

GFWC
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GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

CLUB MANUAL

2026-2028 ADMINISTRATION



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LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

2026–2028 ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Members,

With great pride and excitement, I welcome you to the GFWC 2026–2028 Administration. I am honored to serve as your 56th GFWC International President. Together, we will continue living our motto, Unity in Diversity. Moving forward, we will build on the strengths of past administrations with leadership, membership, and educational opportunities that will elevate and magnify our volunteer efforts.

Our Strategic Plan will guide us in forging a strong future through engagement and volunteer opportunities for every member of our 136-year-old organization. As we look back on the many accomplishments in our rich history, we will continue to make positive change through nonpartisan legislative advocacy and direct volunteer service.

The 2026-2028 Unity Projects will strengthen our programs and support our work as we reach out in our communities. This outreach will help us share our branding and improve our communities by working with other nonprofit groups for the betterment of all. The Community Service Programs will focus on: Arts and Culture – The Octopus Challenge, Civic Engagement and Outreach – Save the Beat!, Educations and Libraries – Unity Through Reading: Every Story Matters, Environment – The Right Plant in the Right Place, and Health and Wellness – Move for a Healthier You. You can learn more about these and the Unity Projects in the Special Programs, Advancement Areas, and Juniorette sections of the GFWC Club Manual.

Restoring and refurbishing our GFWC Headquarters' property, built in 1875, will be a priority. The Façade Restoration and Beautification Project will restore the iconic white front-facing exterior walls of GFWC's Headquarters buildings. The focus on Unity in Diversity combined with the preservation of our historic Headquarters creates a powerful balance between honoring the past and driving future growth.

On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Let us celebrate the accomplishments of those strong women who lead the way. Our coordinated Federation Day initiative will include draft proclamations and social media campaign components so that we can all highlight the strong women who created our rich GFWC history.

How will you honor the past and pave the path for the future during the 2026-2028 Administration? With our five Community Service Programs, our Advancement Areas, the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and the Juniors Special Program: Advocates for Children, there are so many meaningful ways for all of our members to get involved, share their talents, and make a difference.

Together, we celebrate Unity in Diversity while Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Wendy J Carriker

WENDY J. CARRIKER

GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

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ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

2026–2028 CLUB MANUAL

2026	
January 8–11	2026–2028 GFWC Board of Directors Leadership Conference Hotel Washington, Washington, DC
June 26–29	**GFWC 2026 Annual Convention** Westin Kierland Resort, Scottsdale, AZ
June 29	Installation of 2026–2028 GFWC Officers
June 30	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting, GFWC Board of Directors Meeting
August 22–26	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting – Held at GFWC Headquarters
August 24	GFWC Executive Committee & Staff Retreat – Held at GFWC Headquarters
August 27–30	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting Westin Alexandria, Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
September 11–13	GFWC Western States Region (Utah)
September 18–20	GFWC Mississippi Valley Region (Kansas)
September 25–27	GFWC New England Region (Massachusetts)
September 26	**GFWC Day of Service**
October 2–4	GFWC Great Lakes States Region (Wisconsin)
October 9–11	GFWC Middle Atlantic Region (New York)
October 16–18	GFWC Southeastern Region (Tennessee)
October 23–25	GFWC Southern Region (Florida)
October 30–November 1	GFWC South Central Region (Arizona)
December 6–13	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
December 7–10	GFWC Resolutions Committee Meeting
December 9	**GFWC Holiday Open House**

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2027	
January 10–17	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
January 10–12	GFWC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
January 11–13	GFWC Bylaws Committee Meeting (Virtual)
February 28–March 3	GFWC Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
March 3–8	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
March 3	**GFWC Women's History Month Celebration**
April 18–24	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
April 24	**GFWC Federation Day**
June 22–23	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
June 24	GFWC Convention Tours
June 25	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, LEADS, North Carolina State Night Banquet
June 25–28	**GFWC 2026 Annual Convention** Westin Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina
August 10–12	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
August 13–15	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting The Gunter Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
September 10–12	GFWC Western States Region (Montana)
September 17–19	GFWC Mississippi Valley Region (South Dakota)
September 24–26	GFWC New England Region (Rhode Island)
September 25	**GFWC Day of Service**
October 1–3	GFWC Great Lakes States Region (Illinois)
October 8–10	GFWC Middle Atlantic Region (New Jersey)
October 15–17	GFWC South Central Region (Arkansas)
October 22–24	GFWC Southern Region (Georgia)
October 29–31	GFWC Southeastern Region (Maryland)
December 7–13	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
December 8–10	GFWC Resolutions Committee Meeting

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December 8	**GFWC Holiday Open House**
2028	
January 9–11	GFWC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
January 11–14	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
January 12–13	GFWC Bylaws Committee Meeting (Virtual)
March 6–8	GFWC Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
March 7–11	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
March 8	**GFWC Women's History Month Celebration**
April 16–22	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
April 24	**GFWC Federation Day**
June 21	GFWC Executive Committee Meeting
June 22	GFWC Convention Tours
June 22	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, LEADS, Michigan State Night Banquet
June 24–26	**GFWC 2028 Annual Convention** Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan
June 26	Installation of 2028–2030 GFWC Officers and Adjournment

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GFWC ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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HONOR THE LEGACY – SUSTAIN THE FUTURE

Our commitment to preserving tradition while embracing innovation is at the heart of everything we do. By learning from the past and investing in sustainable practices, we pave the way for a brighter tomorrow for generations to come. Through your generous donations, GFWC will be sustained well into the future.

The Annual Giving program encourages members to make regular donations—monthly, quarterly, or yearly—to help sustain our work. Your donation reflects your commitment to advancing our organization's mission of positively impacting the lives of others.

As we move forward together, every contribution helps to strengthen our organization and expands the reach of our mission. With each act of generosity, you help us honor our legacy and sustain the future. Your ongoing support ensures that our values endure and that we remain a force for positive change, empowering communities, and inspiring others to join us in building a sustainable world.

There are many ways you can chose to designate your donation and those are all listed in the following materials, on the Member Portal Digital Library, and in the Club Manual.

Your tax-deductible gift to GFWC, a 501(c)(3) organization, is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact any member of this committee for additional information.

"Think about giving not as a duty but as a privilege!" — John D. Rockefeller

2026-2028 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 and/or specific project name 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.
  Enter GFWC's donations email address as the payee: 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027 will be acknowledged at the 2027 GFWC Convention; giving completed from July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028 will be acknowledged at the 2028 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. Annual recognition will be included in the Convention Program, and donors will be recognized on the GFWC Member Portal.

ANNUAL CUMULATIVE RECOGNITION AMOUNTS

$125 annual donation ($10.45/month)
- Listing on GFWC Member Portal

$500 annual donation ($41.70/month)
- Previous, plus
- 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 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. Funding 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 at the end of each Administration for the level of cumulative giving achieved.

- **Visionary Donor Level:** Includes individual members and outside organizations
- **Empowerment Donor Level**: Includes a group of members, club, State/DC, 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 any funds listed in the Annual Giving Program! 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.

- Recognition of the donor at GFWC Headquarters through the following administration.
- 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 Donation page.
- 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/DC, 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 Donation page.

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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

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

Please use Donations@GFWC.org

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 Marquee 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 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, 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, repair, and beautify 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 provides funds for 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 investing 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

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STAND UP. SPEAK UP. SHOW UP.

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence 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 to educate the public on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in our local communities and to improve outcomes for survivors through member education and awareness.

The GFWC 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 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.
- **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.

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- **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 identified as 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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Signature Program
Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

GFWC Signature Program Icons & Logos are available in the Digital Library for download.

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2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

GFWC PLEDGE TO STAND WITH SURVIVORS

STAND UP. SPEAK UP. SHOW UP.

WHAT MEMBERS CAN DO:

1. **Download or print** the pledge. (found on the next page and in the Member Portal Digital Library)
2. **Write your name** on the pledge. (digitally or by hand)
3. **Take a photo** of yourself holding your signed pledge.
4. **Post it to your social media** (Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, etc.) using the hashtags: **#GFWCforSurvivors** and **#GFWCStandSpeakShowUp**
5. **Add your state or District of Columbia coalition hashtags** to connect locally.
   For example: **#ICASA #ICADV** (Illinois)
   (Each state or the District of Columbia can add their own domestic and sexual violence coalition tags.)
6. **Encourage others** – your club members, community leaders, and friends – to take the pledge, take their picture holding their signed pledge, posting it on their social media and sharing it on club and state socials.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Every post, signature, and share helps amplify our collective voice, showing survivors that GFWC members **see them, believe them, and stand beside them**.

By **uniting** through this pledge, we:

- Bring **national visibility** to GFWC's Signature Program on Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention.
- Spark **public conversation** about survivor support, healing, and community action.
- Demonstrate that GFWC is a network of women who **don't stay silent** in the face of violence.
- Encourage **partnerships** with state and local coalitions working toward a world free from fear and harm.



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GFWC PLEDGE TO STAND WITH SURVIVORS

My name is _____

I pledge to be a voice for change and a light for hope, when a survivor confides they have experienced domestic or sexual violence.

I will **Stand Up, Speak Up, and Show Up**
for the silenced,
for the brave,
and for those still on their journey to healing.

Together, we raise awareness, offer support, and move closer to a world without violence.



#GFWCFORSURVIVORS **#GFWCSTANDSPEAKSHOWUP** **#WEAREGFWC** **#GFWC**

Date Signed: _____

FEATURED PROJECTS



DATING VIOLENCE PROGRAM FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

GFWC Women's Club of South County (RI) partnered with the Domestic Resource Center of South County to expand on an educational and informational program for sororities and fraternities on the campus of the University of Rhode Island. Funds from a grant from the 2022-2024 State President allowed this club to provide needed additional programs within the campus environment. The members held three different sessions with students to discuss healthy interpersonal relationships and how to avoid dating violence.



EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

GFWC Statesville Woman's Club (NC) launched a podcast series featuring a Victim Advocate from My Sister's House, a local shelter for women and children fleeing domestic and/or sexual violence or human trafficking. The episodes explore signs of domestic violence, myths about protective behaviors, and the shelter's approach to offering survivor-focused services with the goal of survivorship for their clients. The podcast brings awareness to the community of the importance of advocacy and support of the GFWC Signature Program.



SYLVIA'S CLOSET

GFWC Portland Woman's Club (OR) partnered with Providence Health Services of Portland to start a project with Sylvia's Closet, providing new clothes for domestic abuse victims, both female and male, when their clothing is taken by law enforcement for DNA testing in emergencies. Providence Hospital is creating a logo for the project and honoring the GFWC Portland Woman's Club. This effort will be part of a new special clinic for domestic abuse victims. It also resulted in a new club member.



COURT CANINE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN

GFWC Oklahoma had a speaker at their state meeting, a Licensed Court Reporter and Court Therapy Dog Handler. This special guest discussed the importance and impact of using court therapy dogs in court proceedings for child victims. The dogs were present too: Jerzy Girl and Joey. The District President and members distributed "Books of HOPE" in local courthouses for both children and adults to read while awaiting court proceedings as another level of advocacy.

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CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

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 LGBTQ+ students are also survivors. It is not just other students that present a risk; sometimes they are 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.

Most assaults go unreported, with over 90% of victims on college campuses not reporting the incident. The highest risk period is the first few months of the first and second semesters. Nine out of ten victims know the person who assaulted them.

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 processes.

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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- 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)
    - 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.
    - Work with a local college and share information about The Red Zone.

RESOURCES

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

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/civil-rights-laws/title-ix-and-sex-discrimination

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

The Red Zone: Sexual Violence on College Campuses metoomvmt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/1.5.11_The-Red-Zone-Sexual-Violence-on-College-Campuses_INFOSHEET_V2.pdf

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CHILD ABUSE

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

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 well-being. 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

Prevent Child Abuse America www.preventchildabuse.org

Healthy Families America www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org

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ELDER ABUSE

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Approximately 1 in 6 people 60 years or older experienced some sort of abuse during the past year.

This includes physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking.

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. Research indicates that for every incident of abuse reported to the authorities, 23 incidents remain undiscovered and unreported.

People 85 and older are the fastest-growing segment of the population, with approximately 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day. 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.

Older individuals face unique challenges when seeking assistance or services. In most cases, the survivor is in an ongoing relationship with the perpetrator. They may refrain from seeking help or calling the police due to shame or embarrassment because the abuse was committed by a spouse, relative, or caregiver. They may also be intimidated by threats of being placed in a nursing home. Signs may be missed by professionals because of a lack of training in detecting abuse. Professionals must be trained to be diligent about performing physical body checks. Abuse can happen to any older adult, but it often affects those who depend on others for help with everyday care, including bathing, dressing, and taking medicine.

An AARP report estimates that elders throughout the U.S. lose a minimum of $28.3 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation. We need to support and educate our elderly population and their caregivers. With so many entities involved, there is 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, or civil attorneys.

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WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Contact your local 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Organize a "Respect Your Elders" essay or poster contest at your local school.
- Provide a respite break for a caregiver.

RESOURCES

A Guide For Preventing Elder Abuse, Assault, & Theft
www.seniorliving.org/research/preventing-elder-abuse

American Psychological Association www.apa.org/topics/aging-older-adults/elder-abuse

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

Elder Care Locator www.eldercare.acl.gov/home

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

World Health Organization www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abuse-of-older-people

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

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 unhoused youth, children who age out of the foster system, 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, escort services, on streets, at truck stops, hotels, motels, or in private homes. Others are lured in by false promises of jobs, 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) or text Help or INFO to 233733. In an emergency call 911. Use state specific hotlines.
- Provide a concise list of indicators that someone may be a victim.
- Display the National Hotline number in public places.
- 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.
- The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act is a newly passed bipartisan federal law aimed at helping survivors of human trafficking who were forced to commit certain crimes as a direct result of their exploitation. This legislation provides criminal record relief and other support, so survivors aren't perpetually penalized for actions they were coerced into committing.
- Connect survivors with qualified professionals. 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, affordable care, and access to services.
- Provide information about the trauma and recovery process, emphasizing empathy and nonjudgmental support.
- Encourage the use of respectful survivor-centered language – say "person experiencing trafficking" rather than "prostitute" or "victim."
- Advocate with state legislatures to pass laws to prevent human trafficking and institute harsh punishment for traffickers. Visit the state capitol to raise awareness of GFWC's interest in the issue with the legislature.
- Collaborate with Hope for Justice, a GFWC Affiliate Organization, and use the training material included on their website.
- January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Participate in awareness campaigns in your community. Educate yourself about human trafficking.
- 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 organizations advocating against sex trafficking.
- Study the culture and reasons for human trafficking. 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. Partner with schools to educate students about online safety and grooming tactics.

RESOURCES

US Department of Justice https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking

Hope for Justice https://hopeforjustice.org/en-us/

Blue Campaign https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign

Polaris Project https://www.polarisproject.org

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INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Intimate PartnerViolence (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. IPV 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. IPV 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 IPV are also more likely to use drugs or alcohol to cope. After the physical injuries have been treated, a mental health professional should be utilized to help cope with emotional concerns. A counselor or therapist can help surivors manage emotions in healthy ways, build self-esteem, and develop coping skills.

Women experiencing Intimate Partner Violence should make a safety plan to leave, save the evidence, find out where to get help in the local community, talk to someone, look into a restraining order, and call a helpline for free, anonymous help.

In 2019, Purina and RedRover partnered to launch the Purple Leash Project to increase the number of pet-friendly domestic violence shelters nationwide and spread awareness about this vital program. Currently, less than 20 percent of domestic violence shelters accept pets. Through the Purple Leash Project, Purina is helping to create more pet-friendly shelters. They're committing not just funds, but also their hearts and hands, working on-site to renovate shelters so they can welcome pets. Purina team members are committing their time and energy to help break down the barriers, transforming shelters so survivors and pets can escape and stay together.

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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 (Walmart.org/how-we-give/program-guidelines/spark-good-local-grants-guidelines) 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

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 or call **1-800-799-7233**

World Health Organization www.who.int

Purple Leash Project www.purina.com/purple-leash-project

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MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

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/programs/family-advocacy-program/

FAP supports individuals and couples through counseling services to help them manage stress, improve communication, and develop healthier couple dynamics. The program also provides treatment for those impacted by domestic abuse and strives to ensure victims' safety.

DoD (Department of Defense) 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 the 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 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 at 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?

- Work to modify laws that create barriers to reporting or are used in retaliation against survivors, increase support for survivors, and improve 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.
- 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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TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

Teen Dating Violence (TDV) refers to intimate partner violence among adolescents and adolescent relationship abuse. Dating violence, like domestic violence, is about power and control. It 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. Teen dating violence is preventable. Resources are available for teens, families, schools and communities. For more information about teen dating violence, visit nij.ojp.gov/topics/crimes/teen-dating-violence.

TDV can take place in person, online or through technology and can include the following types of behavior:

- Physical violence happens when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.
- Sexual violence involves forcing or attempting to force a partner to participate in a sexual 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 a partner mentally or emotionally and/or exert control over a partner.
- Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a current or former partner that causes fear or safety concerns for an individual victim or for someone close to the victim.

TDV is common. It affects millions of teens in the U.S. each year. It profoundly impacts lifelong health, opportunity, and well-being. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Research data indicates that:

- 1 in 2 U.S. high school students experience physical and/or sexual violence in a dating relationship.
- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys experience physical and/or sexual violence in their intimate relationships.
- 1 in 3 homicides of girls aged 11-18 are committed by an intimate partner.
- 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.
- TDV is more prevalent in LGBTQ teen relationships than in heterosexual relationships. Transgender youth are especially at risk and report the highest rates of physical and psychological dating violence, cyber dating abuse, and sexual coercion.

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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.

Supporting healthy relationships could reduce teen dating violence and its harmful, long-lasting effects on individuals, their families, and their communities. During pre-teen years it is critical for youth to begin learning skills to create and maintain healthy relationships, including skills like managing feelings and communicating in a healthy way. Research emphasizes the need for prevention efforts that address the unique needs of teens.

Safe Dates curriculum for 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 cyber abuse.

TDV 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:

- Use insults, intimidation, or humiliation.
- Exhibit extreme jealousy, insecurity, or controlling behavior.
- Isolate themselves from family and friends.
- Demonstrate explosive temper or unusual moodiness.
- Constantly monitor social media activities and locations.
- Experience symptoms of depression and anxiety and think about suicide.
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol.
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, or hitting.

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

To help victims of TDV:

- Start conversations. Encourage them to talk with someone, a friend, family member, or other trusted adult.
- Listen without judgement.
- Let them know you support them. Help them keep a record or journal, documenting each instance. Encourage self-expression.
- Provide resources. Encourage them to seek medical attention or psychological support.



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WHAT CAN GFWC DO?

- Promote community engagement through public awareness.
- Recognize the month of February as TDV month and sponsor a "Be the Light" campaign.
- Focus on prevention through education. Teach pre-teens and teens 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.
- Support initiatives that 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.

RESOURCES

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse or is a survivor of teen dating violence:

TEXT **HOME** TO **741741** TO REACH A TRAINED CRISIS COUNSELOR THROUGH CRISIS TEXT LINE, A GLOBAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. FREE, 24/7, CONFIDENTIAL.

The National Dating Abuse Helpline – A service of Love is Respect, this national, 24-hour resource is specifically designed for teens and young adults. **CALL: 1-866-331-9474** CHAT: www.loveisrespect.org/get-relationship-help/ **TEXT: Text 'LOVEIS' to 22522.**

The National Domestic Violence Hotline – The Hotline is a nonprofit organization that provides crisis intervention, information, and referral to victims of domestic violence, perpetrators, friends, and families. **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)** or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

National Runaway Safeline Hotline 1-800-RUNAWAY (786-2929)

Love is Respect Hotline 1-866-331-9474

CDC has resources to help communities focus their prevention efforts on what works to address risk and protective factors for violence. The **Dating Matters® Toolkit** is a comprehensive prevention model that teaches 11–14 year-olds how to have healthy, safe relationships. Programs for youth include interactive lessons on understanding feelings, healthy communication, unhealthy and unsafe relationships, and other topics.

Freedom House www.freedomhouseillinois.org

Safe Place www.nationalsafeplace.org/dating-violence

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VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

HOW YOUR CLUB CAN ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE:

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) peoples and two-spirit individuals in Indigenous communities face disproportionately high rates of sexual and gender-based violence in the United States. More than four in five (84.3 %) AIAN women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, including over half (56.1 %) who have experienced sexual violence. These victimization rates outpace those of non-Hispanic White women; for example, AIAN women are 1.2 times more likely to experience any lifetime violence.

The crisis is worsened by legal gaps, limited culturally appropriate services, and underreported cases. Lasting change requires greater awareness, stronger advocacy, and community-led, culturally informed solutions.

- 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 can not 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 people 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.

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RESOURCES

Indian Law Resource Center www.indianlaw.org

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

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

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

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

Domestic Violence Action Center www.domesticviolenceactioncenter.org

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GFWC SUCCESS FOR SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP



As part of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, the GFWC Success For Survivors Scholarship was created in 2011 to lend a helping hand to those impacted by domestic and sexual violence who are pursuing higher education. The scholarship aims to provide survivors with a means to achieve both financial and personal independence. Since its inception, GFWC has awarded more than $187,600 in scholarship funds. Visit www.gfwc.org/scholarship/ to find more information about the scholarship, including applications and deadlines for submission.

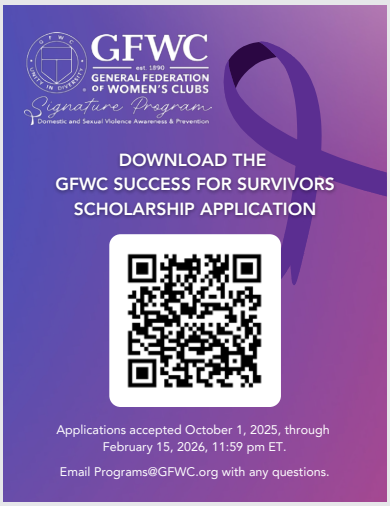
Applications are posted in October and due February 15, annually for the following school year.

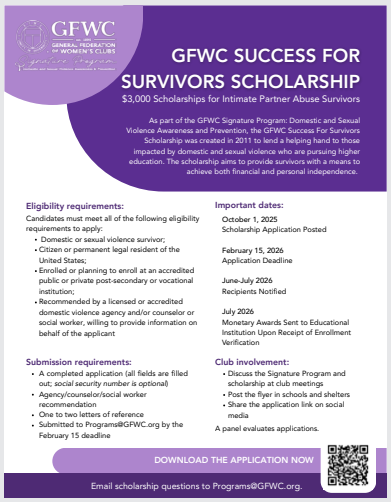
Please consider developing a survivor scholarship in your State or District of Columbia Federation! Work with your local Coalition to determine the need for such a scholarship.

Feel free to contact the 2026-2028 Signature Program Chairman, with any questions.

PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES FOR CLUBS

Find Promotional Handouts and graphics for the Success for Survivors Scholarship in the GFWC Digital Library.





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AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federations 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/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Signature Program Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

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 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

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"THERE IS NO TRUST MORE SACRED THAN THE ONE THE WORLD HOLDS WITH CHILDREN. THERE IS NO DUTY MORE IMPORTANT THAN ENSURING THAT THEIR RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED, THAT THEIR WELFARE IS PROTECTED, THAT THEIR LIVES ARE FREE FROM FEAR AND WANT AND THAT THEY CAN GROW UP IN PEACE." — KOFI ANNAN

CHANGE MAKERS 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.

GFWC members 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 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
- Housing instability
- Human trafficking
- Life-threatening illness
- Cyber predators
- Poverty

The Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children supports initiatives such as:

- Limiting screen time
- No texting while driving

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028
JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM

Nicole Braun, Chairman
GFWC Southern Region
109 Ridge Xing
Temple, GA 30179
nbraungfwc@gmail.com

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.

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

BEING A UNIFIED FORCE FOR CHILDREN



Encourage clubs to work with your local child-care facilities. Many child-care facilities partner with St. Jude for their Trike-A-Thon, they work with local churches and school systems to provide Christmas gifts for families in need, and they have various activities throughout the year where volunteers could be needed. All of these activities require parent participation to be successful, but sometimes that falls short. Within this partnership, don't hesitate to offer new ideas, such as working with the Safe Surfin' Foundation by using their free materials to support internet safety education for children and families at these centers. Your club could organize a workshop for online safety or hold a parent tech night support event. Find a facility in your area where your club might have the greatest impact.

GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK

Sunday, October 25, to Saturday, October 31, 2026

Sunday, October 24, to Saturday, October 30, 2027

During Advocates for Children Week, clubs and members are encouraged to contact their local child care facilities to identify their needs for children or families during the holiday season. Clubs could collect canned foods or toys for a holiday drive. In addition, there are volunteer opportunities like leading a holiday themed cooking demonstration, reading a holiday classic to a class, offering handyman and holiday beautification assistance around the building, or making internet activity safety kits for families to hand out during the holidays when students tend to spend more time at home.



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FEATURED PROJECTS



COMFORT ROOM

GFWC Muskego Woman's Club (WI) members joined forces with their local police department to create a safe and comfortable space for those in crisis. Members planned, created a budget, painted, built, and handcrafted items to remodel a room at the police station for families facing difficult times. Club members purchased child-friendly furniture, toys, books, and sensory wall hangings along with soundproofing panels. This club has also made a long-term commitment to maintain this space.



SCHOOL CLOSET

GFWC Les Amies Juniorettes of Purvis (MS) secured locations in the high school and middle school to stock an area for students to browse clothing and shop for free. Children then feel a better sense of belonging and confidence, ensuring they can focus better on their education and not worry about how they look. These Juniorettes donated trendy and age-appropriate clothing from their own closets to ensure a well-stocked and appealing shopping experience.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK SALE

GFWC Woman's Club of Enfield (CT) members donated funds to three elementary schools for children in grades 3 through 5. The money donated was earmarked for students who were unable to purchase books on their own during the Scholastic book fair at their school. Children were able to choose and enjoy their book without worrying about prices.



FINGERPRINT CHILDREN

GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla (TX) worked with local law enforcement to fingerprint kindergarten students in their district, ensuring that in the case of a missing child, law enforcement has quick access to the fingerprints. Parents must give their permission to have their child fingerprinted. Afterwards, fingerprint cards are sent home to parents to keep on file in the event of a crisis. These Texas women have found a unique way to add to the community's child safety.

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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 Nicole Braun, nbraungfwc@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' Foundation, Inc., to establish a Cyber S.W.A.T. Program in local schools. Donations can also be made to assist with providing online resources to parents, schools, and educators, and should be marked as GFWC for tracking purposes.

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 and keep it stocked with children's books or commit to keeping a local Little Library stocked

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- 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.
- Facilitate a parent training/informational session about AI and cyber risks for children



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.

SAFE SURFIN' FOUNDATION

- Cyber S.W.A.T is a peer-to-peer program designed to educate youth about online safety. Program facilitators use the provided curriculum and activities to help facilitate tough conversations about bullying, online predators, and other online risks. The peer mentors then

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reach out to other school-aged students to share what they've learned and present projects they have created to tell real stories about online safety and online risks. www.safesurfin.org/cyber-swat/

MARCH OF DIMES

- The March for Babies is a fun event to raise funds to help support mothers and premature babies, 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.operationsmile.org

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 the U.S. to collect donations for their general fund. At your October meeting decorate and include UNICEF Trick or Treat for UNICEF boxes 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

AI and Child Online Safety www.safecareparenting.com/understanding-the-dangers-of-ai-keeping-your-children-safe-online/

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

National Child ID Program ChildIDprogram.com

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

EZ ID KITS www.ezchilid.com/about/

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.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/net-ceteraachatting-kids-about-being-online

Parent Guides from ConnectSafely www.connectsafely.org/parentguides/

Prevent Child Abuse America preventchildabuse.org/

Project Learning Tree www.plt.org/

Save the Children www.savethechildren.net/

School Site Investigation www.plt.org/greenschools

Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants www.ed.gov

Suicide Prevention Lifeline www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

The Dangers of Distracted Driving fcc.gov/consumers/guides/dangers-texting-while-driving

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 justice.gov/humantrafficking/key-legislation

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21st Century Community Learning Center Funding
www.ed.gov/ grants-and-programs/formula-grants/school-improvement-grants/nita-m-lowey-21st-century-community-learning-centers-title-iv-part-b

What Is Human Trafficking? dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/21829

Youth Suicide Warning Signs Youth.gov

Youth Mental Health Youth.gov

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federations in each membership category**
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Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

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 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

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028
ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMUNITY SERVICE
PROGRAM

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"THE ARTS ARE NOT JUST A NICE THING TO HAVE—THEY DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS A PEOPLE AND PROVIDE AN ACCOUNT OF OUR HISTORY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION." — MICHELLE OBAMA

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 lexicon 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 choses to define these words, their collective meaning speaks volumes. Arts and culture bring people together, spark creativity, and preserve the stories and traditions that shape who we are. 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, development of 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.

The arts ignite imagination, build self-confidence in young people, foster empathy, and bring beauty into our everyday lives, whether through multi-media, music, dance, or theater. Culture is the thread that weaves communities together – it connects us to our roots, celebrates our diversity, and shapes our collective identity. By honoring both, we revere our shared humanity by inspiring new ideas, encouraging dialogue, and providing opportunities for expression and connection across generations.

A quote from Phylicia 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 be the vanguard in developing projects and programs to highlight and focus support on all aspects of human expression. Develop local activities like awarding art scholarships, sponsoring community and school art contests, participating in community beautification projects, assisting little theater activities, sustaining library growth and expansion, developing photography contests, and backing local choral performances.

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.

Don't just sponsor, but also joyously participate! Festivals, heritage programs, historical preservation, and cross-cultural exchanges all create opportunities for understanding and unity, reminding us that strong communities are built not just on shared geography, but on shared experiences. 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 deepen our understanding of our world and the people who share it with us.

When GFWC women's clubs champion the arts by lifting up local artists, hosting cultural celebrations, and weaving creativity into community life, we plant seeds of beauty and pride that flourish for generations. By embracing this work, our clubs ensure that service is not only practical but also soulful, leaving behind a legacy as colorful and enduring as the art we support. By supporting our culture, we respect the traditions, stories, and customs that give our communities depth and character, while also welcoming the new ideas and perspectives that keep them thriving.

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.





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2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

THE OCTOPUS CHALLENGE



STRETCH YOUR REACH

GFWC encourages clubs, State/District of Columbia Federations to participate in a challenge encompassing all areas of the Arts & Culture service project area. The Octopus Challenge invites clubs and federations to stretch their reach throughout all areas of Arts and Culture by **completing 2 projects in each of these 4 areas:**

1. **ART**
2. **MUSIC**
3. **DANCE/THEATER**
4. **CULTURE**

But our Octopus isn't finished yet! For ambitious federations looking to expand their reach a little further, there is a bonus challenge. After all, an octopus may only have 8 arms, but we know she can grow another when needed. **For bonus credit and special recognition, complete 2 additional projects celebrating each of these special areas:**

- Affiliate Organizations
- Lesser-known cultural traditions such as Lei Day, Diwali, Dia de Los Muertos, Juneteenth, and more.

By the end of this administration, those who have completed this Challenge will have left a legacy of service to their communities as far-reaching and embracing as an octopus's arms! Let your ideas flow, make waves of creativity and inspiration, and don't forget to brand your artistic endeavors with your club's name, contact information (where appropriate), and the GFWC Emblem.

The **Octopus Challenge Award Certificate** will be given to any State/District of Columbia Federation, or club that completes the project. Special Recognition will be given to those who have also completed the Bonus projects. Recognition for this Challenge will be given at the Region Banquets during the GFWC Annual Convention in 2028. Find the form for this challenge at the end of this section and in the Member Portal Digital Library.

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2026-2028 ARTS & CULTURE UNITY PROJECT
THE OCTOPUS CHALLENGE

Clubs and State/District of Columbia Federations are encouraged to dive into an exciting and creative initiative encompassing all areas of the Arts & Culture Service Program. This challenge invites participants to stretch their reach – much like an octopus – by completing two projects in each of four areas: Art, Music, Dance/Theater, and Culture. Together, these eight projects form the foundation of the challenge and promote creativity, expression, and cultural appreciation.

But we're not finished yet! For ambitious groups, a bonus challenge is available. After all, while an octopus may only have eight arms, we know she can grow another when needed. For bonus credit and special recognition, complete two additional projects in each of these areas: supporting Affiliate Organizations and cultural traditions from other areas of the world such as, such as Lei Day, Diwali, Día de Los Muertos, and more. By the end of this administration, participants will have created a legacy of service as wide-reaching and inclusive as an octopus's embrace. Let your ideas flow and make waves of creativity and inspiration.

1. CLUB OR STATE/DC FEDERATION INFORMATION	
Club Name	
State or DC Federation	
Club or State/DC Federation President's Name	
Contact Name	
Phone	Email

OCTOPUS CHALLENGE INSTRUCTIONS

Please provide two completed projects for each of the following four categories.

CATEGORY 1: ART
Art Entry A
Art Entry B

CATEGORY 2: MUSIC
Music Entry A
Music Entry B

CATEGORY 3: DANCE/THEATRE
Dance/Theatre Entry A
Dance/Theatre Entry B

CATEGORY 4: CULTURE
Culture Entry A
Culture Entry B



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OCTOPUS CHALLENGE BONUS CATEGORIES

Boost your score! Provide two completed project entries for these optional categories.

BONUS CATEGORY 1: PROJECTS SUPPORTING AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION
BONUS Entry A
BONUS Entry B

BONUS CATEGORY 2: CULTURAL TRADITIONS
BONUS Entry A
BONUS Entry B

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ☐ All 8 primary entries are completed.
- ☐ Bonus entries are included (optional).
- ☐ Contact information is accurate.

Signature _____ Date _____

An Octopus Challenge Award Certificate will be presented to all clubs or State Federations completing the challenge, with special acknowledgment for those also completing the bonus projects. Recognition will be given at the Region Banquets during the 2028 International Convention.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



SIDEWALK CHALK ART

Driven by a desire to provide an interactive and accessible outdoor arts experience, the GFWC Sylvania Junior Woman's Club (GA) initiated a community-wide sidewalk chalk art display. Wanting to expand on the traditional wall mural, the club, in collaboration with the City of Sylvania and the Screven County Chamber, transformed the downtown park into an interactive canvas. Members created engaging chalk designs, and passersby were invited to contribute their chalk creations while interacting with the existing designs.



EMERGENCE – A JOURNEY FROM BROKENNESS TO TRANSFORMATION

Members of GFWC Dover Century Club (DE) experienced how art serves as both a source of healing and a catalyst for awareness in this project. A 3" x 3' shattered heart-shaped mirror represented the fractured lives affected by domestic violence. Rather than discarding the broken pieces, the cracks were filled using small pieces of mosaic glass. This act of reconstruction symbolized healing, resilience, and the beauty that can emerge from brokenness.



WING IT PROGRAM

GFWC Oregon City Women's Club (OR) collaborated with a local theater group to support the "Wing It" program for children. In this interactive show, the young audience helps crew members, dressed as whimsical, winged creatures, get out of a jam while learning lessons about kindness and good behavior. After the performance, children are invited onstage to share a joke, poem, dance, or even just a smile and giggle, fostering creativity, confidence, and joyful participation in a supportive and encouraging environment.



PASSPORT TO ARTS & CULTURE

The GFWC Chapin Women's Club (SC) Arts & Culture Chairman created a "Passport to Arts & Culture," complete with a photo to inspire members to explore the arts. She organized group outings to cultural events, encouraging members to attend as many as possible, whether club-sponsored or on their own. Passports were stamped at club meetings, and at year's end, the member with the most stamps received a $250 gift certificate generously donated by a local art gallery.

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PROJECT IDEAS

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

GENERAL

- Arranging visits to the studios of local artists and musicians is a wonderful way to bring the arts to your community – not only for your club members but also for youth, senior, and veteran groups. These experiences can showcase the talents of painters, sculptors, glassblowers, potters, leather crafters, and woodworkers, giving behind-the-scenes looks at their unique creative expressions. Local dance studios, community theater groups, musical ensembles, and museums will often embrace the opportunity to share their passion through tours, demonstrations, or short performances. Explore the cultural events your community has to offer through resourcing your local Community Events Calendar, Arts Council, or Chamber of Commerce. Then participate!!
- Another way to celebrate creativity and expression in Arts and Culture is sponsoring or hosting events such as art shows, photography contests, dance competitions, or student music showcases. This can encourage local talent and foster pride in community culture. Events can be designed to include participants of any age group or even provide opportunities for club members to share their own artistic skills.
- Honor cultural heritage by learning/teaching the traditional arts (such as Asian paper folding, Ukrainian Pysanky, African Batiks, European Embroidery, etc.), songs, or dances of another country. Participating in community events hosted by other organizations that celebrate diverse cultures is a wonderful way to broaden your understanding and build meaningful connections. These shared experiences not only deepen cultural appreciation but also raise your club's visibility, strengthen community partnerships, and highlight your commitment to learning, inclusion, and service.
- Establish scholarships for arts students, including literature, drama, and music. This could be to attend an arts school or summer camp.
- Establish awards that acknowledge the artistic achievements of club and community members.
- Include a category in Art Contests that is specific to children with special needs. Many times, these students need to receive recognition for their creativity.



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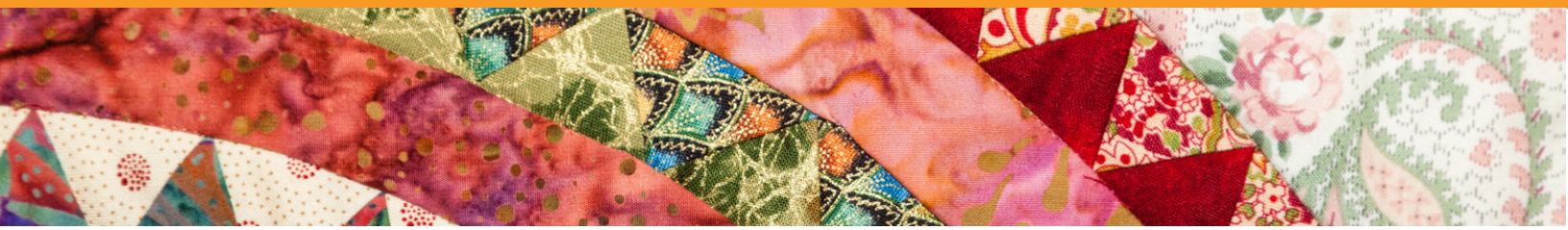

ART

- Use member or children's art for club cookbook covers, greeting cards, program covers, etc.
- "Love the Police, Bus Drivers, Firefighters, or Veterans" – Assist local elementary students make Valentine cards for town police, bus drivers, firefighters, and veterans.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Participate in or sponsor local arts and crafts contests.
- Sponsor a craft time at a local elementary school or daycare…something hands-on, messy, and fun.
- 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.
- 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.
- Paint rocks with inspirational words and place them all over the city in places where they can be found. A kind word 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.
- Donate art books, sketchbooks, coloring books, crayons, and other art supplies to hospitals, doctor/clinic waiting rooms, schools, and shelters.
- 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.
- Hold a holiday centerpiece/wreath-making workshop at a local florist as a club program.
- 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.

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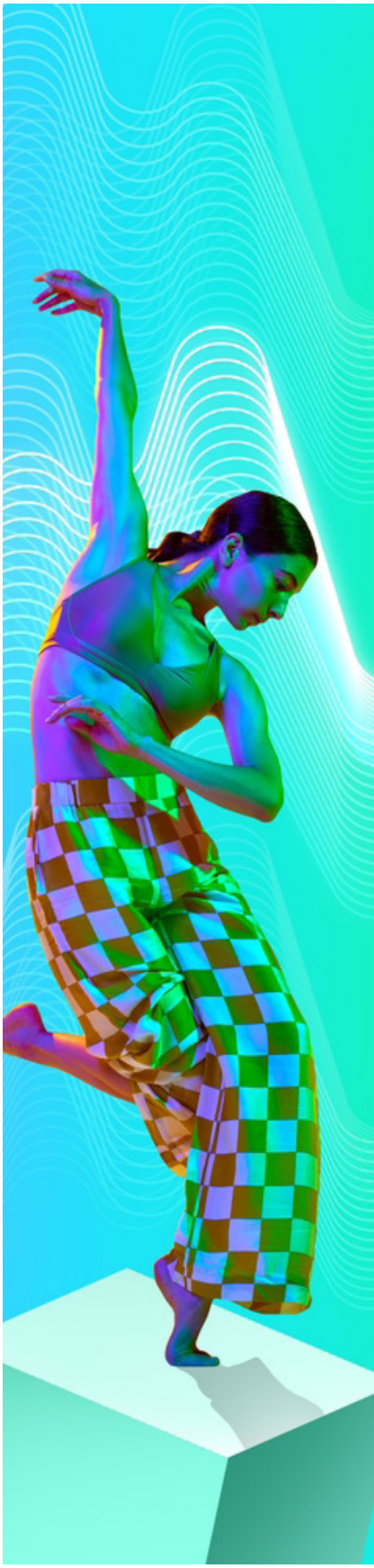
MUSIC

- Have a neighborhood or city music event, such as a Battle of the Bands for teens or an outdoor Concert Series featuring area bands.
- Utilize local student jazz combos, string quartets, or even the whole band to perform at club events and fundraisers.
- Arrange for youth groups or senior groups to attend a rehearsal of your local symphony, chorale, or chamber organization.
- 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.
- Hold a fundraiser to purchase sheet music or a large piece of equipment for your local schools' art, music, or drama departments, such as instruments, microphones, speakers, or technology.
- Partner with programs providing adaptive music lessons for individuals with disabilities.
- Collect oral histories from local musicians or host a "Music Through the Decades" event.
- Hold a benefit concert or themed karaoke night with proceeds supporting a GFWC partner or local charity.
- Encourage/support Music Therapy Programs for Youth and Seniors in your community.

DANCE/THEATER

- Sponsor a trip to a museum or the theater for students and engage members as chaperones.
- Work with your city to sponsor and promote an outdoor classic film festival showing movies with themes such as musicals, foreign language, and Academy Award Winners.
- 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.
- Sponsor or volunteer with community theater groups, school drama clubs, or local dance studios. Provide refreshments, usher, or help with costumes and set design for performances.
- Arrange for theater or dance groups to perform at senior centers, children's hospitals, or care facilities. A short play, skit, or dance performance can brighten lives and provide meaningful community connection.
- Collaborate on Readers' Theater programs for children, where students dramatize stories to build literacy and confidence. Club members can help direct, provide simple costumes, or read aloud.
- Work with local theaters to sponsor free or discounted tickets for underserved audiences, especially students, veterans, or seniors who might not otherwise attend live performances.
- Host a "Dancing for a Cause" event, where club members and community leaders pair up for a friendly dance competition to raise funds for a local charity or GFWC partner organization.



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CULTURE

- 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.
- 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.
- Hold cooking demonstrations during meetings to introduce foods and customs from other cultures.
- Donate books with an art and/or cultural theme to the public library, a school library, or a Little Free Library.
- 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.
- Decorate a city park or municipal plaza for holidays and/or the seasons.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- Host a "World Dance & Theater Night" showcasing traditional performances from different cultures. Invite local cultural groups or international students to share heritage dances or dramatic storytelling tradition.
- Celebrate the cultures of the countries that have GFWC clubs. Showcase their food, dance, and art as well as information about the clubs themselves and projects they have done.
- Organize an International Night featuring music, dance, and cuisine from around the world. Invite community members, schools, or exchange students to share their heritage through performances and storytelling.
- Coordinate a "Tales from Around the World" storytelling event at libraries or schools. Include folktales, myths, or personal cultural stories read or performed by volunteers in traditional attire.
- Host a Community Heritage Festival highlighting local traditions, foods, music, and crafts. Partner with historical societies or cultural organizations to showcase exhibits on your town's history and cultural roots.
- Work with local museums, archives, or cultural landmarks to document oral histories, digitize old photos, or create displays highlighting community heritage and international influences.



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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Purchase bolts of fabric for Canine Companions to sew vests for 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.
- Invite local artists, students, or club members to create paintings, sculptures, or digital art celebrating the bond between people and service animals. Display the work in libraries, galleries, or community centers.
- Sponsor or produce a short play, skit, or readers' theater depicting how a Canine Companions service dog transforms a person's life. Then partner with a school drama club or community theater group to perform the piece at civic events, schools, or senior centers.
- Host a "Dogs with a Purpose" photo contest, inviting community members to submit portraits of their dogs, with entry fees benefiting Canine Companions.

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.
- Organize a craft fair where local artisans or club members produce items inspired by agricultural or rural life (e.g., handcrafted textiles, pottery, woven baskets, or embroidered pieces) and tie it to Heifer's mission of empowering farmers and rural communities.
- Solicit local bands, musicians, choirs, or community groups to hold a concert themed around agriculture, community, food, and global connection evoking cultural traditions of farming communities. Proceeds support Heifer.

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/
- Create a fundraiser within your club or State Federation to raise money for March of Dimes. Use a theme that is engaging and fun – encourage participants to be creative in their presentations of their donations. For example, if you are collecting dimes, make a display with them in the theme of "The Ants (Dimes) go Marching."
- Participate in local March of Dimes Walk-a-thons, even sponsor a group. Create t-shirts or signs with inspirational sayings on them.
- Organize a fun, social art-fundraiser: e.g., a painting class ("Paint & Sip" or "Paint & Share"), a pottery-making session, or a craft workshop where participants pay a fee, all or part of which goes to March of Dimes. The artwork created may be themed around moms, babies, early life, hope, and growth.

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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.
- Invite local artists, students, or club members to submit paintings, photography, or crafts inspired by "Smiles Around the World." Sell or auction the artwork, with funds donated to Operation Smile.
- Host a "Craft for a Cause" day, either for members or a community project with youth or seniors. Sew soft blankets, decorate tote bags, or create cheerful art for Smile Kits.
- Celebrate the diverse cultures served by Operation Smile through art, music, dance, and food through an event or presentation featuring performances, crafts and foods representing these countries.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

- Curate an art show featuring pieces inspired by love, courage, and children's strength, with proceeds benefitting St. Jude. Invite members, students, and local artists to contribute artwork. Display art at a library, community center, or online gallery. Auction the pieces or ask for donations during the event.
- Create handmade blankets, hats, or stuffed animals for children receiving treatment.
- Assemble and decorate individual Art Therapy Kits for hospitalized children to use during their recovery. Include coloring books, sketchpads, crayons, markers, watercolor sets, stickers, or origami paper. Decorate the outside of each Kit with cheerful designs and messages of encouragement.
- Host a concert, choir recital, or open mic night to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Feature uplifting or children's-themed music. Include local youth choirs, community bands, or member performances. Sell tickets or accept donations, with all proceeds going to St. Jude.
- Host a community dance or themed dance-a-thon (retro, swing, line dancing, or international dance night) to raise funds and awareness for St. Jude.

UNICEF USA

- Host a community art exhibit featuring works that celebrate children, culture, and global unity, with proceeds benefiting UNICEF USA.
- Celebrate world cultures through music and dance performances, while raising funds and awareness for UNICEF's work in global child health and education.
- Create and sell handmade crafts – ornaments, jewelry, greeting cards, or textiles – themed around children, hope, and world friendship, with proceeds to UNICEF USA.
- Host an art contest for children themed around kindness, cultural friendship, and global citizenship, with entry fees donated to UNICEF. "Color the World with Kindness."

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

- Engage seniors in storytelling sessions where they share life memories, recorded or written down with club assistance. Preserving personal stories is a powerful form of literary art and cultural heritage. Share copies with families and caregivers.
- Partner with a local memory care facility or senior center to host guided painting or art-making

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sessions for residents. Visual arts can stimulate memory and emotion even when verbal communication is limited.

- Collaborate with a local drama group or high school to create short plays inspired by memories shared by Alzheimer's patients.
- Create or sponsor music programs that bring familiar tunes to those with Alzheimer's. Music often sparks memories and emotions even after cognitive decline.
- Create a photo display connecting past and present, using personal or historical images that spark recognition and conversation.
- Host recurring craft sessions with Alzheimer's patients or caregivers, focusing on simple, sensory-rich activities. Weaving, collage, or clay modeling engage touch, sight, and memory – all vital elements of creative culture.
- Host a dance or movement program featuring music from different eras to promote joy, exercise, and memory recall.
- Create a sensory art garden featuring painted rocks, ceramic flowers, or mosaic stepping stones honoring those with Alzheimer's. Invite members, caregivers, and families to paint rocks with names, flowers, or hearts.

