program Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and one per Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Community Service Program Chairmen:

- **Arts and Culture:** Billie Williams, Chairman, bmwtfwc62@gmail.com or 4620 McGuire Road, Liberty, TX 77575
- **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Vicky Ann Trimmer, Chairman, vtrimmer@daleyzucker.com or 600 East Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsville, PA 17055
- **Education and Libraries:** Dana Jones, Chairman, Danajones64@yahoo.com or 6585 Settlement Drive S, Indianapolis, IN 46250
- **Environment:** Sharon Oliphant, Chairman, Solip561@aol.com or 871 NW 251st Drive, Newberry, FL 32660
- **Health and Wellness:** Lynn Foreman, Chairman, lforeman.gfwc22@gmail.com or PO Box 647, Ennis, MT 59729

Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Advancement Plan Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and one per Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Carrie Zimmerman, GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman, Czim22@gmail.com or 605 White Oak Farms, Tamasee, SC 29686

Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and one per Club Creativity Entry. Awards presented in Membership Categories.) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Suzanne Hooser, GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children Chairman, suzhoosergfwc@gmail.com or 4307 Washington Road, Kenosha, WI 53144

Communications and Public Relations Advancement Plan Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and and one per Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Becky Bolden, Chairman, beckybolden11@gmail.com or 4510 Hidden Meadows Lane, Monroe, GA 30656

Newsletter Contest Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and three awards presented to clubs, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send Award Entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Becky Bolden, Chairman, beckybolden11@gmail.com or 4510 Hidden Meadows Lane, Monroe, GA 30656

Website Contest Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and three awards presented to clubs, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send Award Entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Becky Bolden, Chairman, beckybolden11@gmail.com or 4510 Hidden Meadows Lane, Monroe, GA 30656

Fundraising Advancement Plan Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and one per Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send Award Entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Judy Martin, GFWC Fundraising Chairman, jmaartago@gmail.com or PO Box 472, Raleigh, MS 39153

Juniorette Recognition Form (Each Juniorette Club that submitted statistical information for the state statistical form) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Darlene C. Adams, Juniorette Chairman, darlenecadams.gfwc@gmail.org or 101 Woodridge Lane, Picayune, MS 39466 AND Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams, mbwilliams@gfwc.org or 8 Sequoyah Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Leadership Advancement Plan Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and one per Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send Award entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Ann Landis, Chairman, alandis@ec.rr.com or 117 Clippership Drive, NC 28462

LEADS Candidate Submittals – Application for the GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar is available in the GFWC Club Manual. One LEADS candidate may be submitted per State or International Affiliate. Send candidate bio and photo to Programs@GFWC.org and Ann Landis, Chairman, alandis@ec.rr.com or 117 Clippership Drive, NC 28462

Legislation and Public Policy Advancement Plan Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and one per Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Mary Pat Marcello, Chairman, njsfwmarypat@aol.com or 1848 Wildcat CV, Hutchinson Island, FL 34949

Membership Advancement Plan Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Karyn Charvet, Chairman, njwckaryn@gmail.com or 716, Wildflower Circle, Naperville, IL 60540

Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Plan Award Entries (*one* per state Overall Award Entry and one per Club Creativity Entry, Awards presented in Membership Categories) Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Marian St.Clair, Chairman, marian.stclair@gmail.com or 357 Riverside Drive, Greensville, SC 29605

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APRIL 1, 2025 & 2026

Affiliate Organizations State Data Form, Affiliate Organizations National Club Data Form, and Affiliate Organizations International Club Data Form sent to Wendy Carriker (wcarriker@gfwc.org) And Jolie Frankfurth (jfrankfurth@gfwc.org)

Writing Contest Award Entries (*one* entry per state for each contest and category) To be eligible for judging, entries must be accompanied by a cover letter from the State GFWC Writing Contest Chairman along with the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver (found in the GFWC Club Manual) from each state winner. Entries will not be returned by GFWC. Please see GFWC Club Manual for all rules. Send to Hope Royer, Chairman, hoperoyer@aol.com or 700 Hermitage Road, Manakin Sabot, VA 23103

MAY 15, 2025 & 2026

Photography Contest Award Entries (*One* entry per state per category) To be eligible for judging, entries must be accompanied by a cover letter from the State Photography Contest Chairman along with the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver (found in the GFWC Club Manual) from each state winner. Entries will not be returned by GFWC. Please see the GFWC Club Manual for all rules. Send to GFWC Photography Contest, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990.

JUNE 30, 2025 & 2026

Annual Giving Program Cumulative Contributions
GFWC will present recognitions as outlined in the program description and as determined by the donations submitted using the Annual Giving Program Form received and tabulated by GFWC.

2025

Jennie Award Nominations (All deadlines are 2025 - see GFWC Club Manual for details)

- **June 1** - Clubs send Jennie Award Nomination Form to State Jennie Award Chairman.
- **August 1** - States send ONE Jennie Award Nominee to GFWC Region President.
- **December 1** - Regions send TWO Jennie Award Nominees to GFWC Headquarters.
- **June 2026** - One nominee per Region will be recognized at the GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

2026

Community Impact Program Award Entries (All deadlines are 2026 – see GFWC Club Manual for details)

- **March 1** - Clubs send entries to the State Community Impact Program Award Chairman.
- **March 20** - State/International Affiliate CIP Chairmen send the Award Entry to GFWC CIP Chairman Katie Moydell at katiemoydell1020@gmail.com and GFWC Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams at mbwilliams@gfwc.org (Awarded by Membership Categories and one International Affiliate.) State Chairmen forward the winning entry to addresses listed on the CIP Award Form. GFWC will issue checks to winning state clubs after GFWC Annual Convention.
- **June 2026** - GFWC Community Impact Program Awards will be presented at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

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