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 includes 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/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federations 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/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Arts and Culture Community Service Program projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Arts and Culture Community Service Program Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

The Octopus Challenge Award Certificate will be given to any State/District of Columbia Federation or club that completes the project. Special Recognition will be given to those who also completed the Bonus projects. Recognition for this Challenge will be given at the Region Banquets during the GFWC Annual Convention in 2028.

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 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

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Nancy Dickman, Chairman
GFWC Great Lakes Region
S68W17666 East Drive
Muskego, WI 53150
nancy-dickman@outlook.com

"EVERY MOMENT IS AN ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITY, EVERY PERSON A POTENTIAL ACTIVIST, EVERY MINUTE A CHANCE TO CHANGE THE WORLD." — DOLORES HUERTA

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.

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, serving the hungry, unhoused, those in need, and recognizing military personnel and veterans are just a few of the many areas GFWC members have impacted throughout our history.

Now, think about your own community. What is needed where you live? What issues are affecting your neighbors, your town, or the wider world?

Look around you and consider how you and your club can make a positive difference. Choose an area of need, then take the next step to help create meaningful change.

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.

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

SAVE THE BEAT!



LEARN. ACT. SAVE.

For the 2026-2028 administration, we are challenged with UNITY PROJECTS that reflect our members interacting with our communities and other community organizations to have a notable impact.

Conduct a CPR training session at each club and State/District of Columbia Federation! And don't stop there – **EACH YEAR, try to certify at least 100 community members in CPR between July 1, 2026, and March 15, 2028!** Annually submit these efforts via email to the chairman using the fillable form found in the Digital Library on the Member Portal, by March 15, to receive a certificate of recognition for club websites and social media.

We will find success in this when we partner with highly qualified trained professionals, and we leverage our considerable planning skills. Here is a suggested checklist to help us succeed in our public safety efforts.

1. Choose a format.
    - In-person workshop which is best for hands-on practice and community bonding.
    - Youth-focused track tailored for teens through college-age to encourage volunteerism and action in our next generation.
2. Contact qualified group trainers who will conduct the session.
    - Possible resources include Local EMTs or Fire Departments, American Red Cross, and CPR Certification programs in the state via an Internet search.
    - Confirm the cost per participant student based on the provider.
    - Local EMTs may offer free or discounted community sessions.
    - Decide if the club will cover the training fee for the students.
3. Select a venue.
    - Contact area schools and churches for space.
    - Community centers and public libraries may have meeting rooms perfect for the training.
4. Set a date and start promoting the session.
    - Work with the city or the provider on a theme for the training.
    - Post flyers at local businesses/daycares/stores and utilize social media posts, school newsletters or blogs, church bulletins, and city message boards to broadcast the day/time/location/cost of the training.
    - Share stories of how CPR saves lives.
    - Offer scholarships or free spots if there is a fee for the students. Let potential trainees know how they can qualify for one of the free or reduced fee spots.
5. Training and Certification

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- Most CPR classes take 2-4 hours depending on what the provider includes. Consider including proper AED training in the session as many employers, schools, churches, and city buildings now have the devices.
- Participants receive a CPR certification card.
- Certification is valid for 2 years.
- The certifications are accepted by employers, schools, and volunteer organizations.

6. Other considerations
   - As the club collaborates with the provider, consider whether the club will run a fundraiser to help defray most of the training costs.
   - The club may wish to contact other community service organizations to partner in the training to emphasize the UNITY in this public safety project.
   - The club may wish to purchase Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) devices for locations that currently need them.
   - Share the success of the training on social media and with GFWC!
7. Keep a tally!
   - Be sure to keep track of the number of people your work has helped get certified in CPR. You'll be asked to include the tally on the annual form submitted to the chairman during the administration.

GFWC members, clubs, and federations are encouraged to focus on efforts to educate their community members in the life-saving skill of CPR. 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. 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.

GFWC clubs are encouraged to participate in the "Save the Beat" UNITY PROJECT that improves community preparedness utilizing outside expert resources! Please document the club member efforts in increasing CPR certifications. Clubs will receive, via email to the Contact Person, Certificates of Recognition for the following activities:

- **The club held a training session for club members**
- **The club sponsored a community/employer training event**

Completed forms must be emailed to: GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman Nancy Dickman (nancy-dickman@outlook.com) no later than March 15 annually. The form can be found on the next page and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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2026–2028 UNITY PROJECT: SAVE THE BEAT

SUBMISSION YEAR

☐ **2027** (July 1, 2026 – March 15, 2027)

☐ **2028** (July 1, 2027 – March 15, 2028)

SUBMISSIONS DUE VIA EMAIL BY **MARCH 15** ANNUALLY TO
GFWC Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman
Nancy Dickman nancy-dickman@outlook.com

1. CLUB INFORMATION	
Club Name	
State/DC Federation	
Club President's Name	
Contact Name	
Phone	Email

INSTRUCTIONS

"Save the Beat" Unity Project improves community preparedness utilizing outside expert resources! Please document the club member efforts in increasing CPR certifications. Certificates of Recognition will be emailed to the email provided above at the end of the submission year when at least 100 people have been trained and certified during the club year.

2. UNITY PROJECT DETAILS	
☐ Club Member Training Event	Date of Event
Number of Members Trained	
Name of Group that Trained and Certified	
Contact Name	
☐ Community Training Event	Date of Event
Total Number of People Trained	
Provide a brief description of the event that includes the location, publicity efforts, social components, member participation, and any other detail the club would proudly like to share:	

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FEATURED PROJECTS



BUS STOP BENCHES

When the GFWC Valamont (TN) club noticed that local CARTA bus stops had no seating, they began making and painting benches for bus stops. They partnered with ACE Hardware, Home Depot, and Gideon Paint Co. for supplies and donations. Several students from the local school system also assisted with making benches. In addition to making benches, the students made seating boxes from the lumber scraps. Facebook requests for bench sponsors resulted in 70 benches made.



SELF-DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

The GFWC Yucaipa Woman's Club (CA) empowered members and guests by hosting a women's self-defense class led by local experts, a Black Belt in Karate, and a former police officer, who volunteered their time and skills. Participants learned practical techniques to boost awareness, confidence, and safety. By the end of the session, attendees felt more prepared to protect themselves and safer when alone, walking away with not just new skills, but a renewed sense of strength, self-assurance, and personal empowerment.



COZY'S FOR YOUR TOE-SY'S

GFWC Hampton Rapids Junior Woman's Club (IL) members each brought five pairs of socks: men's, women's, and children's. They were stuffed with snacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. A ribbon at the top with a card "cozy's for your toe-sy's, some snacks for you to eat, toothbrush, toothpaste and floss so the dentist you won't meet." 87 pairs of socks were delivered to a shelter/meal site for distribution.



BACKPACKS WITH BASIC SUPPLIES

GFWC Circleville Junior Woman's Club members assembled backpacks filled with care for those experiencing housing insecurity. Partnered with Pickaway County Community Agency, they packed each backpack with essentials requested by the community – tarps, gloves, hats, socks, duct tape, rope, batteries, lip balm, lotion, and hand sanitizer. With the agency's help, these backpacks were delivered directly to those in need, offering comfort, compassion, and a reminder that the community cares.

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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 and under Resources.

Remember, these are not guidelines, just suggestions, and all projects involving civic engagement and outreach fall under the Civic Engagement and Outreach community service program. Think creatively 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 Instagram 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 ne
- Provide information on United States flag protocol, plus the meaning and symbolism in the flag folding ceremony, to scouts, school groups, and others. The American Legion offers clear and concise instructions. Or work with a school to create a short play for students that inform about "Symbols of the United States," including the U.S. flag, Uncle Sam, the Liberty Bell, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, and others.
- Help an individual or a small group study for the U.S. Citizenship test.
- Host a Naturalization 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, and donate them to local schools, libraries, and programs such as the Boys & Girls Club of America, YWCA, and Girls, Inc.
- 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.
- Conduct voter education programs to research your local candidates, and to encourage people to run for local office. Politicians often dictate your community/city policies and funding levels.
- 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 strategies to increase participation and educate voters.

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

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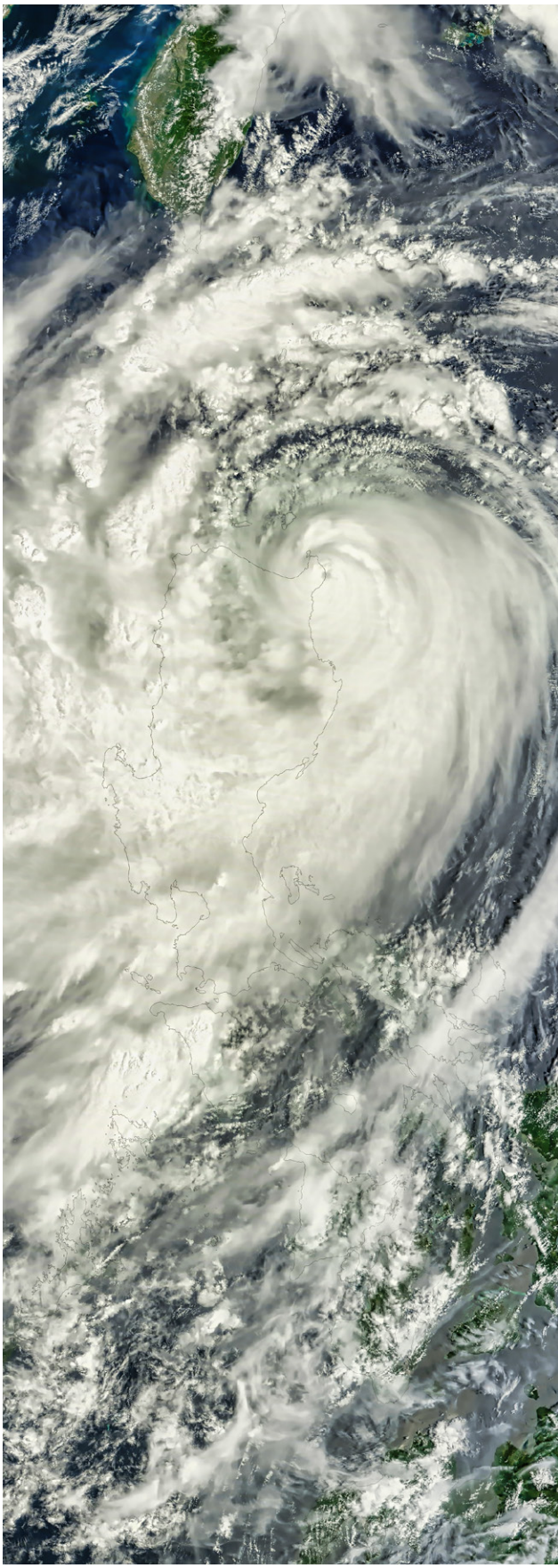
to these first responders, with groups of club members working together.

- 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. 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.
- 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



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members (and pets). Having a list of your important websites and passwords can save time in a crisis. A sample table of contents is available in the Digital Library on the Member Portal as Family Emergency Notebook Guide.

- Make a home inventory using photos and/or a video in case you need to identify missing or damaged items

SUPPORT THE HUNGRY, UNHOUSED AND THOSE IN NEED

- 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.
- 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 emergency 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 housing instability and the criminalization of the people experiencing housing instability.
- Research the ground-level services in your backyard and make cards with nearby shelter information and maps to promote the nearby shelters.
- Partner withConsult your local welfare office, shelters, churches, and other community-assistance organizations to determine community needs and help provide provisions for the needy.

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.

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- Support active military personnel with programs through the USO, 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: Post-Traumatic 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.
- Donate clothing, nonperishable food items, backpacks, and other items to VA events that provide necessities, health screenings, and referrals for veterans experiencing housing instability. Ask for the wish list and each month provide a few items on that list. It changes per season and by the number of veterans in need.
- 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.
- 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.
- Create "Beauty Bags" for women veterans, including face care, body care, feminine products, nail care products, socks, and slippers. Provide hand cream, cleansers, brushes, combs, special soaps, shampoo, bath bombs, and gift cards to pay for salons, coffee shops, gas, and groceries. Include a special beauty item like lip gloss or lipstick, earrings, or cologne.



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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

- Assemble Caregiver Support kits with self-care and comfort items, brochures, and resource materials from nearby medical facilities and donate to a memory care facility.
- Organize a local memory café day for those with dementia and their caregivers at a local restaurant or coffee shop. Work with the venue to promote the service and consider providing the service on a regular basis.
- Contact local leaders for a Proclamation to declare an Alzheimer's Awareness month or day, and have your club plan a food and fundraising effort at a local establishment to promote dementia awareness.
- Educate yourself and friends about caregiver stress and ways to manage it at www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/caregiver-health/caregiver-stress

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Become a trained service dog advocate and sign online petitions at https://canine.org/advocacy.
- 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.
- Invite the Canine Companions Chapter leadership near you to speak at a club meeting and see how you can work together.
- Raise funds to help place a dog with a veteran.
- Share your commitment to Canine Companions by using these hashtags: #LeadWithIndependence, #caninevolunteer, #caninecompanions
- Become familiar with the following organizations:
  - Assistance Dogs International, Inc. www.assistancedogsinternational.org
  - International Association of Assistance Dog Partners. www.iaadp.org
  - Run an Internet search on government and university sites that provide independent living support for the most up to date URLs.
- Children with Disabilities Information offers materials about advocacy, education, employment, health, housing, recreation, technical assistance, and transportation covering a broad array of developmental, physical, and emotional disabilities. www.childrensdisabilities.info
- Join the Canine Companions Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/CanineCompanions) and help them build their network of "likes."
- Subscribe to their YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/CanineCompanions, and their stories, canine.org/about/stories.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- Be the GFWC beacon of support for Heifer's women's programs for self-sufficiency. Visit www.heifer. org/campaign/gfwc and navigate to the "Take Action" menu.
- Inspire students to become global citizens through Heifer's free educational and fundraising programs for all age groups. www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/schools/index.html

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MARCH OF DIMES

- Use the March of Dimes Advocacy materials to make your voice heard by contacting Members of Congress about your feelings on Maternal Health, Access to Care, and Newborn Screening. www.marchofdimes.org/our-work/policy-advocacy
- Every dime counts in the research for healthy moms and strong babies. Go to www.marchofdimes.org for fundraising ideas.

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 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 live or virtual event to support the St. Jude mission by visiting www. stjude.org/get-involved
- Join St. Jude 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 become Shot@Life Champions. Learn how to advocate and put it into practice in support of funding global vaccines. shotatlife.org/training

UNICEF

- Highlight the Equality for Girls Program by promoting education for girls so they can become the artists, engineers, and advisors of tomorrow. www.unicefusa.org/what-unicef-does/childrens-education/girls-education or at www.unicef.org/gender-equality/skills4girls.
- Visit UNICEFUSA.org to learn about programs to support children around the world, from the annual UNICEF Trick or Treat collection to disaster relief programs.

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GFWC RESOURCES

American Legion www.legion.org
For specific information on flag protocol, go to www.legion.org/Advocacy/Flag-advocacy.

Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov

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 housing instability. The organization is 501(c)(3) with a 4 Star Charity Navigator standing. Blankets, pillows, towels and wash-cloths, school snacks, and meals are appreciated donations.

Fisher House Foundation www.fisherhouse.org

Habitat for Humanity www.habitat.org

HOBY www.hoby.org
Teaching students HOW to think, not WHAT to think, since 1958.

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. Make a donation for those who are always there for our country.

National Council on Aging www.ncoa.org
For specific information on personal and digital security and aging well, go to www.ncoa.org/economic-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/

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

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

USO www.uso.org

Wreaths Across America www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

AWARDS

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

- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia Federations 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/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

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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 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	Broadband Authority and Utilization
140-030	Child Labor
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
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 Treatment of Animals
140-230	Hunger and Food Insecurity
140-240	Identity Theft
140-250	Immigration
140-260	Impaired and Distracted Driving
140-270	Individuals with Disabilities
140-280	Internet-based Media
140-290	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
140-300	Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking
140-310	Mass Media
140-320	Micromobility Device Safety
140-330	Migrant Worker Families
140-340	National Defense
140-350	Opioid Addiction
140-360	Prosecution of Hate Crimes
140-370	Ratification of the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
140-380	Responsibility to Uphold National Security
140-390	Retirement
140-400	Rights of Crime Victims
140-410	School Bus Safety
140-420	School Violence and Disruptions
140-430	Social Security
140-440	Specially Trained Dogs and Other Animals for Individuals with Disabilities
140-450	Statehood
140-460	Support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
140-470	Terrorism
140-480	Tolerance and Diversity
140-490	Transportation
140-500	Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention
140-510	United States Postal Service
140-520	Vehicle Safety
140-530	Volunteer Liability Protection
140-540	Water Safety

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EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028
EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Missy Kimball, Chairman
Great Lakes Region
1050 Shady Lane
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
missywithtwins@yahoo.com

"READING IS THE SOLE MEANS BY WHICH WE SLIP, INVOLUNTARILY, OFTEN HELPLESSLY, INTO ANOTHER'S SKIN, ANOTHER'S VOICE, ANOTHER'S SOUL."— JOYCE CAROL OATES

Equitable, quality education is the key to acquiring the knowledge to succeed in our ever-changing world. Whether learning takes place in a classroom, a library, or online, we gain the knowledge and understanding that shapes our perspective, strengthens our ideas, and forms our opinions. It is essential that society provides access to the highest quality education to all, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

A critical part of that foundation begins with reading. Literacy is the gateway skill – opening doors to imagination, vocabulary, empathy, communication, and lifelong learning. When we put books in the hands of children, we give them the power to dream and imagine a brighter future. Reading at home and in the classroom is one of the most influential predictors of academic success and personal development.

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.

Public libraries play a vital role in advancing literacy and expanding access to books. More than just buildings filled with shelves, libraries are welcoming, safe places to meet, learn, and study for all ages. They offer free access to all people for information through reading materials, digital resources, classes, tutoring, and safe spaces for children and adults to gather and study. 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. Today, supporting local libraries continues to be a Federation priority. Above all, be supportive of your library and implement a project at your library that makes your club proud.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education further equips students to thrive in 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.

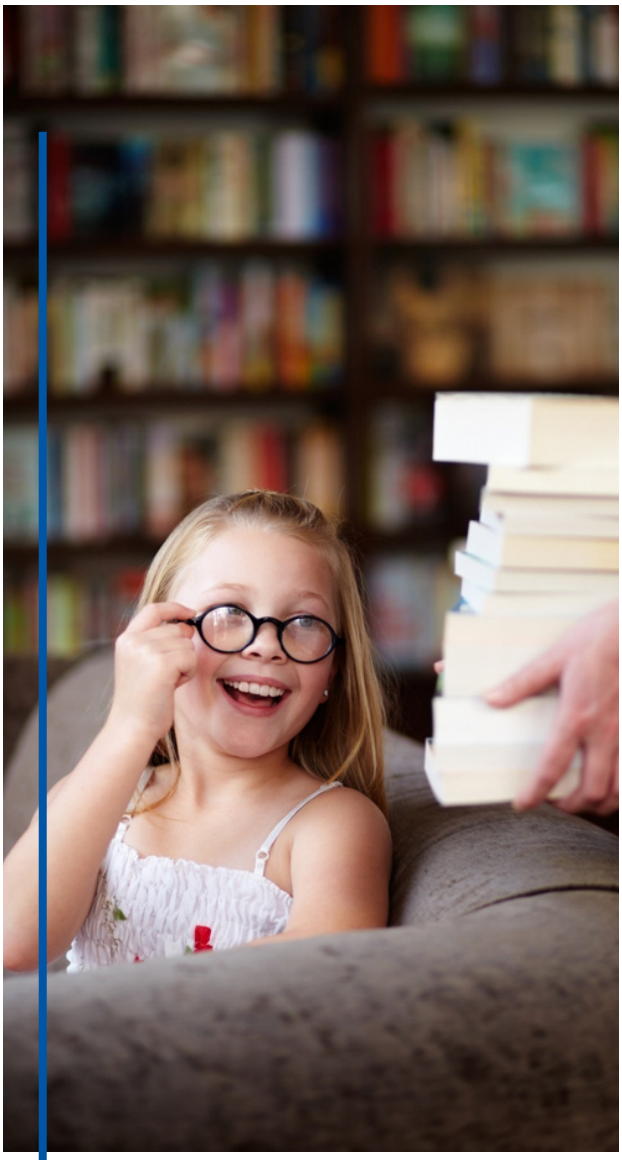
Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita dues paying GFWC members. The purpose of ESO is to provide clubwomen with a structural reading program, which is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. Are you an ESO member?

As GFWC members, we believe that access to books and education is fundamental for both children and adults. Through projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program, GFWC members champion literacy, support schools and educational institutions, strengthen libraries, and promote reading for children and adults alike.

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.

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

UNITY THROUGH READING: EVERY STORY MATTERS



PROVIDING BOOKS AND RESOURCES ABOUT INFLUENTIAL WOMEN TO SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

GFWC's Unity Project is dedicated to strengthening communities through the shared power of literacy and representation. Reading is more than a skill – it is a bridge. Through books, families learn, children grow, cultures are honored, and communities thrive. This initiative emphasizes providing books and educational resources about influential women to schools and public libraries so that every reader can see themselves reflected in the stories they discover. Inspired by a young girl who searched her library for a woman to feature in a school report and was instead directed to read about Jesse James, this project reminds us why representation matters. When women's stories are missing from our shelves, voices are silenced and possibilities are limited – but when those stories are present, confidence, curiosity, and connection grow.

The goal of Unity Through Reading is to unite communities by increasing book access, supporting inclusive learning environments, and celebrating the stories and traditions that make every community unique. GFWC clubs are encouraged to collaborate with schools, libraries, cultural organizations, and community advocates to promote reading for all ages. Programs may support early readers, English-language learners, multigenerational storytelling, and individuals facing barriers to literacy and education, while also ensuring that women's contributions and leadership are fully represented in the stories available to all.

When clubs put books into hands, bring stories to life, and engage with families in meaningful ways, they open doors to knowledge, understanding, and shared experience. Every book shared, every child supported, and every story celebrated strengthens the bonds within our communities. Unity Through Reading affirms that every story matters – and every reader deserves encouragement, representation, and the chance to thrive.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



EVERY HOME NEEDS A LIBRARY

GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (AZ) contracted with the corporate office of Habitat for Humanity-Central Arizona to provide libraries for every home they deliver in Maricopa County. The committee works with Habitat to get a survey completed before each delivery, listing family members' ages and book interests. Once a home is ready, the club purchases and assembles a bookcase and invites members to attend the home dedications. Every bookcase includes at least 25 books, a family-friendly board game or puzzles, soft furry toys for the little ones, and GFWC club brochures. Club members arrive early to set up and stock the bookcase before the celebration, then stay to meet the new homeowners and join in the day's festivities.



STORY TIME

Gallipolis Junior Women's Club (OH) began its 25 days of reading project in December. Starting December 1st, they share a nightly video on their Facebook page featuring a community volunteer reading a holiday book. Families are invited to watch story-time videos and then comment on the post, which enters them into a drawing to receive a free holiday book of their own. Books were given out each evening, in all, over 100 books were given away encouraging literacy at a young age as well as creating opportunities for families to bond. Over 80 different families received a free book, with over 1,500 viewers each night enjoying the stories.



BOOK PARADE

GFWC-MFWC Decatur Progressive Woman's Club (MS) hosted a "Book Parade." It began at the local library and proceeded through the downtown area. Its goal was to encourage reading and to spread the fun of the local library. Children made signs, and club members dressed as book characters. The parade returned to the library and a Choctaw Native American Princess read to the participants.



FOOD BANK BOOK CART

GFWC Boise Columbian Club (ID) members started the St. Vincent de Paul Book Cart Project. They collected approximately 400 adult and children's books. A member found the plastic-wheeled cart at a thrift store, cleaned it up, and brought it to a club meeting where members all gathered with the books they found to fill it. The book cart is well-received at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. Members park the cart in the lot with a sign on it that invites them to take and keep up to five books.

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PROJECT IDEAS

- Create reading stations in community spaces such as laundromats, clinics, barbershops, and cultural centers.
- Host multicultural and multilingual story times with community guest readers.
- Donate diverse and inclusive children's books to schools, shelters, youth organizations, and family resource agencies.
- Support local libraries through book drives, volunteer service, and outreach activities.
- Organize intergenerational storytelling projects connecting youth with seniors to share life stories and cultural heritage.
- Distribute literacy kits for early learners, ESL families, and emerging readers.
- Provide children's books and comforting items to family shelters, crisis centers, and foster programs.
- Partner with therapy-animal programs or local shelters for read-aloud sessions that build confidence.
- Set up temporary reading spaces in parks with free book giveaways and family activities.
- One Community, One Book Month: select a book celebrating unity and host community discussions, guest speakers, and shared reading events.
- Host a Scholastic Book Fair, handling all the logistics of organizing the program.
- Celebrate the Week of the Young Child, held each April, and Advocates for Children Week in October.

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 (ldaamerica.org). Subscribe to their newsletter or follow them on X 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.

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    - 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.
    - 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 with interaction with STEM professionals.
- 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

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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 (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 Ninos 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 Beyond Bedtime (beyondbedtime.org), an organization that promotes and supports a comforting bedtime routine for all children to help them thrive. Visit theBeyond Bedtime 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.
- 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, 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.



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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.
  - 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

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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.

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (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 or District of Columbia Federation by contacting the State or District of Columbia Federation President or GFWC Education and Libraries Chairman. If none currently exists, work with your State/DC Federation President and the State Education and Libraries Chairman to establish a Federation ESO Chapter.
- Refer to the ESO Reading List in the Digital Library on the Member Portal, 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 or District of Columbia Federation ESO Chapter.
- Establish an ESO reading group for study and discussion.
- Maintain a reading log, which is provided to the State or District of Columbia Federation ESO Chairman to achieve ESO levels.
- Participate in the online GFWC ESO reading book club. Search for the Facebook page: GFWC ESO Book Club.

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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Assist with outreach to veteran's 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
- Read to Feed www.heifer.org/take-action/get-involved/schools/read-to-feed

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

African Library Project www.africanlibraryproject.org

Banned Books Week www.bannedbooksweek.org

Books Alive www.books-alive.org

DEAR www.readingrockets.org/calendar/dear

ESO www.gfwc.org/education-libraries

Global Partnership for Education www.globalpartnership.org

I Love Libraries www.ilovelibraries.org

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library www.imaginationlibrary.com

Learning Disabilities Association of America www.ldaamerica.org

Little Free Library www.littlefreelibrary.org

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LitWorld www.litworld.org
For information on Read Aloud Day, go to www.litworld.org/world-read-aloud-day

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

Beyond Bedtime beyondbedtime.org

PTA www.pta.org
For information on Safer Internet Day, go 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 manmade 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 provides monetary assistance in restocking the collections of public libraries and public school libraries that have been affected by either natural or manmade disasters. Donations to the fund may be made through the Annual Giving Program Donation Form or online at memberportal.gfwc.org/supportus.

Clubs, State and District of Columbia Federations may apply for funding on behalf of, and in consultation with, the affected library by completing the GFWC Library Replenishment Fund application located in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Once complete, the application is returned to the WHRC Librarian at GFWC Headquarters for consideration. Please contact the Librarian for more information on applying for Library Replenishment Funds at WHRC@GFWC.org or 202-683-2028.

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AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State/District of Columbia Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Education and Libraries Community Service Program projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia Federations in each membership category**
- **$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity**
- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Education and Libraries Community Service Program projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Education and Libraries Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

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 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

150-045 Educational Professional Support and Appreciation

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

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028 ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Susan Tyler, Chairman
GFWC Western States Region
801 9th Street SE
Auburn, WA 98003
GFWCEnvironment@gmail.com

"HOLD UP A MIRROR AND ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF DOING, AND WHAT YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT. THEN TAKE THE INITIATIVE — DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO ASK YOU TO ACT." – SYLVIA EARLE, FIRST CHIEF SCIENTIST OF THE U.S. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Descending from the Middle French preposition environ "around," environment, in its most basic meaning, is "that which surrounds." The environment is composed of both living and non-living elements, from the smallest microbe to mountain ranges, and the interplay between these elements affects us all. Humans have learned how to leverage the earth's resources to improve our lives, sometimes at great cost to the other species that cohabit the earth with us. Deforestation, pollution, habitat destruction, extinction of species, and fossil fuel emissions have added stress to the environment and placed us all in jeopardy.

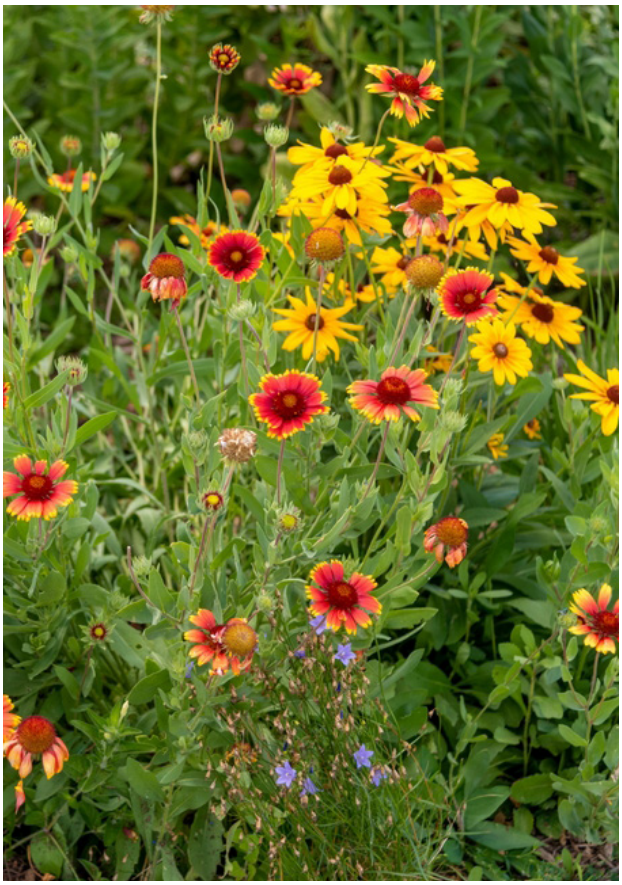
GFWC members realized the value of protecting the environment from the earliest days of its inception. In 1902, a Committee on Forestry and Irrigation was appointed at the Annual Convention, and by 1906, a full Forestry Department was established. GFWC was so well known for its conservation efforts that Sarah Platt Decker (1904-1908) was invited by President Theodore Roosevelt to attend the Governors' Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources in May 1908. One of our earliest projects was the creation of what is now Everglades National Park – Florida clubwomen helped create Royal Palm Park in 1904, then helped it become a state park in 1916, and again a national park in 1947.

Continuing our legacy of environmental advocacy is more important than ever; there is much we can do 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 upon to act now. It is vitally important that we do our part to care for and heal our planet.

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.

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE



THESE PROJECTS WILL FOCUS ON HABITAT RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY.

Clubs are asked to partner with other organizations on projects dedicated to the restoration of habitat, with an emphasis on protecting native plants and pollinators.

Some examples are:

- Work with state or county Departments of Natural Resources to harvest local plants from construction sites or add native plants to parks and recreation areas.
- Partner with youth troops to earn badges or special awards.
- Host an event with Master Gardeners or Master Recyclers / Composters to educate the community on the importance of native plants and recycling correctly.
- Partner with local Audubon chapters for events such as the annual Great Backyard Bird Count and "lights out" week during bird migration.
- Contact your local utility companies (power or waste management) and schedule a tour of water treatment facilities, landfills, or green energy sites. Invite others to join you.
- Hold a fundraiser to help pay transportation and admission fees for local schools or senior centers to attend nature-based tours.
- Partner with the garden club on sustainable agriculture; co-host a Pea Patch and donate the vegetables and flowers to a local food bank.
- 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.
- 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.

The possibilities are limited only by your imagination!

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FEATURED PROJECTS



COUNTING HORSESHOE CRABS

At spawning season's start, members of GFWC Woman's Club of Little Silver (NJ) join evening counts to tag and measure horseshoe crabs, which come ashore and lay up to 100,000 eggs per female each season. Club members learned about this protected species, such as the fact that dead crabs are used in fertilizer, and that research on horseshoe crabs has aided biomedical companies in developing many life-saving medications.



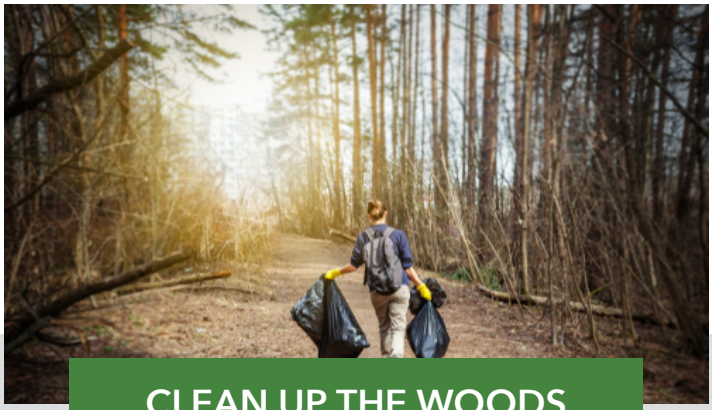
TUXEDO CAT BALL

GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh and GFWC Woman's Club of Raleigh (NC) collaborated to support the "Black Tie" fundraiser for Safe Haven, a no-kill cat shelter. Members helped with guest registration and check-in. The evening featured food, drinks, and entertainment. The live and silent auctions raised over $148,000. With the funds and help of club members, this past year, 1,323 cats and kittens found loving homes, 328 were rescued, and over 22 tons of food were distributed! These members are the Cat's Meow!



BIRD SIGHTING WITH THE GIRL SCOUTS

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Lake Murray (SC) led a bird-themed activity with a local Girl Scout troop. They read a book about birds, exploring facts and how to support bird populations locally. Each scout received a journal to log bird sightings and draw their discoveries. They also created a binocular craft to spark interest in birdwatching. Comparing journals and identifying birds encouraged the scouts to bond, share experiences, and make new friends through nature exploration.



CLEAN UP THE WOODS

The GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) answered the call to address yard waste dumping near a popular trailhead. The club obtained permits and collaborated with Sustainable Northboro for help. They prepared and distributed an educational handout to 50 homes, printed by the Northboro Free Library. Boy Scouts, the Trail Committee, neighbors, and friends joined. Spearheaded by three members, multiple community presentations were given to educate the community about this issue, and the project gained attention.

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PROJECT IDEAS

Be inspired by this list of ideas show 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

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- Schedule outings to remove invasive plants from community parks and other public areas to preserve native species of plants and animals.

PROTECT WILDLIFE AND DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Make your backyard a safe place for wildlife. Create a haven for local wildlife, instead of viewing it 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.

LIVE SUSTAINABLY

- Chart a path towards zero waste in your community by using tools suggested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 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.
- 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 promote reusable alternatives. Consider

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the life expectancy of every item purchased and resell or donate what is no longer needed.

- Make your meetings "green." Guidelines on organizing sustainable meeting and events at the Commission - Publications Office of the EU



BEAUTIFY COMMUNITIES AND ENJOY NATURE

- Plan a clean-up day in the community by coordinating groups of volunteers to clean eyesore areas and properly discard the waste.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- Wildfire Prevention remains crucial. Download the FEMA app and receive real-time alerts from the National Weather Service.

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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-forthe-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

PRESERVE RESOURCES

Our Work - 350
350 is building a movement that fights for a fairer future for all. They believe in the collective power of ordinary people taking action: 350 campaigns and organizes locally and globally to create a world powered by just and accessible renewable energy that will move the world away from fossil fuels, for good. And 350 is doing this with the urgency the climate crisis demands.

Citizens' Climate Lobby
Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address the national and global climate crisis.

American Whitewater www.americanwhitewater.org

Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition www.asoc.org

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Center for Clean Air Policy www.ccap.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

Green Empowerment www.greenempowerment.org

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

Ocean Conservancy www.oceanconservancy.org

PROTECT WILDLIFE AND DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

World Migratory Bird Day https://www.migratorybirdday.org/

Animal League www.animalleague.org/

Arbor Day Foundation www.arborday.org

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

Great Backyard Bird Count www.birdcount.org

Greenpeace Fund www.greenpeacefund.org

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association (PA) www.hawkmountain.org

Heifer International www.heifer.org

Humane Society www.humanesociety.org

Nature Conservancy www.nature.org/en-us

Jane Goodall Institute janegoodall.org

World Wildlife www.worldwildlife.org

LIVE SUSTAINABLY

One Plastic Bag
Making recycled plastic bag purses may seem like a simple idea—but it was life-changing to the villagers of Njau, Gambia, in the late 1990s. The project continues to save livestock, prevent greater outbreaks of disease, and make the soil healthier. Did you know that each small coin purse recycles 4-10 plastic bags? The women use very small crochet tools to create durable, functional items and have sold them to people around the world. oneplasticbag.com/the-bags/

America Recycles Day www.americarecyclesday.org

Soles4Souls www.soles4souls.org

Terracycle www.terracycle.com/en-US/

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The Archaeological Conservancy www.archaeologicalconservancy.org

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

Water.org www.water.org

Wells of Hope International www.wellsofhopeinternational.org

World Wildlife Fund www.worldwildlife.org

BEAUTIFY COMMUNITIES AND ENJOY NATURE

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

Appalachian Trail Conservancy www.appalachiantrail.org

BoatUS Foundation www.boatus.org

Center for Biological Diversity www.biologicaldiversity.org

Bureau of Land Management www.blm.gov

Bureau of Reclamation www.usbr.gov

Gardening Know How www.gardeningknowhow.com

Chesapeake Bay Foundation www.cbf.org

Gettysburg Foundation www.gettysburgfoundation.org

Greater Yellowstone Coalition www.greateryellowstone.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 Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org
For the free NWF newsletter, go to www.nwf.org/Get-Involved/Subscribe

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

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

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AWARDS

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- **$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity**

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Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

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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 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
160-130	Wildfire Prevention & Safety

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028 HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Laurie O'Kelly, Chairman
316 Longbow Court
Columbia, SC 29212
GFWCHealthandWellness@gmail.com

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.

"THE POWER OF FOOD AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TO PREVENT DISEASE, PROMOTE HEALTH, AND PROLONG LIFE IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY PILL OR PROCEDURE." — DR. DAVID L. KATZ

The American Heart Association's Healthy for Good platform is helping put a healthy life within reach. Committed to breaking down barriers and advancing opportunities to help create and apply the kind of healthy habits that stick with you at every life stage – for good. Eat smart, move more, and be well.

Healthy eating is about your habits over time, not just one meal. Over time, load up on fruits, veggies, and whole grains. Choose healthy proteins like beans, nuts, fish, lean meats, and low-fat dairy. Cook with heart-healthy oils like olive or canola, cut back on sugar and salt, keep alcohol to a minimum, and choose minimally processed foods whenever possible.

A walk isn't just good for your body, it's a simple, powerful way to care for your mind and soul. Physical activity, like walking, reduces stress, boosts mood, and promotes overall well-being. Yet, walking rates in the U.S. continue to decline, a trend that threatens both mental and physical health. www.heart.org/en/healthy-living

This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of disease prevention, nutrition, physical, and emotional well-being.

- Disease awareness and prevention involve 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.
- 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.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women at any age (CDC, American Heart Association):

- 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 U.S. women (44%) have some form of heart disease, which caused 304,970 female deaths in 2023—about 1 in 5. Yet only 56% of women recognize it as their number one killer.

- In the United States, someone has a stroke every 40 seconds, and someone dies of a stroke every 3 minutes and 14 seconds.
- A regular fitness regimen can reduce your risk of developing type 2 diabetes and several cancers such as bladder, breast, colon, and lung, as well as heart disease and strokes.
- Regular physical activity helps to keep your thinking, learning, and judgment skills sharp, reduces your risk of depression and anxiety, and helps you sleep better.

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

MOVE FOR A HEALTHIER YOU



Research shows that exercise is vital for healthy brains and bodies. Regular physical activity can help prevent disease, disability, injury, cognitive decline, and premature death. Experts recommend adults get 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week, and moderate physical activity, such as walking, is generally safe for most people. Every minute counts and activity can be spread over several short periods of time. Encourage physical activity in your club and within the community. Below are some suggestions to encourage your club and community to move more.

CLUB ACTIVITIES:

- Challenge members to walk and track steps.
- Coordinate days to walk as a group, and incorporate seasonal/local events, such as holiday lights, town events, flower/garden tours, and festivals.
- Look for indoor walking tracks at parks and area gyms to use during inclement weather.
- Invite members to arrive at meetings 30 minutes early to walk.
- Create a team to participate in various walks/runs held to support other nonprofit organizations.
- Spend a few minutes at each meeting practicing chair yoga and balance exercises.
- Include exercise tips in newsletters.
- Recognize members who increase physical activity either in steps or minutes.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Organize events such as walks, runs, swimming, tennis, golf, and more, to bring awareness of the benefits of physical activity. To increase participation, partner with other groups such as school teams/organizations, and other nonprofits.
- Create walking trails or paths around your area and document the path in half mile increments. Share with the community to encourage participation.
- Connect with local organizations that work with senior citizens and share chair yoga weekly or monthly.
- Publicize your healthy activities to encourage participation and recognize members and the community for supporting the initiative.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



GET FIT THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

GFWC Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club (GA) places an emphasis on physical movement to help their members. Each member creates a walking map of 2 miles, marked in ½-mile increments. Logs are maintained each year and include any form of exercise such as walking, sports, fitness classes, yoga, Pilates, etc.



MAH JONGG GROUP

GFWC Woman's Club of Chevy Chase (MD) established a Mah Jongg group by training 53 members to play, and maintains a twice-weekly schedule for the game. Mah Jongg is known to boost social and emotional wellness, combat loneliness, and help preserve cognitive function. The group welcomes members of all ages, backgrounds, and physical abilities to join. A suggestion is for clubs to start their own Mah Jongg groups and open this activity to community members.



CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

GFWC Woman's Club of Cleveland (TX) club members provided baked breads, muffins, and other goodies to show their support for the twenty-five caregivers at a community facility who cover three shifts working with patients with dementia and physical disabilities. There, people are appreciated for their giving spirit as they take care of patients dealing with difficult conditions, such as incontinence, mobility issues, mood swings, suspicions of the elderly, and other conditions. The caregivers were grateful to be recipients of this act of kindness.



PERIOD POVERTY

GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club (MT) responded to an immediate request from a low-income district school principal who lacked funds to purchase feminine products to stock their facility. Some students were unable to attend school because they could not afford the needed feminine products. The club immediately provided $200, then further, they applied for and received a grant that included direct shipments of supplies. Additional products are shipped quickly upon receipt of online orders placed by the school.

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PROJECT IDEAS

Be inspired by this list of ideas sharing 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).
- 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. Consider providing 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 items 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 Prevention and Health Promotion, and Nutrition.gov, a resource of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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- 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 MedlinePlus.gov, 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 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" 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, Food Safety in a Disaster or Emergency and 4 Steps of Food Safety.
- 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.

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- 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.
- Train and host Mah Jongg games for members and the community. Host frequently as Mah Jongg is known to boost social and emotional wellness, combat loneliness, and help preserve cognitive function.
- 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 (SpecialOlympics.org) 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 (ChooseLoveMovement.org), 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 (ChangeDirection.org) 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 (SAMHSA.gov), which is a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. From opioids and meth to alcohol abuse, addiction changes the brain and alters decision making. The site offers brochures, information sheets, research reports, news about assistance

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programs, treatment locator services, and more.

- Work with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.org) 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.nih.gov).
- 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).
- Plant a Hope Garden of yellow tulips to bring awareness to mental illness. Read about it at TheYellowTulipProject.org
- 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. 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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NATIONAL HEALTH OBSERVANCES CALENDAR

JANUARY

Cervical Health Awareness Month
National Birth Defects Prevention Month
National Blood Donor Month
National Glaucoma Awareness Month
Eye Care Month

FEBRUARY

American Heart Month
Shingles Awareness Month
National Cancer Prevention Month

MARCH

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month
Brain Injury Awareness Month
National Nutrition Month
National Kidney Month
Save Your Vision Month
World Sleep Day
American Diabetes Alert Day

APRIL

Oral Cancer Awareness Month
Stress Awareness Month
World Autism Awareness Day: April 2
World Health Day: April 7

MAY

Mental Health Awareness Month
Skin Cancer Prevention and Awareness Month
National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month
National Stroke Awareness Month
National Senior Health and Fitness Day

JUNE

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
PTSD Awareness Month

JULY

UV Safety Month
Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month
Sarcoma Awareness Month
National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

AUGUST

National Immunization Awareness Month
Psoriasis Action Month

SEPTEMBER

Blood Cancer Awareness Month
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

OCTOBER

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Health Literacy Month
National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

NOVEMBER

American Diabetes Month
Lung Cancer Awareness Month
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
National Family Caregivers Month

DECEMBER

World AIDS Day: December 1
International Day of Persons with Disabilities

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CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

- Start or join a GFWC Walk to End Alzheimer's National Team
- Create a "Do What You Love to End ALZ" fundraising event
- Become an advocate
- Raise awareness throughout the year
  - June (alz.org/abam) – Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
  - November (alz.org/events/nadam) – National Family Caregivers Month

CANINE COMPANIONS

- Work on the Veteran's Initiative. canine.org/service-dogs/our-dogs/veterans-initiative/
- 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.).
- Support Heifer International by donating funds to purchase animals, bees, or to empower women.

MARCH OF DIMES

- Participate in the March for Babies by organizing a team to walk, joining a team, and/or donating to a team. https://marchforbabies.org/

OPERATION SMILE

- Donate quilts, blankets, and afghans to comfort a child in a hospital after surgery.
- Donate new or gently used toys to distract patients before surgery.
- Create Smile Sprints, Smile Bags, or Hospital Gowns to support children having surgery.
- Directions are at OperationSmile.org, Service Projects www.operationsmile.org/make-an-impact/ways-to-give/service-projects/

SAFE SURFIN'

- Utilize resources from Safe Surfin' Foundation, Inc. including Cyber S.W.A.T., a peer-to-peer program designed to educate youth about online safety. Program facilitators use the provided curriculum and activities to help facilitate tough conversations about bullying, online predators, and other online risks. Donations should be marked as GFWC for tracking purposes. Safesurfin.org

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.

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UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION SHOT@LIFE CAMPAIGN

- Support Shot@Life with a "Pop a Shot" fundraiser, with shooting baskets for prizes.
- Become a Shot@Life advocate.

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
- Promote Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Details are at www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat

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

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

Foodkeeper App; 4 Steps of Food Safety; Food Safety in a Disaster or Emergency FoodSafety.gov

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

Mouth Healthy, American Dental Association www.mouthhealthy.org

For children's coloring and activity sheets go to www.mouthhealthy.org/resources

Meals on Wheels www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org

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

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) www.nami.org

NIH News in Health newsinhealth.nih.gov

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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/recipes

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

Presidential Youth Fitness Program odphp.health.gov/pcsfn/programs-awards/presidential-youth-fitness-program

Plant a Row for the Hungry Campaign community.gardencomm.org

Society for Women's Health Research swhr.org

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

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

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170-010	Autism Spectrum Disorder 170-020 Breast Cancer
170-030	Cancer
170-040	Cardiovascular Disease in Women
170-050	Child Survival in Developing Countries
170-060	Dementia
170-070	Diabetes
170-080	Extreme Heat Emergencies
170-090	Family Caregivers
170-100	Food, Drug, Cosmetic, and Medical Product Regulation and Safety
170-110	Freedom of Access to Health Clinics
170-120	Healthcare and Research
170-130	Lead Poison Prevention
170-140	Long-Term Care
170-150	Mental Health Parity
170-160	Nursing Shortage Crisis
170-170	Nutrition and Obesity
170-180	Organ and Tissue Transplantation
170-190	Preventable Disease
170-200	Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare
170-210	Stem Cell Research
170-220	Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation
170-230	Support for Emergency Services Personnel
170-240	Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

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HONORARY CHAIRMEN

BRINGING EXPERTS TO GFWC

GFWC incorporated the Honorary Chairmen Program to bring field experts to our club members, expanding and elevating our scope of volunteer work while assisting and advancing the administration's goals. They are selected through recommendations from members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Over the recent administrations, we have been privileged to secure Honorary Chairmen in our Special Programs (Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention, and Advocates for Children) and Community Service Programs (CSP) areas (Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health and Wellness), and Advancement Areas (Leadership, Membership, and Communications and Public Relations) who share their expert knowledge and skills with members.

Our Honorary Chairmen, with their expertise and decades of experience, are not just specialists and authorities in their fields. Their collaboration directly aligns with our volunteer program areas and significantly contributes to our mission of community improvement.

Honorary Chairmen can serve in many capacities, such as:

- Contributing articles for *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, the organization's premier digital magazine.
- Contributing articles for the *GFWC News & Notes* digital newsletter.
- Presenting on a remote webinar for our members.
- Speaking engagements at GFWC Annual Conventions or Board of Directors Meetings.

OUR GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN ALUMNI

2024–2026 HONORARY CHAIRMEN

- Dr. Regina Benjamin, 18th U.S. Surgeon General (2009-2013) and Founder of Bayou Clinic
- Leslie Capps, Founder of Wild Woman Marketing
- David Coffey, Director of Operations, Safe Surfin' Foundation
- Suzanne Fox, Co-Founder of The Yellow Tulip Project
- Ann Lauer, Award Winning Fiber Artist, Ride 4 A Woman
- Jude Mabone, Miss District of Columbia 2023
- Amy Peele, Former Transplantation Director of Clinical Operations and Author

2022–2024 HONORARY CHAIRMEN

- Stephenie Foster, Speaker, Author, Women's Advocate, and Founding Partner, Smash Strategies
- Monika Johnson Hostler, President of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- Nagi Kumar, Ph.D., Director of Cancer Chemoprevention, Moffitt Cancer Center
- Jocelyn Russell, Artist of the Year 2022
- Robin Yocum, Edgar Nominated Author

2020-2022 HONORARY CHAIRMEN

- Kristin Martinez, Leader Development & Performance, Deloitte
- Jenny McGee, CEO of the Starfish Project



DR. JAX BLACK

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: LEADERSHIP

www.bigjoytheory.com

Dr. Joiex (Jax Black, PhD) is an artist, liberator, and leader devoted to weaving joy into the fabric of leadership, family, and daily life. She leads from a lineage of freedom, building post-liberation ecosystems where joy becomes the structure that keeps people whole. Rooted in an ancestral lineage of freedom, she leads from a place of inherited coherence rather than performance—building healing ecosystems designed for liberation that lasts.

As a doctor of community psychology and founder of Big Joy Theory and InnerLit Studios, she works at the intersection of art, soul care, and transformative leadership, where joy functions not as motivation but as infrastructure. For more than 20 years, she has guided executives and visionaries across education, mental health, nonprofit, and corporate spaces—supporting women from all facets of life as leaders in returning home to themselves and creating lives and organizations grounded in clarity, love, and sustainable freedom. Through Big Joy Theory, she and her partner Tomer Yogev offer joy as a strategy and a structure—supporting leaders in releasing survival-based leadership patterns and stepping into authentic presence.

Through InnerLit Studios, she and her creative partner Vianna Thomas create livable and wearable art as daily reminders that joy is not decorative—it is how we remain free. At its heart, her work is post-liberation leadership through joy—where healing, creativity, and coherence become the conditions for a life well lived. To be Inner Lit is to be alive, aligned, and free.

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CHRIS NEWLIN, MS LPC

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

www.nationalcac.org/

Chris is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) in Huntsville, AL, where he is responsible for providing leadership and management of the agency, as well as participating in national and international training and leadership activities regarding the protection of children. The NCAC was the first Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in the world and provides child abuse prevention and intervention services in Huntsville/Madison County; and, also houses the NCAC Training Center, the Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center, the NCAC Virtual Training Center, and the Child Abuse Library Online (CALiO).

Chris has more than 29 years of experience working in CACs as a forensic interviewer, victim advocate, therapist, clinical director, executive director and CEO. He has provided training in more than 40 countries at numerous international conferences and training events and continues to provide technical assistance on a regular basis to professionals working to develop multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and CACs throughout the world. Chris has been active in federal and state legislative activities regarding both policy and funding. Chris is a past recipient of the David Chadwick Outstanding Professional Award from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (2020), the International Impact Award from the International Services Council of Alabama (2010), and the Hendrix College Odyssey Award for Service to the World (2010). He serves on numerous national work groups including Boys and Girls Club of America, Child & Club Safety National Task Force and the Virtual Global Taskforce.

Chris received his master's degree in school psychology from the University of Central Arkansas, is a licensed professional counselor, and has completed coursework at the Harvard University Business School Executive Education Program.

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JUDITH PEARSON

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: HEALTH & WELLNESS, EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

judithlpearson.com

Judith Pearson is a best-selling author, an accomplished presenter, and a graduate of Michigan State University. But her favorite title is "story teller."

With expertise in cancer survivorship, women's history, and the study of courage, Judy's first books told of ordinary people who became extraordinary heroes during World War II: *Belly of the Beast: A POW's True Story of Faith, Courage and Survival* and *The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy*. The latter is a best-seller, received a "Best of Phoenix Award, and has been purchased for a movie.

A diagnosis of Triple Negative Breast Cancer briefly interrupted Judy's career as an author. Believing there is always treasure in life's wreckage, cancer inspired her to found A 2nd Act, a nonprofit that supports and celebrates women survivors of all cancers who are giving back to the greater good.

A 2nd Act led to an accidental book trilogy, beginning with From *Shadows to Life: A Biography of the Cancer Survivorship Movement*. In addition to receiving wonderful praise, it was also a 2022 Nautilus Gold Award winner. During research for that book, Judy was introduced to the inimitable Mary Lasker. *Crusade to Heal Crusade to Heal America: The Remarkable Life of Mary Lasker* is the never-before-told story of the woman who persuaded President Richard Nixon to allocate over $1 billion to cancer research, dramatically changing survival rates. The book was selected a 2023 Florida Book Award winner. The third book in the trilogy is *Radical Sisters: Shirley Temple Black, Rose Kushner, Evelyn Lauder, and the Dawn of the Breast Cancer Movement*. Those three courageous women turned their darkest day into life-saving changes for all the the breast cancer survivors who came afterward.

Judy is already at work on her next biography about another unsung she-ro. Stay tuned for more info on *Sunshine Cinderella: The Rise and Fall of Tupperware's Brownie Wise*.

She is a founding board member of Arizona Women for the Arts. She is a member of numerous organizations including Biography International, Gulf Coast Writers Association, and AAUW. She was named one of Chicago's Most Inspirational Women, selected as a finalist for the Arizona Healthcare Leadership Awards, and named a Phoenix Healthcare Hero.

She and her husband live on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast, where long beach walks ignite her creativity.

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ANNA RATHMANN

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: ENVIRONMENT

janegoodall.org

Anna Rathmann is the Executive Director of the Jane Goodall Institute USA, where she and her colleagues inspire hope through action to make a brighter future for our planet. Anna has spent her career in conservation and has long focused on bridging science, conservation, education, and storytelling. In striving to inspire change in support of restoration and protection efforts, Anna is passionate about fostering collaboration, including with unexpected partners across multiple industries, which has allowed her to facilitate ongoing dialogues and revenue streams for conservation work with local communities, scientists, educators, media, private industry, and government partners.

Prior to joining JGI USA, Anna served as the inaugural Director of the Great Plains Conservation Foundation, where she implemented sustainable conservation initiatives in Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. She also has a long history with the National Geographic Society, working in a range of development and program management roles focused on research, conservation, exploration, and education.

Anna holds an MBA from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business and is a graduate of Valparaiso University. She is honored to currently serve on three non-profit boards that promote ongoing learning through their unique and vital missions – wildlife advocacy group OneNature Global, the nature and wildlife filmmaking organization Jackson Wild, and a historic preservation and education organization: the Waterford Foundation. She is also a member of the BMW Responsible Leaders network.

Anna grew up in Northern California and credits her childhood visits to national parks with instilling an enduring sense of wonder and respect for the natural world. As a young person she spent many summers in the American West including serving as a seasonal park ranger in Yellowstone National Park. Anna has three children who inspire her daily with their curiosity and constantly motivate her to protect our amazing planet.

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CW5 PHYLLIS J. WILSON, USA, RETIRED

HONORARY CHAIRMAN: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

womensmemorial.org

Phyllis Wilson served 37 years in the Army as a Military Intelligence (MI) Voice Intercept Operator. She has served around the globe – visiting more than 35 countries – in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and North America. She has been mobilized numerous times to shoulder the duties of defense of the nation and has deployed to Iraq several times as an Intelligence Analyst with Special Operations.

Chief Warrant Officer Five Phyllis J. Wilson served as the most senior Warrant Officer in the entire United States Army Reserve and a key member of the Executive Team managing an organization of more than 200,000 personnel with an annual operating budget of more than $8 billion.

Phyllis is a Registered Nurse and holds two Master's degree, two Bachelor of Science degrees, and a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Duke University. She attended the Defense Language Institute for both German and Spanish. She is a graduate of the Program in Advanced Security Studies at the George C. Marshall Center and School in Garmisch, Germany.

She has received numerous military decorations and awards ranging from the Legion of Merit to the Army Parachutist Badge. She has been inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame and the U.S. Veterans Hall of Fame.

She is President of the Military Women's Memorial Foundation – the only major national memorial honoring the 3 Million women who have defended America from the Revolutionary War to today. The Secretary of Defense has appointed her to the Reserve Forces Policy Board. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Policy Vets and Allied Forces Foundation. She is a Senior Fellow at Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

Phyllis is a member of numerous Military Service Organizations such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the World Wars, Association of the United States Army, Association of the United States Navy, Women Marines Association, Reserve Organization of America, Military Women Across the Nation, Army Women Veterans Association, Military Officers Association of America, Disabled American Veterans, Air Force Association, U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, the Mayflower Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, National Defense Industrial Association, and Women In Defense.

In March 2020, Phyllis was named a Power Player of the Week on Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace. View the Video Here.

She has eight children and sixteen grandchildren! Four of her sons are combat veterans.

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

PLATINUM LEVEL

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National Team Program Contacts for Walk to End Alzheimer's
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Melissa LaBonge, Senior Associate Director, Constituent Events
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The Alzheimer's Association® is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Worldwide, more than 55 million people are living with dementia. In the United States alone, nearly 7 million are living with Alzheimer's, and over 11 million are providing unpaid care. The Association addresses this crisis by providing education and support to the millions who face dementia every day, while advancing critical research toward methods of treatment, prevention, and ultimately, a cure.

START OR JOIN A GFWC WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S NATIONAL TEAM

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. GFWC will continue its impact by forming teams and raising funds for Walks across the country.

Participate:

- Visit alz.org/GFWC and select "start a team," or if your club already has a team registered, select "join a team" and find the team name you would like to join.
- Find your local Walk by entering your ZIP code and select the Walk nearest to you and register.
- If you've participated in Walk before, click "yes" and log in with your username and password. If you're new, choose "no" and continue with the registration process.
- When completing your team information, select the check box "Are you participating as part of a company or organization?" In the dropdown menu, find and select General Federation of Women's Clubs. This will ensure your team is linked to the GFWC National Team Page.
- Set your fundraising goal and complete the registration form.

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ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to participating as a Walk to End Alzheimer's National Team, there are many volunteer opportunities with the Alzheimer's Association®.

Provide support and education to your community by volunteering (volunteer.alz.org):

- Community Educator – Educate your community about Alzheimer's and other dementia by delivering prepared presentations and answering questions.
- Community Representative – Attend local community events, raise awareness of Association programs, provide basic information, and connect people with services.
- Support Group Facilitator or Mentor – Create a safe environment for caregivers of people living with dementia to share their feelings and experiences.
- Faith Outreach Representative – Represent the Association at local faith groups, provide basic education about dementia and share information about free resources.
- Early Stage Social Engagement Leaders – Plan social engagement activities and cultural events for people living with memory loss and their caregivers.
- Data Entry – Enter constituent data and other information into Association databases, ensuring that records are updated and accurate.

BECOME AN ADVOCATE

alzimpact.org/volunteer

Help make Alzheimer's a national priority by writing, calling, emailing, or visiting government officials. Your level of commitment is completely flexible to fit your schedule, style and skills. No matter how you want to get involved, you can make your voice heard.

RAISE AWARENESS THROUGHTOUT THE YEAR

June (alz.org/abam) – Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
November (alz.org/events/nadam) – National Family Caregivers Month

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for the Association's free e-newsletter (alz.org/enews). Every Wednesday, you'll receive the latest information on Alzheimer's care and support, advances in research, and inspirational stories and resources for people living with the disease and their caregivers.

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HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

PLATINUM LEVEL

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Jaime Shilling, Director of Philanthropy
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SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO

Heifer International, Attn: Donor Services, PO 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

The General Federation of Women's Clubs and Heifer International are united in their desire to improve the lives of people worldwide. GFWC has supported Heifer projects for decades by donating livestock, enabling families to lift themselves out of poverty and achieve a living income. At Heifer, we believe that women-led, smallholder farming is key to ending hunger and poverty, and we achieve this by providing livestock and training. When women have control over their assets and incomes, they reinvest in their families.

- 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.
- Love reading? Join our Read to Feed challenge. For over 20 years, readers of all ages have been ending hunger by simply reading books. Now, with Heifer's partnership with Beanstack, for every 2,000 minutes read, a flock of chicks is donated on your behalf. Join GFWC's Beanstack here: heifer.beanstack.org/reader365.
- Give the gift that keeps on giving by donating to provide families with livestock. Honor a clubwoman's accomplishments, celebrate a relative's birthday, or mark another special occasion by making a Heifer gift in their name. Please ensure you include your club's name with the donation so your club receives credit for any awards.
- Request a speaker at regional or state meetings to learn about Heifer's history, mission, and current projects. If we can't be there in person, we can connect virtually.
- 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, and Instagram.

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HOPE FOR JUSTICE

PLATINUM LEVEL

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Hope for Justice US, P.O. BOX 280365, Nashville, TN 37228
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PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has long stood at the forefront of protecting women and children. That legacy of civic leadership is deeply aligned with the work of Hope for Justice.

Across the United States, trafficking continues to target women and girls often through online exploitation, housing instability, and hidden vulnerabilities within our own communities. This is not only a global issue. It is happening in neighborhoods that look safe and familiar.

- Last year alone, the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline received 32,309 reports of suspected cases.
- One in five girls are sexually exploited before their 18th birthday, most often through online enticement.
- Reports of online exploitation of children have tripled in recent years.
- An estimated 1,091,000 people in the United States are affected by trafficking.

These numbers represent real women and girls.

- Last year, Hope for Justice reached 155,137 people through prevention, training, investigations, outreach, and survivor support in the U.S.
- More than 70,000 professionals, including School Resource Officers, were trained to recognize and respond to trafficking.
- Licensed investigators worked alongside law enforcement to help victims reach safety, and survivor programs provide trauma-informed care and long-term support.
- Hope for Justice advocated for stronger protections for women and girls, including federal legislation addressing online exploitation.
- Prevention and policy go hand in hand.

In North Carolina, a young woman contacted Hope for Justice after suffering physical assault at the hands of her trafficker. She was injured, frightened, and without safe housing.

The Hope for Justice team responded immediately arranging emergency lodging, transportation, and connection to trauma-informed care. What began as a crisis became the first step toward stability. Today, she is safe and receiving ongoing support as she rebuilds her life.

Her story is not unusual. It is one example of what happens when someone chooses to intervene.

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PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

We value GFWC not only for its history, but for its leadership today. Women who are informed and engaged shape safer communities.

Hope for Justice would welcome the opportunity to present directly to your club, provide updates on legislative developments affecting women and girls, and share prevention tools. Building relationships with club presidents and members is central to this partnership.

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 provide your club name in the memo.

Call: Please call 770-675-4580 to make a donation. When donating, reference GFWC and your club name 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 children with lifesaving vaccines between 2026–2028 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. Or, give $25 to help protect an entire family.

If you/your club prefer to send a check, please address it to Shot@Life, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Ste. 300, Washington, DC, 20006. Please be sure to put "GFWC" 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 DC.

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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SAFE SURFIN' FOUNDATION

PLATINUM LEVEL

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PROTECTING OUR YOUTH ONLINE SINCE 1998

Safe Surfin' Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children and families in an increasingly complex digital world. Founded in 1998, we operate at the intersection of child safety, technology, and law enforcement collaboration – promoting internet safety education, raising awareness of online dangers, and equipping officers with the tools and training needed to safeguard communities.

As social media, gaming platforms, encrypted messaging apps, and artificial intelligence continue to evolve, so do the risks facing our youth. Safe Surfin' Foundation focuses on proactive prevention – equipping communities before a crisis occurs rather than responding after harm has been done.

We work alongside schools, parents, law enforcement, and community leaders to provide practical prevention tools that stop exploitation before it begins. By empowering families with knowledge, strengthening community partnerships, and supporting those on the front lines, Safe Surfin' Foundation helps create safer digital environments for children and teens.

Our mission reflects the General Federation of Women's Clubs' longstanding commitment to strengthening families and protecting communities through service. In collaboration with GFWC and its members, we further this shared purpose by expanding prevention efforts and building safer digital environments for youth.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

The scale and sophistication of online exploitation targeting minors continues to rise at an alarming pace. In 2024 alone, more than 20 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation were submitted through the nation's reporting system – averaging over 50,000 reports per day.

Law enforcement agencies across the country continue to document sharp increases in:

- Online enticement
- Sextortion and image-based blackmail
- Exploitation through gaming platforms
- The misuse of AI-generated imagery

Many of these cases begin with what appears to be an ordinary interaction – a message, a friend request, or a shared image – before escalating into manipulation, coercion, or exploitation.

Prevention through education remains one of the most effective tools available to protect children before irreversible harm occurs.

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OUR PROGRAMS

Safe Surfin' Foundation advances child protection through the following programs:

CYBER S.W.A.T. (Safety While Accessing Technology)

Cyber S.W.A.T. is a peer-to-peer program that empowers students to serve as digital safety ambassadors in their schools and communities. The program equips youth with practical tools to recognize online risks, intervene responsibly, and promote safer digital habits among their peers.

Through structured presentations and engagement initiatives, Cyber S.W.A.T. strengthens school communities from within.

MOVIE GAMES

Developed in partnership with Skyll, Movie Games uses interactive, scenario-based storytelling to teach students responsible digital decision-making. By placing youth at the center of realistic online situations, the program strengthens awareness, critical thinking, and safe digital habits.

This engaging approach reinforces Safe Surfin' Foundation's commitment to proactive, age-appropriate internet safety education.

EZ ID

The EZ ID program provides child identification kits to families to ensure critical identification information is immediately accessible in case of an emergency. These kits include physical and digital identification tools designed to assist law enforcement if a child is lost or abducted.

EZ ID events offer local organizations a meaningful way to promote child safety awareness and preparedness within communities.

COP-IN-A-BOX (CIAB)

Cop-in-a-Box (CIAB) equips law enforcement agencies with turnkey digital forensic equipment and specialized training to investigate cybercrimes involving children. By strengthening local investigative capacity, CIAB enables departments to respond more quickly, preserve digital evidence effectively, and remove offenders targeting children in their communities.

CIAB enhances proactive enforcement while reinforcing community trust.

PROTECT THE PROTECTORS

Many officers across America protect their communities without body armor, putting themselves at risk each day.

Protect the Protectors provides ballistic vests and protective gear to law enforcement and K-9 officers, ensuring those who safeguard our children are not left unprotected. By strengthening officer safety, the program reinforces community trust and contributes to safer communities for all.

Stay Connected: Read and subscribe to The Spotlight, a newsletter published by Safe Surfin' Foundation, at safesurfin.org.

SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO

Please reference "GFWC" and your club name when donating.
Donate online: safesurfin.org
Donate by mail: Safe Surfin' Foundation, 201 East Main Street, Suite 9, Floyd, VA 24091

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ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

PLATINUM LEVEL

Contact: **Beth Perkins, Principal Advisor, Partnership Development & Stewardship**
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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 is a world-class children's hospital, a cutting-edge research institution, a degree-granting medical center, and a trusted nonprofit. The innovative and collaborative work that we are doing at St. Jude is actually **helping to improve the standard of care** for children **EVERYWHERE**.

Our purpose is clear: Finding cures. Saving children.

We know what's at stake, we're in this together, and we are not going to give up until we a cure. Ask yourselves, **IF NOT ST. JUDE, then WHO?**

Reasons to believe:

- St. Jude creates more clinical trials for cancer than any other children's hospital in the U.S. and turns laboratory discoveries into lifesaving treatments that benefit patients.
- Because a majority of St. Jude funding comes from generous donors, St. Jude has the freedom to focus on what matters most – saving kids regardless of their financial situation.
- By supporting St. Jude, you are not supporting a single hospital in Memphis – you are supporting a movement to end childhood cancer.

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, or PayPal. You can also make your gift an honorarium or memorial or become a monthly donor.

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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.®

Go to fundraising.stjude.org/gfwc to find a walk near you. No Walk in your hometown? Create a Virtual Walk team and join efforts with members 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.

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.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

To register to volunteer and locate events in your area, go to volunteer.stjude.org. Sign up, and make sure you select that you are a member of GFWC.

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CANINE COMPANIONS

GOLD LEVEL

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P: 614-699-5891; Toll Free 1-800-572-BARK (2275)

For over 50 years, Canine Companions has been leading the service dog industry so that people with disabilities can live with greater independence.

We provide expertly trained service dogs to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities, and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, and educational settings. Since our founding in 1975, our dogs and all follow up services have been provided at no cost to our clients.

Independence should not be limited to those who look or live a certain way. Disability reaches across all races, classes, and backgrounds, and Canine Companions will too. Clients come to us because of our reputation, the quality of our dogs, the experience of our training staff, and the desire to lead life with greater independence.

Through advanced training methods, industry leading canine health and research practices, and a focus on long term success, Canine Companions ensures every partnership is built to last.

This life changing work is made possible by the generosity of supporters like GFWC, who help make independence possible every single day.

SUPPORT CANINE COMPANIONS

Canine Companions is the largest nonprofit provider of service dogs in the world, and all dogs and follow-up support are provided free of charge to recipients. Demand for our highly trained service dogs is ongoing and growing.

To support the mission, GFWC members can:

1. Give and Rally Your Clubs to Fundraise

- Make a direct gift at www.canine.org/GFWCdonate
- Raise funds to help place a service dog with a veteran, child, or adult with a disability.
- Collect spare change at meetings or organize a simple club fundraiser to benefit Canine Companions.

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2. Join an Impactful Volunteer Community

The leader of the service dog industry is seeking new, dedicated volunteers to join our impactful community. From puppy raising to outreach, there are many ways to make a difference.

- As a puppy raiser, you volunteer to raise and socialize a future service dog, helping prepare them for professional training and ultimately a lifetime of partnership with a person with a disability.
- Opportunities are available with and without dogs.
- Nationwide and remote opportunities are available.
- No prior dog experience is necessary.
- Volunteer at a regional center or assist with outreach and event staffing.
- Assist with outreach to veteran organizations through presentations, literature distribution, and booth staffing.

3. Engage Through Signature Events

- Get involved in one of our signature events by participating in DogFest at www.canine.org/dogfest or attending a Canine Companions gala near you at www.canine.org/get-involved/galas

4. Amplify Awareness and Stay Connected

- Join the Canine Companions Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/CanineCompanions
- Follow Canine Companions on Instagram and X at @CanineOrg.
- Subscribe to the YouTube channel at www.YouTube.com/CanineCompanions
- Sign up to receive monthly e-newsletters at www.canine.org/signup and share updates with your friends and community

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, the 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 Digital Library on the Member Portal. Gender neutral preferred.

FUNDRAISE

- **Fundraise through March for Babies.**
  - 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

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and tag friends to join the movement on social media and take action directly to call on Congress to improve mom and baby health: www.marchofdimes.org/blanketchange.aspx.

- **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 GFWC March of Dimes liaison.

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OPERATION SMILE

GOLD LEVEL

Contact: **Melanie Hittinger, Senior Development Manager**
E: Melanie.Hittinger@operationsmile.org
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 affected by 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 400,000 patients in 37 countries. For the last 45 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, surgical programs, 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

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spot.

- 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: **Sha Ni Wang,**
Senior Associate, Corporate and Civil Society Partnerships
E: SWang@unicefusa.org
P: (212) 880-9172
W: unicefusa.org

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
Attn: CCSP
125 Maiden Lane, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10038
**In the memo, please note your GFWC club name.*

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Check out www.unicefusa.org/how-help 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, UNICEF is able 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

2026-2028 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 determine how to reach it by employing one or more tactics or tools.

Next, establish how you expect your communications to influence your members.
What do you expect to happen as a result? Understanding and having realistic expectations of results will help you evaluate the success of each tactic and make strategic adjustments as needed.

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

- Branding
- Public Relations
- Club Communications
- Website
- Social Media
- Digital Meeting Capabilities
- Artificial Intelligence (new!)

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028 COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chrissi Cuel, Chairman
GFWC Southeastern Region
109 Pleasant Ridge Lane
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CPRentries@gmail.com

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Kathy Huggins
GFWC Mississippi Valley Region
khuggins555@gmail.com

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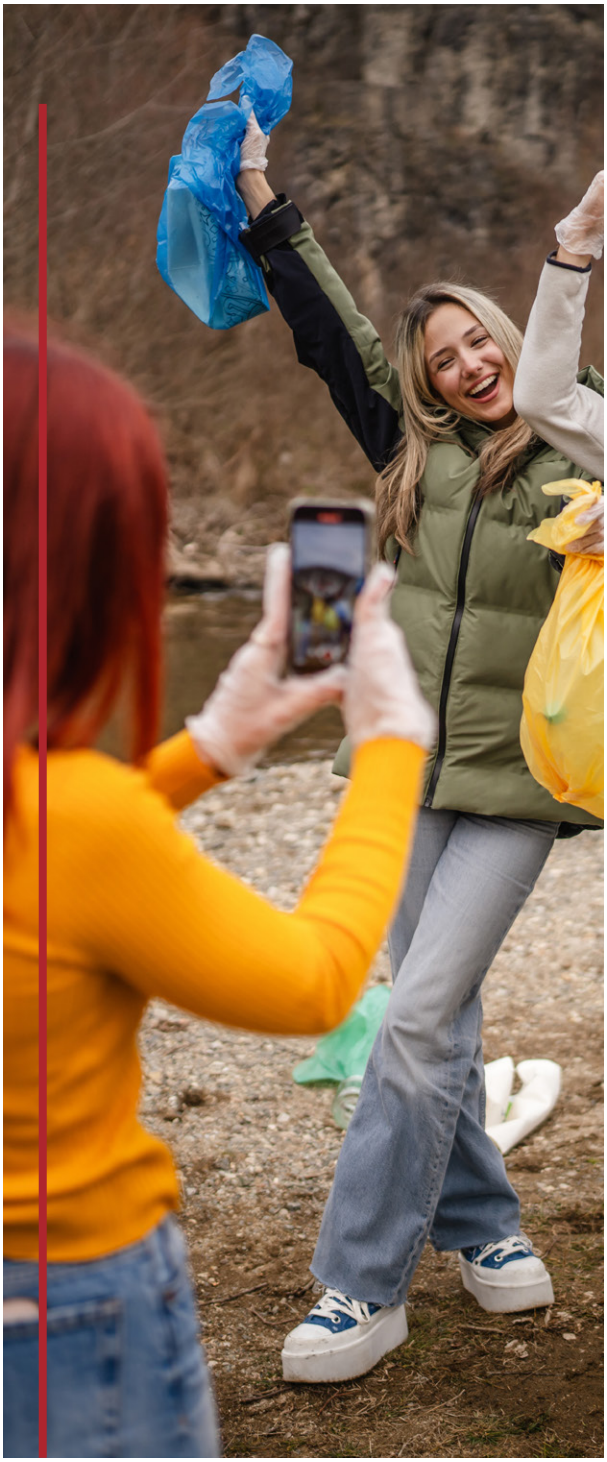
reding2727@gmail.com

Suzanne Carswell
GFWC Southern Region
suzanne.gfwcsc@gmail.com

Mary Lee Dixon
GFWC Western States Region
dandmdixon91@gmail.com

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

GFWC MEDIA MAKERS PROJECT: "CREATING, CAPTURING, AND COMMUNICATING THE POWER OF GFWC"



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The GFWC Media Makers Project is a two-year international Unity Project that unifies clubs through the creation of meaningful media that showcases GFWC's global impact. Clubs build a shared GFWC Media Library of photos, videos, stories, graphics, and templates.

STATE-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION

This Unity Project is implemented at the STATE/DC LEVEL for sharing, coordination, and collaboration. State Communication and Public Relations Committee Members will serve as the guides – providing leadership, training, communication support, and direction for clubs as they develop and share their media contributions. These committee members help ensure consistent branding, storytelling, and strong statewide visibility across all Federations.

TWO-YEAR STRUCTURE

YEAR ONE: CREATE & CONTRIBUTE

- Appoint a Media Makers Team.
- Learn photography, video, storytelling, and branding.
- Submit at least four media pieces.
- Use GFWC branding for consistency.

YEAR TWO: SHOWCASE & SHARE

- Continue contributing.
- Create one signature media project.
- Participate in the Media Makers Showcase.
- Share projects with State Federations and GFWC International.

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HOW CLUBS PARTICIPATE

- Form a Media Makers Team.
- Use the GFWC Media Makers Toolkit.
- Produce and contribute media regularly.
- Store photos, videos, and promotional materials in an organized location within your State/DC for future use and easy access.
- Highlight work locally.
- Complete a Year Two Signature Project.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

- Service in Action Photo Series.
- "We Are GFWC" Video Interviews.
- Canva Template Kits.
- Club Legacy Documentary.
- Joint Media Project with a Local Organization.
- Monthly Media Moments.
- Community Impact Graphics.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

- Number of media pieces created.
- Submissions to your State/DC Media Library.
- Public reach and visibility.
- Number of club members trained.
- Participation in signature projects.

PROJECT IMPACT

- For Clubs: Stronger branding, better recruitment tools.
- For Communities: Increased visibility of GFWC work.
- For GFWC International: Unified media identity and stronger storytelling.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



FREE MONEY

GFWC Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club (GA) applied for a grant from 4Imprint.com to receive up to $500 worth of marketing materials. The grant application was approved, allowing the club to purchase a 3' x 6' banner, a GFWC-branded tablecloth, and a branded A-frame sign to be used at events. The club has used the banner and tablecloth at several community events where branded brochures were distributed. This is a great way to advertise GFWC and club projects at zero cost to the club.



COMMUNICATION CALENDAR

GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club (MA) communication chairman prepared a calendar of Facebook posts for the year. This gave insight to all members on upcoming posts, and helped the club focus on campaign-type messaging. Posts were scheduled over the months to keep engagement high. The club's Facebook page increased followers and reached the MetroWest area. Members commented on posts and shared them on their social media accounts, expanding the club's impact in the community. The focused approach also attracted new members.



PODCASTING

GFWC Mebane Woman's Club (NC) was invited to participate in the "Mebane on the Mic" podcast. The first podcast included many of their projects and the history of their club. They also shared information about GFWC and its mission. The club participated in numerous podcasts about club projects and fundraising opportunities. The podcast has over 2,000 listeners and viewers. As a result, the club has built new relationships within the community, with local officials, businesses, and other non-profit organizations.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

GFWC Bruce Juniorette Club (MS) designed Thank You Cards to be used during the high school's "Random Acts of Kindness" week. The club had the cards printed with the GFWC emblem and their club's name. Club members obtained and manned the booth during school breaks, asking students and staff to stop and write a thank-you note to someone in the school. It was a great promotion for the Juniorette club and brought smiles to a lot of people.

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Effective Communication and Public Relations are vital to fulfilling the GFWC mission at every level. This CPR Manual provides guiding principles and recommended practices, while the CPR Toolkit serves as a companion resource offering ideas, templates, and tools to support and enhance each section of this manual. The CPR Toolkit is available in the Digital Library on the Member Portal and provides practical, ready-to-use resources designed to assist clubs in planning, implementing, and strengthening their Communication and Public Relations efforts.

GFWC COMMUNICATIONS

BRANDING: GFWC LOGO, EMBLEM, COLORS, AND VOICE

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

The GFWC emblem and logo are the foremost example of our brand identity and our image to the public. It is a tangible 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.

Guidelines for how to use GFWC logos, emblems, colors, and photos are outlined in the GFWC Emblem Use & Corporate Colors brochure located in the Digital Library on the Member Portal under "Branding, Emblems, & Logos."

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 your club customized GFWC Logo, club brochures and business cards, letterhead for club correspondence, club shirts or aprons, a tablecloth/throw for events, and various other GFWC Branded merchandise.

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THE GFWC LOGO AND EMBLEM

LOGO

The GFWC Logo with 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.

EMBLEM

Our Emblem may be used by itself within GFWC exclusively. It should never be used as a substitute for our full GFWC Logo with name. It should not be altered and the ® must always appear.

The GFWC Logo is available in two formats: **1) Horizontal** and **2) Vertical**.

The horizontal format is the main logo format. The two formats allow for you to accommodate the space limitations of your design, optimizing consistency throughout the Federation. The Logo and Emblem should appear on plain rather than patterned backgrounds.

FULL COLOR

Color version for use on light backgrounds.

FULL COLOR REVERSE

Color version for use on dark backgrounds

SINGLE COLOR

Single solid color version for use on basic single-color applications.

GFWC COLORS

PMS: 1805 C	PMS: 7559 C	PMS: 293 C
CMYK:21,97,90,12	CMYK:36,53,98,18	CMYK:99,78,18,4
RGB:175,39,47	RGB:148,108,42	RGB:16,76,138
HEX: #7c2529	HEX: #946c2a	HEX: #104c8a

APPROVED VARIATIONS

GFWC Regions, State/DC Federations, and clubs are encouraged to use their customized GFWC logo options on publications and in marketing materials. Region and State/DC logos are available on the in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Custom Club Logos are available through Canva. The link to access templates is available on the Digital Library.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

INDIANA

[Insert Club Name]

Discontinued GFWC Logos and Emblems create inconsistency and brand confusion. Please review your group's print materials, websites, and resources to ensure only the updated branding above is used.

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GFWC STYLE GUIDE

The *GFWC Style Guide* is the primary reference and consists of standards for writing, formatting, and design 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 GFWC Logo and Emblem to protect and enhance our brand. Members responsible for creating communication tools should familiarize themselves with the *GFWC Style Guide* located in the in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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 related to your Community Service Project (CSP). 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 firsthand 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 Logo 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 that fosters relationships with local press, including 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.

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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?

Be sure to do the following:

- Proofread! Always do so before sending the release.
- Include the GFWC Logo and 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 as to 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 newsworthy. Human interest and innovative ideas make the best story topics. Be sure to include the GFWC Logo 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, and 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 a great way to collect photos from multiple people at an event. Simply create a circle for your event, then invite participants by text message or by sharing the event QR code. Once they join, everyone can upload their pictures directly to the circle. This creates one shared album filled with memories from many different perspectives, helping capture both the special moments and the story of the event.

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 a unifying force, bringing together local women's clubs, with members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With more than 60,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than 15 countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by advocating for women, children, and families on issues such as domestic violence and sexual assault, food insecurity/hunger, and promoting healthy lifestyles. GFWC also supports the arts, works to preserve natural resources, advances education, encourages civic involvement, and works toward world peace and understanding.

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

Creating effective ways to communicate with your membership is crucial to the HEALTH of your club, State/DC Federation, or 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.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

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

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

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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 club and/or State/DIstrict of Columbia 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 State/District of Columbia Federation, 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, GFWC Day of Service, 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 Logo in a prominent place.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

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

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.

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 may want to invest in with a third party.

- Appoint a website chairman for your club and/or State/District of Columbia Federation.
- Create a club email account (i.e., GFWCStudyClub@gmail.com) and assign someone to check it regularly. Gmail is the preferred email platform.

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- 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 on your home page and footer to show that your club/ State/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federation events.
  - Club/State/District of Columbia 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 Logo should be displayed at the top of the website.
- Make sure more than one person has the password and/or administrative credentials to edit 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

Social media users make up 68.7% of the world population. On average, social media users are spending 18 hours a week on social platforms. Make sure to be included in their screen time! A social media presence for your club means a higher opportunity for recruitment, fundraising, and building credibility within your community. (Digital 2026 Global Overview Report, Datareportal.com)

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 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 Logo in your social media profile page.

Below are some of the most popular social platforms used, but feel free to research what will work best for your club and members.

FACEBOOK

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

Use your club's name, including GFWC, as the title. The GFWC Logo 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.

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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.

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 members! 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, your page must be at least 60 days old, and pages must have at least 100 followers. Personal accounts can go live without these restrictions.

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 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.

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.

INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a free photo and video sharing platform that uses visuals to inform the public about your club's work. 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.

PINTEREST

Pinterest is a great platform to share "How To's" and so much more! It can provide 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.

Pinterest 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 Logo 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.

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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 you're organizing. This platform positions your club as a professional 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.

X

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.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TIP

When posting on social media, use short, clear descriptions and photos or videos to tell your story. Summarize your club's activities in 50 words or less, focusing on the main idea in the first sentence. Use additional words only when truly necessary.

VIDEO SHARING

It is no secret that people love to watch others in action and posting your club, State/District of Columbia Federation, or 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. People watch more than one billion hours of video on the site daily. YouTube allows users to upload, view, rate, save favorites, 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. Share your videos on other social media accounts or embed videos on your club's website.

Some examples of content to share on your Youtube Account:

- The history of your club (and clubhouse)
- Video Highlights of a recent project or event
- Oral history interviews with club members

TIKTOK

TikTok is a short-form video-sharing app that allows users to create and share videos between 15 seconds and 10 minutes long. You can record and post videos on your mobile device promoting your

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fundraisers, club events, meetings, and other activities. Tiktok is the perfect platform to use to create fun, engaging content that shows the personality of your club and the way you help the community.

VIMEO

Vimeo is similar to YouTube. Like YouTube, it lets people upload and share videos. Unlike YouTube, the platform has no advertising, and users pay to upload videos over 1GB of storage. Plans are inexpensive depending on data amount, but there is also a free, basic plan. Vimeo is targeted toward business and educational content, providing advanced customization of video appearance and access.

HASHTAGS

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:

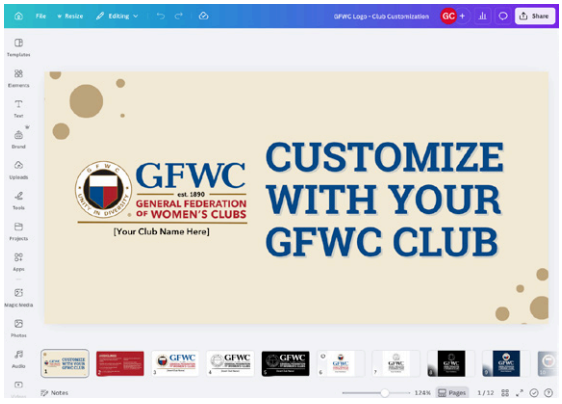
- #GFWC
- #GFWCHQ
- #WeAreGFWC
- #UnityInDiversity
- #LivingTheVolunteerSpirit
- #IamGFWC

ADOBE ACROBAT

Adobe Acrobat is a powerful tool for viewing, commenting, and creating fillable PDFs. 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

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. Use Canva templates provided by GFWC like the GFWC Club Logo to achieve a consistent, uniform look to your communications.



Canva Pro is available free for nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit accounts can have up to 50 users per organization (club or State/DC Federation). Each account must be registered separately using the group's full name listed on their 501(c)3 form. For more information on Canva Pro for Nonprofits visit www.canva.com/help/canva-for-nonprofits/

THE GFWC ADVANCEMENT AND PROGRAMS FACEBOOK FORUM

The GFWC Advancement and Programs Facebook Forum is a private group that contains valuable information for GFWC members. 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 member is encouraged to join. It does require a Facebook account to participate.

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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/District of Columbia 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. The free version allows for a 40-minute meeting. There are monthly and annual subscriptions which allow for unlimited meeting time.

MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

FILE SHARING PLATFORMS

GOOGLE DRIVE

All club records can be stored on Google Drive and 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. You can store documents from your computer by dragging the appropriate files over to the Dropbox icon through their downloaded software or access files from anywhere online. You can share files and notes to non-Dropbox users with a simple link.

SHAREPOINT

SharePoint is a Microsoft product that comes with your Office 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.

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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/District of Columbia 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/DC Federation, or Region best!

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/District of Columbia Federation, or Region podcast(s), offering a free plan and several low-cost plans, depending on your needs.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool that can support our GFWC work by helping us brainstorm ideas, draft materials, stay organized, and save valuable time – **but it should never replace our creativity, wisdom, or passion for service.** Use AI to assist with tasks like writing, planning, or designing, but always review, personalize, and protect privacy by never entering sensitive information. Today, AI can help you analyze which messaging tactics are most effective, generate customized messaging for specific audiences, and even predict what kinds of communication will resonate best. Remember that AI can make mistakes, so double-check facts, names, dates, and details.

While AI can streamline our work, it cannot replace the human connection, compassion, and originality that define GFWC clubwomen. Used wisely, AI enhances our impact; used carelessly, it can mislead or harm. Treat AI as a helpful assistant – not the author of your story.

GREAT AI TOOLS TO TRY

- ChatGPT – Writing assistant (flyers, agendas, emails, press releases, scripts, brainstorming).
- Claude – Great for long documents, research summaries, and deep reasoning.
- Google Gemini – Integrated with Gmail and Docs; helpful for rewriting or summarizing.
- Jasper – Marketing copywriter for ads, social media, and newsletters.
- Writer.com – AI writing tool with brand voice consistency for organizations.
- QuillBot – Rewriting, summarizing, and citation helper.

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CONTESTS

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

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State/District of Columbia Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Communications and Public Relations projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia Federations 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/District of Columbia Federation may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Communications and Public Relations projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Communications and Public Relations Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

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CORPORATE PARTNERS & DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

PURPOSE

The GFWC Corporate Partners and Development Committee is dedicated to building and strengthening relationships with businesses and organizations that share GFWC's mission of community improvement through volunteer service. Corporate sponsorships can provide valuable benefits to clubs at every level: local, district, state, and international, including financial support, in-kind donations, and opportunities to enhance club projects and programs.

WHY CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP MATTERS

Corporate sponsorships are mutually beneficial partnerships between a business and your club. Companies today want to invest in causes that show community impact, volunteer involvement, and visibility.

Through sponsorships, clubs can:

- Offset event or program costs.
- Increase visibility within the community.
- Build lasting relationships with local businesses.
- Showcase GFWC's community impact to a broader audience.

2026-2028 CORPORATE PARTNERS & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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dstrahanoski@gfwc.org

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STEPS TO SECURING CORPORATE SPONSORS

1. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Start locally! Reach out to businesses that share your club's values or serve your community.
- Consider companies where members work or have personal connections.
- Look for organizations with a history of supporting community events, education, women's initiatives, health causes, or local charities.
- *Examples include banks, hospitals, grocery stores, home improvement stores, restaurants, local newspapers, real estate agencies, and small businesses.*

2. DO YOUR RESEARCH

- Learn about the company's community giving or sponsorship policies.
- Review their website or social media for past partnerships or causes they've supported.
- Find out who makes sponsorship decisions – often the marketing, community relations, or HR department.

3. CREATE A SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Prepare a simple, professional proposal that includes:

- A brief description of your club and its mission.
- The specific project or event for which you are requesting business support or sponsorship.
- Sponsorship levels and benefits (e.g., logo on programs, social media mentions, banner display, event tickets).
- How the funds or donations will be used and the impact they will make.
- *Tip: Include testimonials or short success stories from past club projects to demonstrate results and credibility.*

4. MAKE THE ASK

- Contact the business personally – phone, email, or in person – to introduce your club and request a meeting.
- Be confident, specific, and clear about what you are asking for and why it matters.
- Discuss the benefit to the businesses in partnering with your club.
- Always follow up with a written proposal and thank them for their time and consideration.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE AND RECOGNIZE SPONSORS

- Thank your sponsors publicly – on social media, in newsletters, and at events.
- Send a personal thank-you note or certificate of appreciation.
- Keep them informed with updates or photos of the sponsored project.

Recognition builds loyalty and encourages ongoing support!

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GFWC CONNECTION

Your local efforts align with the work of the GFWC Corporate Partners and Development Committee, which builds relationships at the national level to support Federation-wide initiatives. Together, local and national partnerships strengthen GFWC's ability to improve communities and change lives.

RESOURCES

GFWC Style Guide: Download the current GFWC Style Guide from the Digital Library on the Member Portal for guidance on consistent branding, language, and tone.

GFWC Emblem Use and Corporate Colors Brochure: Download this informative guide from the Digital Library on the Member Portal on how to use GFWC logos, fonts, and colors in your sponsorship package.

QUICK TIPS FOR CLUBS

- √ Start locally. Businesses that recognize your members are more likely to say yes.
- √ Offer value. Recognition, visibility, and goodwill make a big difference.
- √ Follow through. Keep your promises, provide timely updates, and always express gratitude.
- √ Stay connected. Keep sponsors informed throughout the year, not just before events.

Together, we can grow partnerships that empower our members, strengthen our communities, and sustain the GFWC legacy of volunteer service.

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FUNDRAISING

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"FUNDRAISING BUILDS POSSIBILITIES OUT OF GENEROSITY."— ANONYMOUS

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.

Inspire and energize 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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2026-2028 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

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2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

VOICES OF SERVICE



Voices of Service is a community talent showcase project that can translate to GFWC clubs of all sizes through a fun, collaborative, and meaningful community event. By hosting a community talent show in partnership with another local organization or affiliate organization, clubs can celebrate service, showcase local talent, and raise funds for a shared cause that supports community needs. Voices of Service can be executed at the club, district or state level. By hosting a community talent show or showcasing the arts through local singers, dancers, musicians, poets, artists, or other medium, performers of all ages may be featured. The event would celebrate local talent, volunteer spirit, and community unity while raising funds to support a shared cause. Work collaboratively to identify the cause and strengthen the bonds between GFWC and a partner organization.

The goal of your event is to maximize the impact and visibility of each organization. Organizations that could be possible partners for your event could be schools or arts programs, local service groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, or scout troops. Look for groups that align with GFWC's women's empowerment mission. Seek sponsorship and promotion through community foundations and local Chambers of Commerce. Partnership opportunities may include co-branding your event, sharing proceeds, or partner participation, such as judges, emcees, volunteers, or venue donation.

Ask members to assist with all aspects of planning, including ideas for generating maximum income from your event. Income sources may be ticket sales, sponsorships, "vote by donation," silent auction, or raffle (where allowed), and concessions or bake sales at the event. Remember to include voices from all organizations involved and keep community involvement affordable to ensure attendance is boosted.

Consider adding some extra touches, such as "GFWC Spirit of Service Award," to a partner organization or a standout performer. Include a spotlight during the show to highlight GFWC, the partner organization, and the chosen cause. Create a highlight reel or photo showcase for social media sharing. Keep in mind that every event is a potential for membership recruitment.

Projects like Voices of Service create and strengthen bonds within communities. Hands-on projects give members multiple opportunities to connect with each other as they work together on a community-wide fundraiser. It engages members with the broader community in a positive, collaborative way while creating visibility not only for GFWC but for the cause. Collaborative efforts help us educate, energize, and empower not only our members but our community at large, creating a meaningful impact through our shared efforts. Partnership or collaborative fundraisers build bridges between organizations and open doors for membership growth.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



PAINT AND SIP

The GFWC Laytonsville Woman's Club (MD) held a "Paint and Sip" Class. The class was taught by the club's VP who is a local artist with a private studio in town. She provided each participant with a canvas and supplies. Through her instruction, the budding artists painted a simple still life in oil paint choosing a scene to paint from one of several still life vignettes around the room. After hard work, the attendees enjoyed a break of wine and charcuterie prepared by the club members. This was a fun way for the club to interact with community members.



BUNCO NIGHT

The GFWC Florentine Evening Club (MS) held a Bunco Tournament and Silent Auction with the theme "Rolling with My Peeps." Numerous planning meetings were held, and the event was publicized on the community center marquee, Facebook, and through flyers distributed at local businesses. Club members collected items from the community for the silent auction and Bunco prizes. Additionally, club members showed their crafting skills by creating and embellishing items for these uses. Funds were raised through ticket sales, a silent auction, and bake sale at the event. The club also set up a concession stand for food items during the evening.



SPORTS SHOOTING

The GFWC Lake Placid Woman's Club (FL) hosted an inaugural event, "Bustin' Clay for the Vets," to support local veterans' basic needs. Held at a local shooting venue, the event drew 24 shooters and raised more than $5,000 in profit. Many local businesses sponsored or donated funds, gift certificates, merchandise, or baskets for the event. Members donated countless hours securing donations, promoting the event, and planning logistics. This project was done in conjunction with the GFWC Lake Placid Junior Woman's Club.



GHOST HUNTING

Boo! The GFWC Millington Junior Woman's Club (MI) worked with a small business called Abnormal Paranormal, a group of paranormal investigators. Each Saturday in October, Abnormal Paranormal donated their time and equipment to lead a walking tour of locations around the city known for spooky or unexplainable events. At each stop, they used their equipment to attempt to detect unusual phenomena or ghost activity. Through this collaboration, participants learned the history of buildings and businesses in the city, got exercise during their walk, and raised funds for charitable causes the club supports.

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FUNDRAISING AND MEMBERSHIP

Fundraising isn't just about raising money. It's about raising energy, awareness, and community spirit. It's about bonding members to one another and to the causes and community each club supports. When fundraising becomes "fun"-raising, it naturally draws in both existing and new members who are inspired by the joy, purpose, and friendship they see in action. There is great value in the time and effort it takes to execute hands-on fundraising events.

Fundraisers can be friendship builders, transforming events into welcoming, social experiences that showcase the joy of serving together and the importance of members' input and creativity. Encourage members to invite friends, family, and colleagues to experience the energy and synergy of your club. Guests who experience the energy and camaraderie of your group will want to be a part of that themselves.

Membership moments should be created at each event. Include a short presentation on GFWC and the benefits of belonging to attendees, and offer a genuine invitation to become part of our organization. Highlight how service and friendship come together in GFWC. Provide membership materials such as posters of club events with pictures, brochures, interest cards, or even a volunteer sign-up for your next project! Potential members are more inclined to join if they feel connected, and meeting existing members during a service project is a great way to start building those connections.

Fundraising events are the perfect training ground for leadership and teamwork. Engaging members' skills and creativity by delegating tasks and assigning roles helps members find the right fit for their talents within the club, building confidence and securing meaning to their role as a member. Remember to thank, recognize, and celebrate the contributions of members. Recognition strengthens pride and leads to greater retention.

After your event, share the joy! Use media, photos, and social platforms to celebrate the cause and to share the club's spirit of service. Enthusiasm is contagious and provokes those who are not members to investigate how they can be a part of your greater good and join in the fun. Tie membership directly to your fundraising energy while reinforcing the GFWC identity. Fundraising and membership go hand in hand. Both exist to fuel GFWC's scope of service – connecting hearts, hands, and communities. In GFWC, we don't just raise funds – we raise friends, awareness, and hope.

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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 Sale
- 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
- 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 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.

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.

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- 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, State Federation/District of Columbia 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 an ice cream social or happy hour.

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State/District of Columbia Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Fundraising projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia Federations 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/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Fundraising projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Fundraising Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

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GFWC INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

INTERNATIONAL LIAISONS

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

BUILDING STRONG INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

GFWC has had an international presence for well over a century, thanks to Bombay Sorosis, a woman's club in Mumbai, India that was founded in 1868, modeled after Jane Cunningham Croly's Sorosis of New York City. By 1897, the GFWC Directory listed "International Federated Clubs" in Zimbabwe, Chile, the United Kingdom, Australia, and India, and within twenty years our "foreign and territorial clubs" reached across Asia, Latin and South America, Australia, and western Europe, as well as Canada. Many, though not all, of these early International clubs were primarily made up of American or British women living abroad. Others were professional or alumni clubs, or were based at schools or orphanages. Still, many were service and self-improvement clubs formed organically within communities, similar to federated clubs across the United States. In later decades, clubs in Africa and eastern Europe joined the Federation, giving GFWC truly global reach.

After World War II, international outreach became very important to GFWC leadership. In the early 1950s, a Council of International Clubs was formed and US clubs were encouraged to correspond with women in other countries, with an eye toward building new (and Federated) clubs worldwide. GFWC educational tours around the globe, organized during each presidential administration, were popular opportunities for club members to exchange ideas and learn about each others' cultures. Today, we encourage such exchanges through attendance at international conventions of women's organizations, and welcoming members of GFWC International Affiliates at our own annual Conventions. The Community Improvement Project contest invited international and US territory clubs, as well as clubs in the United States, to apply. From the 1950s to the 1970s, for example, projects from Puerto Rico, Greece, the Virgin Islands, Brazil, Taiwan, the Philippines, Guam, and the Bahamas were awarded prizes.

In the mid-to-late 20th century, occasional international tours were organized for GFWC members, and our leaders attended many federation meetings and conventions of other women's organizations around the world. In 1976 and 1991, we published "Our Clubs in Many Lands," brochures that listed our international federations and clubs; in both cases, 32 countries were represented, plus a few Eastern European countries for which women "in exile" had formed US-based clubs. Since then, the numbers have fluctuated, but our international presence remains strong.

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CURRENT GFWC INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES



as of July 1, 2026

PARTICIPATION IN GFWC ACTIVITIES

GFWC International Affiliates can participate in the LEADS program and compete for the Community Impact Program Award. Information can be found in the 2026-2028 GFWC Club Manual and in the Member Portal.

New club information, sample bylaws, and forms for establishing a new International Affiliate are located in the Membership Toolkit, located in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. GFWC members traveling should share the opportunity for International clubs to become federated with GFWC. Distribute copies of the International Clubs Recruitment Flyer available in the Digital Library on the Member Portal on your next trip.



During the opening ceremony of the GFWC Annual Convention, International Liaisons Committee members carry flags in recognition of GFWC International Affiliates if the affiliate does not have a representative in attendance. The Executive Committee and International Liaisons Committee serve as the hosts for a special reception with International Affiliate representatives attending the convention.

The International Liaison Committee hosts quarterly meetings remotely through Zoom at different times of the day to accommodate the International Affiliates' time zones.

Certificates for GFWC International Affiliates are awarded for reporting statistical information to GFWC Headquarters each year.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES BY COUNTRY

Official active GFWC International Affiliates as of July 1, 2026



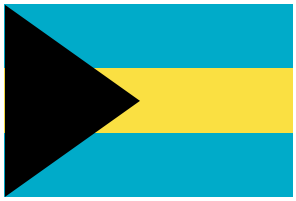
ARUBA

Women's Club of Aruba



AUSTRIA

Goldhaubenfrauen Spittal



BAHAMAS

Grand Bahamas American Women's Club



BELIZE

GFWC Belize City Women's Club
GFWC Belize City Juniorettes
GFWC Belmopan Women's Club
GFWC Belmopan Juniorettes
GFWC Suga City Juniorettes
GFWC Suga City Sistaz



BRAZIL

GFWC Cre-Ser
International Woman's Club of Porto Alegre



CANADA

American Women's Club of Toronto



CYPRUS

Federation of Women's Lyceum Clubs of Famagusta

CONTACT A CLUB

International Affiliate Club President's contact information is available in the Club Directory on www.GFWC.org, under "Membership." Each active club and club president's email is listed by country.

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CURACAO

Steering Committee Curacao



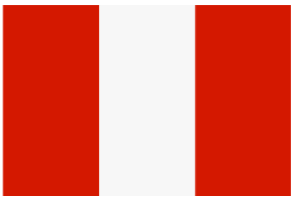
SOUTH KOREA

Korea General Federation of Women's Clubs



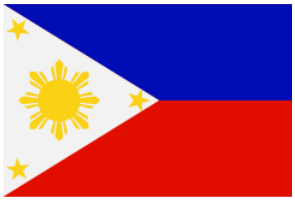
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Woman's Club of Osculda
Woman's Meet a Friend



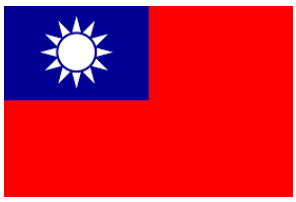
PERU

American Women's Literary Club



PHILIPPINES

National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines



TAIWAN

National Council of Women of Taiwan
Taipei International Women's Club



UGANDA

Cam Kwoki Women's Club



UKRAINE

Women's Club of Ukraine (Kiev)

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CLUB ACTIVITIES FROM GFWC INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

The Grand Bahama American Women's Club (Bahamas) continues the work of the Women's Auxiliary Nursing Division Services (W.A.N.D.S.) that started in the 1970's by screening all 2nd and 9th graders on the Island for vision and hearing deficiencies.

The GFWC Women's Club of Ukraine (Ukraine) is working alongside other volunteers in Kyiv. Many women who remained in the city could not leave their families, and now help women refugees and children who have fled to Kyiv. They live with the constant sound of gunfire, and military operations continue across Ukraine. Through it all, they pray and believe that peace will one day come to their country.



The Women's Club of Aruba (Aruba) held a seminar for International Women's Day on Innovation & Technology for gender equality. Speakers presented information on cyber safety & security, emotional intelligence. Highlighting inovative projects like "Program: Code Club of Aruba," an initiative with the goal to educate youth, especially girls, in technology. The also participates in the GFWC Day of Service helping GFWC reach communities worldwide on a single day. They celebrated their 90th anniversary in 2024 with a visit from the GFWC International President and President-elect.

The GFWC Cre-Ser Club (Brazil) has made it their mission is to integrate those who for some reason are not included in society, helping them to create their own identity and achieve social integration. GFWC Cre-Ser Club participates in the GFWC Day of Service helping GFWC reach communities worldwide on a single day. They currently maintain 9 projects, including 3 daycare centers that benefit over 480 children.



The Taipei International Women's Club (Taiwan) celebrated earth day by adopting a tree. The tree is located inside the park of the National Taiwan University Campus. It is a part of the campus tree conservation program led by Mr. Simon Liou. In January of 2025, TIWC became a "Sister City" with GFWC Las Noches Women's Club of Arizona. A pen-pal program was established between the two clubs, and members have enjoyed learning about volunteer projects in both clubs as well as getting to know their "Sisters in Federation."

The American Women's Literary Club of Peru (Peru) originally began with a small group of women who were interested in literature. Over the years, several new groups have developed as a result of bringing like-minded women together, ranging widely from gardening and flower arranging, to music and theater, as well as civic and philanthropic activities and support for educational projects. One of the interest groups, "Happy Hookers," states a thread is all we need – a thread that keeps us connected is present and binding. A member of this group was invited to visit a class of student knitters at Mindful Valley College to give a motivational presentation, sharing her passion for knitting. This member opened her stash/projects and knitted with a new generation of fiber junkies!



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GFWC Women's Club of Belize City (Belize) is dedicated to supporting those who are less fortunate while bringing joy to the community. With a strong legacy of empowerment and service, the club unites women to ignite change and build lasting bonds. Before the holidays, the club hosted a "Christmas Gift Giving" celebration at a local preschool, where Santa handed out gifts to all 40 children and members played games and enjoyed a wonderful time together.



GFWC Sugacity Sistaz (Belize) are a group of strong, motivated, and independent women who are committed to making a positive impact in their community through their volunteer work. The club provides emotional support and a sense of shared experience with other women who have faced challenges, ensuring they feel heard and empowered. The club's mission is to remind others it isn't how many times you fall or how hard you fall but about getting back up and continuing the fight. The club partnered with various GFWC club members from the United States of America visiting their country to teach diabetes awareness in primary schools and held a full day for a "Celebration of Women" to uplift women in their community in honor of Women's History Month.



GFWC Belmopan (Belize) has successfully executed several impactful projects, demonstrating their commitment to service and community development. The club collaborated with the Belmopan City Council to coordinate an Autism Awareness and Fun Day, including organizing a walk and activities for children and families affected by Autism. The club participated in the GFWC Day of Service by organizing a food drive to collect and distribute essential food supplies to people in need. GFWC Belmopan supplies support for Marla's House of Hope, a non-profit organization which provides safe, loving, and nurturing care for children who have been removed from an abusive environment.



The American Women's Club of Toronto (Canada) celebrated its 108th Anniversary on March 17 recently, a date close to when the club was formed in 1917 by a group of American women living in Toronto, Canada, with shared needs and goals. There are five living Past Presidents of this club, three of whom attended this celebration. Over the years, the club has contributed to the Toronto community in many ways, including to students in the Speech and Language Department at the University of Toronto. A member was privileged to represent the club at the 2024 GFWC International Convention in Chicago and reunite with other GFWC members. The club was thrilled GFWC accepted some of their most cherished artifacts to GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC.

GFWC is looking forward to highlighting the diverse contributions, success stories, and experiences of our International Affiliates.

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LEADERSHIP

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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LEADERSHIP IS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFLUENCE

This Advancement Plan contains valuable information, including practical ideas, tools, and resources to assist States, Districts, and clubs in developing their leadership skills. Whatever talent or trait you use, leadership involves a degree of risk. With leadership comes the responsibilities of making decisions, creating a vision, motivating and influencing others to follow, setting the standard, and leading by example. Some may say that they were born a leader, perhaps born with natural social traits; however, leadership skills are learned and developed over time through experience and training. It takes practice, self-reflection, and continuous learning, and application of those learned skills. The philosophy of "management" has evolved through the years into "leadership;" where "management" is the act of managing a task, a process, or time; and "leadership" is the art of leading people, inspiring trust, building relationships and collaboration, and growing together. Leadership skills strengthen the leader through personal growth and development, and the people they lead by influencing and fostering growth in others.

Specific leadership areas are addressed in this advancement plan, and we will continually update and expand these resources within the Leadership Toolkit. The Leadership Toolkit is in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Directions for accessing the Member Portal are available in this plan. We will continue to offer new leadership development, educational tools and resources, and growth opportunities.

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." – Rosalyn Carter, former first lady, activist, humanitarian

2026-2028 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM: DEVELOPING MEMBERS TO LEADERS



LEADERSHIP OBJECTIVE:

For clubs to build and implement a Leadership Training Program for its members. This can be a Mini GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS) Program or designing a training program that fits within your club.

The Unity Project challenges all clubs to be creative in growing their members.

Developing Members to Leaders: GFWC offers several resources to its members to develop and strengthen their leadership skills while fostering a growth-oriented mindset through the effective utilization of these available leadership development and training resources.

Leadership Resources include: The Digital Library on the Member Portal, Leadership Toolkit, GFWC Learning Academy, Webinars, and the Junior Club Leadership Certification Training Program.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

PROJECT IDEAS:

- Utilize the available resources to educate and discuss leadership topics during a meeting or hold separate leadership training classes. These training classes can be done in person, via zoom, or a hybrid design. Develop a training schedule and timeline, creating a catalog of leadership coursework, and listing initiated topics to assist members in beginning their leadership journey. Be creative and make it work for your club.
- Create a "Leadership Book Club" Training Program – this format would allow a more informal setting and would be invaluable for all participants to learn from one another. The group could meet every other week or monthly before or after scheduled meetings, or at another time that works for all.
    - Pick one or two leadership topics from the available resources mentioned above for members to read, watch, and learn. Have each member prepare a summary to share with the group, discussing their key take-aways. This promotes shared and member-to-member learning, creating conversations and discussions of ideas, and furthering development of a leadership skillset. Introduce a group exercise: Create a real-life practice scenario to discuss how one might handle an issue pertaining to the topic of discussion.

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TOPIC IDEAS:

Conflict resolution, handling difficult conversations, practicing presentation skills, effective communication skills, problem-solving, time-management, motivating club members, creating fun and engaging reward and appreciation programs, challenging members to step outside their comfort zone, finding ways of encouraging members to take the lead on a project, developing an agenda or budget, writing a succession plan – the ideas are endless.

- Involve the LEADS Graduate and State and District Chairman to facilitate the training, if available. Utilize other members with strong leadership skills and experience. Know your members. Who are your leaders within the club? Who works in a professional leadership role? Is there a member that has a degree in leadership? Work smarter and utilize the team's strengths.

REPORTING YOUR CLUB'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM AND LEADERSHIP PROJECT RESULTS

- **Annual Submissions** – States may submit Leadership Training Programs in their TOP 10 projects for state award entries.
    - Clubs should include a narrative Award Entry, under the Leadership Advancement area, describing their Leadership Training Program. What did the program entail? What were the results, outcomes, successes, challenges, and strategies for overcoming those challenges? What the club would change to improve the program moving forward? Leadership is an ongoing process with continuous learning from self-reflection, self-improvement, and growth. How does this impact developing leaders and transitioning members to leaders? This is a win for all.
- **Leadership Quarterly Newsletter** – We want to hear about your club's success.
    - Clubs are encouraged to share their Leadership Training Program: Developing Members to Leaders by submitting their club's success and stories of what's working to the GFWC Leadership Committee.

Sharing best practices is a good practice. It helps the growth of all of GFWC.

We want to share your story!

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FEATURED PROJECTS



NEW LEADERS TRAINING

The GFWC Woman's Club of Colorado Springs (CO) believes in training new leaders. New Department Chairmen are given job description, information, and training to be able to use the member portal. Each CSP Chairman is charged with planning a club program. Before the club year begins, they meet to discuss their focus and plans for a program and possible projects. Members receive training on how to track programs, hours, and activities, and the importance of writing award entries is stressed.



FOSTERING INCLUSIVE AND DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

The GFWC Tampa Woman's Club (FL) launched a Google Form sign-up for board and chairman positions as a part of their commitment to fostering inclusive and dynamic leadership. Positions with detailed descriptions give members a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and time commitments. This innovative approach to leadership recruitment encourages greater engagement and transparency, allowing more members to step into leadership roles on a variety of levels. With appropriate training, the future is bright and exciting for this club.



SPEED DATING

The GFWC Chapin Woman's Club (SC) developed a creative way to educate all members about the GFWC Community Service Programs. They designed a version of "Speed Dating" to allow club members 5-10 minutes to rotate through CSP committee-prepared displays. They were able to interact and get all their questions answered in an informal and accepting atmosphere. Members learned a lot. They were then allowed to sign up to participate in areas of interest.



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Small but mighty describes women in this GFWC South Dakota club. All members are encouraged to explore and to accept leadership positions as club and state officers. This small but mighty force of women was able to fill several officer positions, knowing that attendance at state, regional, and national events reap massive benefits and provides valuable information and ideas for club members. They put leadership into action by involving members on the state level.

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EVERYONE IS A LEADER EVERY DAY

From mothers, wives, and sisters, to club presidents, officers, and members, everyone has an 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:

- Prepare a job description detailing the role and responsibilities for each officer. Hold a team planning meeting for the new officers, share the responsibilities for each office, provide an update on current and ongoing activities, and review any plans for future projects. Collaboration without coordination leads to confusion. Having a plan and working together creates an understanding, develops skills, and builds confidence.
- 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 Leadership Toolkit.

WHERE TO FIND POTENTIAL LEADERS

"The bottom line in leadership isn't how far we advance ourselves but how far we advance others." — John C Maxwell, author, leadership speaker & coach

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.

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- Motivates others by their enthusiasm and may recognize that their interests lie in planning and 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.
- Embraces open communications and creates a culture where club members are comfortable to speak and share ideas.

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.

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WAYS TO DELEGATE

After thoroughly explaining the requirements and deadlines:

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

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

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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/District of Columbia 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 Leadership Toolkit in the Digital Library on the Member Portal 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

Gung Ho!, Ken Blanchard & Sheldon Bowles

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

The Leadership Toolkit contains a variety of tools and resources to assist all members in developing leadership skills, providing additional training and growth opportunities. The Leadership Committee continues to update these resources to stay fresh and relevant. These resources are intended for use by individual clubwomen as well as clubs, Districts, and State/ District of Columbia Federations. Many of these tools can be used for workshop presentations. Utilize these resources for your own personal development or in support of growing our members into leaders. Whether you are a beginner, an advanced learner, or an expert in leadership, these topics will benefit all. Topics within the toolkit are recommended and submitted by GFWC Leaders. The Leadership Toolkit is in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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.

The Leadership Toolkit is divided into four sections:

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SECTION 1: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Leadership development is an ongoing journey of self-development and growth, and building these skills involves a commitment to personal growth. In this section, you will find valuable resources. There are assessment tools that will help you discover your own unique personality and your strengths. Knowing what your personality traits and styles are will give you a better understanding of how to work more effectively with others, to create balance and cohesiveness. Explore time management strategies to become more effective at balancing your time to get more done, become more organized, and handle a busy schedule. Learn how to prioritize to accomplish your tasks. Learn how to set goals and achieve them and to create a compelling vision for yourself.

With Focus and Determination, you can learn and build upon these skills to become a strong leader. It takes commitment, experience, and time.

SECTION 2: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS

Growing future leaders is essential in sustaining a healthy, viable organization. How do I encourage growth and development of our members, you ask? In this section, you will find the tools to help you develop members into future leaders. Additionally, learn how to encourage and grow members, create a succession plan, and transition leadership when changing officers. As a leader, it is necessary to create a healthy club environment. Leaders set the tone, with a smile, positivity, and maintaining a sense of calmness. You will find tips on how to strengthen conflict resolution skills; we have all experienced that hint of tension when there's opposition between club members.
As leaders, encouraging our members to step outside of their comfort zone, providing cross-functional training to promote growth, will grow our leaders and grow our future. Commit to growing our future. Utilize these tools, and let's build leaders.

SECTION 3: CLUB, DISTRICT, AND STATE/DC FEDERATION LEADER RESOURCES

This section is the largest, covering many topics related to leadership, and is intended for all members. Everyone has influence, and everyone can be a leader! These topics are operational, providing the tools for clubs to function well and provide all members with consistent information. Leaders can feel confident in running a club or State/District of Columbia Federation thanks to information on agendas, bylaws, protocol, parliamentary procedure, officer responsibilities, and budgets. Membership topics include starting a new club, a new member orientation, benefits of membership, and GFWC history and structure. There are also resources on social media, club communications, planning large meetings, and legislative involvement.

SECTION 4: RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING A STATE LEADS PROGRAM

This section includes resources for developing a State LEADS program to provide leadership and personal development training to members within each state. The GFWC Leadership Committee encourages all states to provide LEADS training within their state. While only one member from each State/District of Columbia Federation can attend GFWC LEADS at the Convention each year, there is no limit to how many members can receive vital training in leadership skills if state leaders are intentional about providing opportunities. Within this section, you will find a list of Sample Agendas for 90-minute, two-hour, three-hour, or full-day LEADS sessions. Keep watching this section as new resources will be added to provide you with PowerPoint presentations and scripts that you can use within your state LEADS programs.

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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/District of Columbia Federation, 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.
- 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/District of Columbia Federation is eligible to participate in the annual GFWC LEADS program. GFWC demonstrates its commitment to training leaders by funding a portion of the expenses for candidates who are members of per-capita dues-paying clubs. LEADS candidates are asked to be responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment to leadership development and training. The State/District of Columbia Federation may also offer to fund a portion of expenses. LEADS participants are responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements.

One attendee from each International Affiliate is welcome to apply to and participate in LEADS for $60.00. The GFWC stipend for travel and lodging allowance does not apply.

Contact your State/District of Columbia Federation Leadership Chairman for an application and deadline information.

STATE AND DISTRICT LEADS PROGRAMS

State/District of Columbia Federations and Districts are encouraged to hold a LEADS program to identify and develop strong potential leaders prepared to assume 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/District of Columbia Federation and Region leadership can determine when their 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 2026-2028 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.

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GFWC JUNIOR CLUB LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

The Junior Club Leadership Certification provides a structured pathway for clubs to provide leadership and personal development. Earning and maintaining this Certification demonstrates a club's commitment to educating members on GFWC and supporting leadership and personal development for its individual members.

The Junior Club Leadership Certification is available to all GFWC Junior and Juniorette Clubs to provide a benefit in support of recruitment and retention. Clubs earning the Certification will be recognized at GFWC Convention, on the GFWC website, and on social media. They will have access to an exclusive graphic for use in club materials and on social media.

Eight initial topics were offered via live webinars June-September 2025, with an opportunity for Q&A and discussion, and a recorded version of the topics was released post-webinar. These video topics are available through the Digital Library on the Member Portal. This on-demand content represents the introductory material that should be presented to club members to earn the JCLC.

To retain certification, clubs should demonstrate a continuing commitment to supporting and encouraging leadership and personal development.

EARNING THE INITIAL JUNIOR CLUB LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

For the 2026-2028 Administration, one representative from the club must complete this online form (by April 1, 2027 to be recognized at the 2027 GFWC Convention; or April 1, 2028 to be recognized at the 2028 GFWC Convention). The form includes an attestation that at least 50% of club members have viewed the on-demand offerings for the eight (8) initial topics. The form also seeks feedback on the initial offerings and suggestions for additional topics.

RETAINING THE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

If a club earned the Leadership Certification in the 2024-2026 administration, the following criteria needs to be met to retain the certification:

- Provide the GFWC JCLC Welcome Video to new members and present the eight original topics to view on demand.
- Leverage the GFWC Learning Academy to provide continuing education for club members, encouraging all members to either,
- Complete the basic level courses in one category.

  OR

- Complete at least one basic level course in each of the seven categories.

As a club, you may choose which option is best for your club members. You may choose to select the category that members are asked to complete or identify a single course in each of the seven categories and present a mixed series for your club members to complete. At least 50% of club members must participate in continuing education via the Learning Academy.

Complete this form to retain your certification. The form requires that you attest to meeting both criteria listed above and asks you to report on how you promoted the Learning Academy and encouraged member participation. The form also provides an opportunity to evaluate the initial topics and/or the Learning Academy.

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WEBINARS

There are eight webinars currently available for viewing. You can find the webinars in the Digital Library on the Member Portal under Junior Club Leadership Certification. There will be a survey available for your club to complete, to provide feedback on other topics clubs would like to see in the future. Additional resources and suggested reading lists will be provided for each topic. These resources will be available in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Clubs can watch the webinars and complete the topics on their own schedule.

TOPICS FOR 2026-2028

GFWC Resources & Overview
• Scope of Work
• Tour of:
  • GFWC Website
  • Member Portal
  • Club Manual
	Legislation
	• GFWC Advocacy – Historic Highlights & Current Effort
	• Legislative Action Center
	• Resolutions – Purpose and Process

Personal Development (Part 1) • Assessing your Leadership Personality & Strengths • Well-being	**Leadership Development (Part 1)** • Creating a Healthy Club Culture • Providing and Receiving Constructive Feedback
Team Development • Team Building • Goal Setting	**Effective Meetings** • Developing an Agenda • Motions
Leadership Development (Part 2) • Identifying and Developing Leaders • Leadership Transition	**Personal Development (Part 2)** • Building Personal Influence

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State/District of Columbia Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Leadership projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia Federations 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/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Leadership projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Leadership Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more info.

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LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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"IN CRUCIAL THINGS, UNITY. IN IMPORTANT THINGS, DIVERSITY. IN ALL THINGS, GENEROSITY, " — GEORGE H. W. BUSH

For more than 135 years, GFWC members have raised awareness and advocated for change. GFWC members' advocacy efforts are focused on the needs of women and children. Over the years, GFWC members worked to pass laws affecting highway safety, juvenile justice, women's equality, the rights of the disabled, education reform, health care, and increased resources for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Our empathetic members utilize public policy advocacy to seek solutions to local, state, and national concerns. Our advocacy efforts are based upon our resolutions adopted by delegates during the annual convention. Our efforts can change lives!

During the 2026–2028 Administration, the Legislation/Public Policy Committee is guided by our theme, Unity: The Power of Community. 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 a key component of our members' volunteer work for each of the Special Programs and all the Community Service Programs.
- Building relationships with the local, state, District of Columbia, and federal 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 legislative priorities.
- Identifying and building relationships with other organizations to to advance our Legislative Priorities.

2026-2028 LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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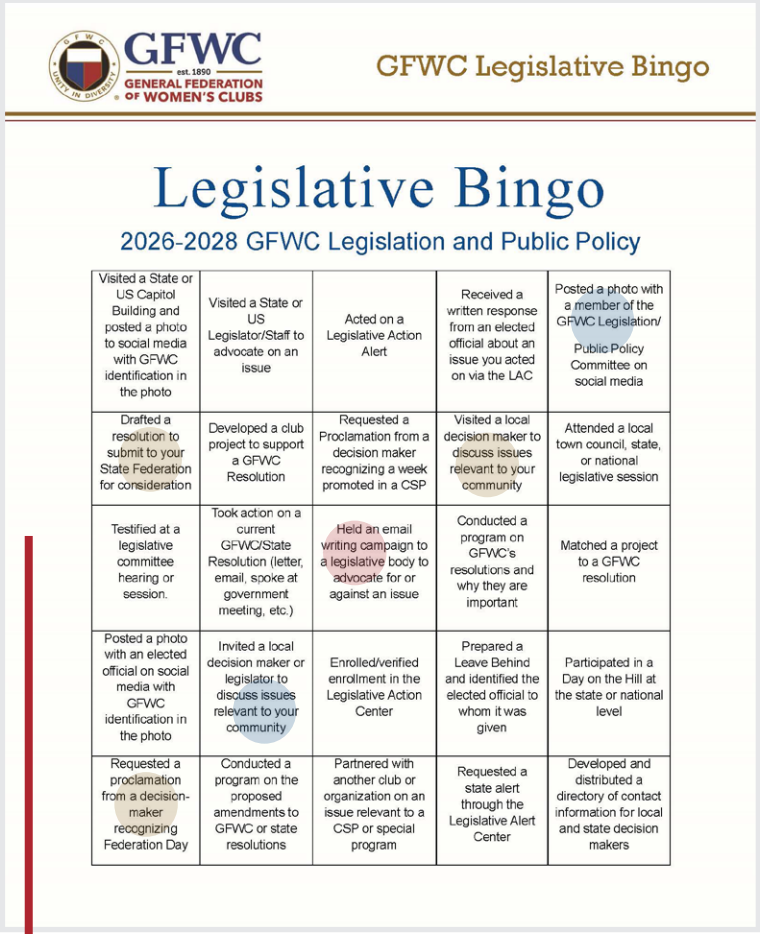
2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

LEGISLATIVE BINGO



GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS — GFWC Legislative Bingo

Legislative Bingo

2026-2028 GFWC Legislation and Public Policy

Visited a State or US Capitol Building and posted a photo to social media with GFWC identification in the photo	Visited a State or US Legislator/Staff to advocate on an issue	Acted on a Legislative Action Alert	Received a written response from an elected official about an issue you acted on via the LAC	Posted a photo with a member of the GFWC Legislation/ Public Policy Committee on social media
Drafted a resolution to submit to your State Federation for consideration	Developed a club project to support a GFWC Resolution	Requested a Proclamation from a decision maker recognizing a week promoted in a CSP	Visited a local decision maker to discuss issues relevant to your community	Attended a local town council, state, or national legislative session
Testified at a legislative committee hearing or session.	Took action on a current GFWC/State Resolution (letter, email, spoke at government meeting, etc.)	Held an email writing campaign to a legislative body to advocate for or against an issue	Conducted a program on GFWC's resolutions and why they are important	Matched a project to a GFWC resolution
Posted a photo with an elected official on social media with GFWC identification in the photo	Invited a local decision maker or legislator to discuss issues relevant to your community	Enrolled/verified enrollment in the Legislative Action Center	Prepared a Leave Behind and identified the elected official to whom it was given	Participated in a Day on the Hill at the state or national level
Requested a proclamation from a decision-maker recognizing Federation Day	Conducted a program on the proposed amendments to GFWC or state resolutions	Partnered with another club or organization on an issue relevant to a CSP or special program	Requested a state alert through the Legislative Alert Center	Developed and distributed a directory of contact information for local and state decision makers

During the 2026-2028 Administration, GFWC clubs and individual members are invited to participate in GFWC Legislative Bingo. **Players may complete a "Bingo" either across, up and down, or diagonally.** Certificates will be awarded to clubs and individual members who report proof of the required activity to complete the "Bingo."

Recognition will take place during the 2027 and 2028 GFWC Annual Conventions, with special recognition to those completing a "blackout/coverall" by **March 15, 2028**. The Legislative Bingo card may be found at the end of this section and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

GFWC Les Amies Juniorettes of Purvis (MS) members attended a City Hall meeting, inspired additional young people to take an active role in their community, and learned the process for securing city government approval. During the meeting, the club president presented a proposal for organizing a 5K run in town, envisioned to promote health and fitness and to bring the community together. Such initiatives not only benefit the community but also nurture the leadership skills and civic awareness of the young members.



ANTI-TRAFFICKING NOTICES IN PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Identifying the lack of information containing the anti-trafficking hotline in highway rest areas, GFWC Morris Woman's Club (IL) worked to create legislation mandating the placement of this information. Members met with a state representative's staff to clarify the lack of adequate anti-trafficking signage and were asked to develop specific suggested language for potential new legislation. This information was forwarded, along with examples used in neighboring states.



DEVELOPING CLUB CONNECTIONS

By educating themselves on local issues and attending a County Commission for Women Legislative Briefing, GFWC Woman's Club of Bethesda (MD) members gained visibility for their club and networked with other local women's organizations. The club had the foresight to provide membership materials for women attending the meeting, allowing them to learn about the club and explore opportunities for involvement. They saw participation in local legislation and public policy as a positive way to become involved in the community, and enhance membership recruitment and retention.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Members of the community were invited to attend bi-monthly meetings, originally initiated by the GFWC Fayette County ESO (IN), called "Coffee With the Mayor," with dates listed on the community calendar. Special guests, who may include district or state representatives, were invited to each event. Coffees were planned to advocate for Healthy Fayette County, an effort with other community collaborators to increase the health rankings of Fayette County. Constituents were welcome to have open conversations with the mayor and guests.

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MAKING GFWC'S PRESENCE KNOWN: THE 2026-2028 LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

During the 2026-2028 Administration, the Executive Committee approves federal legislative priorities for each of the Community Service Program 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 members 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. Legislative Alerts, approved by the GFWC International President, urge members when to contact their federal elected officials regarding a particular bill. The Alert will include information about the issue and a prepared text so that the GFWC message is consistent, accurate, and timely. Once activated by enrolled members, the message is automatically sent to the member's respective elected officials.

REGISTERING FOR THE (LAC) IS EASY

You can sign up for the LAC by going to the GFWC website (GFWC.org), and going to "Legislative Action" located under the "Advocacy" section www.gfwc.org/legislative-action. On each Legislative Alert, 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.

Members are encouraged to share the information from LAC notifications with their family, friends, and the local community.



ACTION PLAN: Make signing up for the LAC a club meeting event. Bring a computer or smartphone to your club meeting to help members enroll. Invite a representative from GFWC, your State/District of Columbia 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 elected officials simply by clicking "Take Action."

The GFWC Legislative Action Center is now available for use by individual State/District of Columbia Federations. State/District of Columbia Federations may now contact their membership through GFWC to request that they reach out to their elected officials on statewide legislative issues. Before acting, the following GFWC LAC policies and procedures must be followed:

- State/District of Columbia Federations may request that GFWC send state and/or district 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.

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- The State/District of Columbia Federation 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 and/or district 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.



ADVOCACY AND ISSUE AWARENESS: PROCLAMATIONS

A significant part of advocacy includes bringing attention to a specific issue or group. State/DC 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/DC 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 - UNITY: THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Individual GFWC clubs can educate members to be effective public advocates. Once a clubwoman becomes an advocate, she plays a vital role in the legislative process and leadership of GFWC

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 LAC. 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; instead, discuss what they ask of members and why.
- Give a presentation on the Legislative Priorities for the 2026-2028 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/District of Columbia Federation level to speak about GFWC's impressive history of advocacy and its current advocacy efforts.
- Provide club members with information about the Women's History and Resource Center and the history of GFWC.

EDUCATE MEMBERS ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND HOW TO ADVOCATE

- Present a club program on how a bill becomes a law. Consider watching the video "I'm Just a Bill" from Schoolhouse Rock (available on YouTube), which provides an overview of 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. Please note: Emails are more effective for time-sensitive matters, and with dangerous items appearing in lawmakers' postal mail, some are not opening letters.
- Bring computers or smartphones (or paper, envelopes, and stamps) to a club meeting and have members write to their senators/representatives, 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 logo in your email. If your members do not live in that legislator's district, email 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. Please include this information in your club directory and update it frequently, as local office addresses often change.

INFORM MEMBERS ABOUT THE ISSUES

- If your club becomes interested in a specific issue, invite an elected official to a meeting to

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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.

ENCOURAGE 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 logo and/or emblem on all communications, promotional materials, and advocacy efforts. Logos and emblems can be found in the Member Portal Digital Library.

GFWC members make a lasting impact on our nation and communities through the power of one. One member telling another, who in turn 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.

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Primary GFWC Logo

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Vertical GFWC Logo

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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/District of Columbia 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. Instead, 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 on lobbying efforts, those expenses must be reported on the organization's IRS Form 990, which 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 "Dos and Don'ts" to ensure that your State/District of Columbia 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.
- 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 about GFWC's resolutions and legislative priorities.
- Use the GFWC logo 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 unless the GFWC minority opinion guidelines are followed.

NOTE

A State/District of Columbia Federation that takes a position in conflict with any GFWC Resolution must register a minority opinion with GFWC. If a State/District of Columbia 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 State/District of Columbia Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Legislation and Public Policy projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia Federations 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/District of Columbia Federations may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Legislation and Public Policy projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Legislation and Public Policy Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

LEGISLATIVE BINGO

In addition, a certificate recognizing clubs and individual members that complete the Legislative Bingo will be presented during the 2027 and 2028 GFWC Annual Conventions. Individual clubs and members must submit entries for activities included in the Legislative Bingo no later than March 15 to the Legislation/Public Policy Chairman. See instructions included in the Legislative Bingo Description.

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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 Digital Library on the Member Portal. Resolutions are tools that members should use to advocate for and educate others about important issues at the local, state, and national levels. If a GFWC resolution does not address a subject, members may not use GFWC's name to advocate for or against the issue, but they 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 its individual State/District of Columbia Federation for adoption according to the State's/District of Columbia's rules. If adopted by the State/District of Columbia Federation, 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 relevant to the work or interests of GFWC members. GFWC Resolutions address issues encompassing Community Service Programs and Special Programs, including domestic and sexual violence awareness and prevention, education, women's health, the promotion of the arts, conservation, highway safety, and the United Nations/UNICEF. Many resolutions call for GFWC members to advocate not only for federal 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 Digital Library on the Member Portal under "Governance."

HOW ARE RESOLUTIONS DRAFTED AND ADOPTED?

Individual GFWC 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/ District of Columbia Federation, 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 reviews the proposed resolutions and determines which ones to present to 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. Before 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

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2026-2028 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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resolution is brought to the convention floor, delegates can debate and amend it. If a majority of voting delegates vote in favor of a resolution, it is adopted and serves as the 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 advocate with respect to that issue at the state and local levels. If no GFWC Resolution covers a state-specific issue, then the State/District of Columbia Federation should draft and adopt a resolution for action. NOTE: NO STATE/DC FEDERATION MAY TAKE A POSITION OR PASS A RESOLUTION THAT CONFLICTS WITH A GFWC RESOLUTION.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DRAFTING A RESOLUTION?

The Legislative Toolkit found in the Digital Library on the Member Portal has step-by-step instructions.

QUESTIONS ABOUT RESOLUTIONS?

If you have any questions about resolutions, please contact a member of the Resolutions Committee.

LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY TOOLKIT

Found in the Digital Library on the GFWC Member Portal (memberportal.gfwc.org), the Legislation/Public Policy Toolkit offers guidance on writing resolutions, tips for meeting with legislators, current legislative priorities, federal legislative successes, club advocacy help, and more.

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MEMBERSHIP

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2026-2028 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 members 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/District of Columbia Federation, Region, or at the national level. The diversity of our membership provides many perspectives to public issues and policies while our voices joined together as one give a united voice.
- **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 diverse volunteer menu.** GFWC offers many national resources to help clubs plan and create community service projects in the 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.
- 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.

2026-2028 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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CLUB ENGAGEMENT THROUGH UNITY & DIVERSITY:

Membership is essential for fresh ideas, new interests, increased energy, and providing for future leadership. What are we focused on when we use the words Unity & Diversity?

BUILDING UNITY – Where members come together to learn, lead, serve, and grow.

Uniting members through our shared mission.

Nurturing member growth through mentorship, education, and resources.

Inspiring members through our collective stories and creative programs & projects.

Transforming members and empowering them to make a real impact in their communities.

Yielding results by celebrating successful outcomes from collective member action (projects completed, club goals achieved, or communities changed).

BUILDING DIVERSITY – where every person is welcomed, valued, and empowered to share her voice and vision to create a stronger, more inclusive Federation.

Developing understanding and appreciation for all people, their experiences, and their contributions.

Inviting every person to find their place, voice, and purpose within GFWC.

Valuing the strength that comes from our differences and shared commitment to service.

Empowering members to lead with empathy, compassion, and respect.

Respecting each individual's story, culture, and journey of service.

Supporting inclusivity by ensuring all members feel seen, heard, and celebrated.

Initiating collaboration that bridges generations, perspectives, and communities.

Transforming our organization through open hearts and open minds.

You belong – your presence strengthens the fabric of who we are.

Membership is about belonging, making friends, networking, nurturing and bonding through love, encouragement, and support, providing opportunity for personal and professional development, collectively achieving our mission while making a difference in the lives of others in our communities.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

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2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

GFWC UNITY MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Every great idea begins with a spark – a moment when individuals come together, united by purpose and passion. The GFWC Unity Membership Challenge was created to ignite that spark within every club and every member. It's more than a program – it's a celebration of who we are, what we stand for, and the difference we make when we shine together.

What is the Challenge? It is your club's invitation to dream big, connect deeply, and celebrate what makes GFWC shine – our members! This challenge is all about building unity through purpose and service, one bright idea at a time.

The **GFWC Unity Membership Challenge** is designed to strengthen our clubs by encouraging connection, creativity, and community impact – all while growing and retaining members. Each "STAR point" represents a key area of club vitality: **Shine, Tell, Activate, Recruit, and Spark**. Together, these five challenges guide our clubs through a well-rounded approach to building membership, visibility, and unity.

Each "STAR POINT" represents a key area of growth and connection. Through the GFWC Unity Membership Challenge, clubs are encouraged to:

S – Shine: Let your club's light sparkle in the community by increasing visibility and sharing the GFWC spirit.

T – Tell: Tell your story – proudly share your projects, impact, and member experiences through local media, social posts, and conversations.

A – Activate: Build partnerships and engage your community by collaborating with other organizations and groups that share our values.

R – Recruit: Invite others to join you in service! Every project is a chance to welcome new faces and fresh ideas.

S – Spark: Keep that spark alive by nurturing connection, friendship, and belonging among all members – new and seasoned alike.

Together, these five challenges inspire clubs to reach out, lift up, and shine brightly as one united GFWC. The GFWC Unity Membership Challenge celebrates not only numbers but relationships – the friendships, partnerships, and shared purpose that make GFWC shine. Each activity is designed to help members connect more deeply with one another and with the communities they serve.

Complete all five STAR POINT challenges by **February 1, 2028**, and your club will be recognized for outstanding achievement in membership unity and growth. But more importantly, you'll feel the joy that comes from working together, celebrating diversity, and creating lasting bonds through service. Let's light the way for others to follow.

Be bold. Be bright. Be united. Be a STAR!

As you take part in this challenge, remember: every new connection you make, every story you share, and every act of service you give brings us one step closer to a brighter, stronger GFWC. Together, we rise, we shine, and we unite – as STARS guiding the way for others to follow.

You can find all the details for the challenge in the GFWC Unity Membership Challenge Toolkit in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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FEATURED PROJECTS



DOOR PRIZE MEETINGS (MEMBER RETENTION)

With over 125 members, the GFWC Menominee Women's Club (MI) has found a creative way to keep meetings lively and well-attended – door prizes at every monthly gathering! The anticipation adds excitement, encouraging members to show up and stay engaged. It's a simple yet thoughtful gesture that shows appreciation for each member's participation. In turn, members respond with enthusiasm, making meetings not just a time for business, but a fun, rewarding opportunity to connect and celebrate club spirit.



A TRIP AROUND THE PJWJC WORLD (MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT)

The GFWC Plainfield Junior Woman's Club (IL) Membership Chairs hosted an open house showcasing all club communities and their year-round events. Potential new members and guests visited each station to learn about the club's mission and activities. After exploring, each visitor received a raffle ticket, with exciting prizes awarded throughout the event. This engaging approach sparked enthusiasm and connection, contributing to an impressive 13% membership increase, a clear sign that the club's outreach efforts are making an impact.



FINDING MEMBERS AMONG THE PUMPKINS (MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT)

GFWC Women's Civic League (UT) wanted to remain in GFWC, so they regrouped and reorganized. Planning meetings and projects, installing new officers, and rewriting bylaws was the focus of the 10 remaining members. Members organized a Pumpkin Walk to bring the community together safely on the Holmgren Nature Trail. This event was a huge success resulting in 15 new members.



IT'S A WONDERFUL CLUB (NEW CLUB ENGAGEMENT)

The newly established GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club (TX) celebrated its members in December with an amazing "thank you" dinner. Guests entered under a sign proclaiming, "It's a Wonderful Club" and "You are Now in Bedford Federation Falls." Black-and-white photos of the year's projects set the scene, while the President rang a bell for each member receiving her pin. The night ended on a sweet note – bell-shaped cookies, a cheerful reminder of each member's importance to the club and Federation.

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YOUR MEMBERSHIP TASKFORCE:

The **GFWC Membership Taskforce**, established in 2024, was created to bring together membership leaders from across the Federation to share ideas, identify challenges, and strengthen recruitment and retention efforts nationwide. Through open discussion and exchange of successful strategies – from digital marketing tools and event engagement to combating member apathy – the Taskforce is a vital forum for grassroots insight and practical solutions.

A representative from each of the State/District of Columbia Federations and International Affiliates is invited to be a member of this taskforce. This taskforce plays a vital role in collecting stories of celebration for a social media campaign designed to make GFWC an organization that everyone wants to be a part of. These representatives also play a vital role in addressing challenges that our members and clubs face.

This taskforce is a vital resource to you as leaders and members of your clubs. A complete list of the members of this taskforce will be maintained in the Membership Retention Toolkit. In addition, you can reach out directly to the Membership Chairman by email at GFWCMembership@gmail.com.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES:

Your membership committee has developed three toolkits. Each toolkit focuses on a different aspect of membership and can easily be found in the Digital Library on the Member Portal by searching the following: **Membership Retention Toolkit, Membership Recruitment Toolkit**, and **New Club Toolkit**.

- The **Membership Retention Toolkit** has information regarding educating your members and promoting the value of being a part of GFWC. It also contains information on uniting and nurturing our members as well as celebrating membership years of service, club anniversaries, and the Star Recruitment program. This toolkit is focused on keeping our membership engaged, relevant, and thriving.
- The **Membership Recruitment Toolkit** provides information on developing a recruitment campaign or hosting a recruitment event. It also has information on how to handle referrals and transfers to other clubs, as well as membership recruitment award forms.
- The **New Club Toolkit** contains the information needed to organize a new club, as well as ideas for different club models. This toolkit also has example bylaws to help the club get started, as well as other club-building documents.

Each toolkit contains examples of projects that come from the top 10 projects in membership from the 2024–2026 Administration. The top 10 projects from previous years are proven resources and can easily be adapted to your club, district, or state needs.

PARTICIPATE IN GFWC'S UNITY & DIVERSITY 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! This form can be found in the **Membership Recruitment Toolkit** within the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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In planning your club year, the following is suggested:

July, August, September

Focus On: Professional Development

Offer leadership workshops and seminars or training that contributes to your members' personal growth. This is the perfect time to hold seminars or workshops to help develop the incoming officers' skills and to have a formal transition between outgoing and incoming officers.

Provide access to tools and resources that can help them advance in their careers, such as project management and public speaking.

Planning during these months is important. Be sure you are considering all members' needs when organizing your calendar of programs, speakers, events, and activities for the next club year. Ensure club programs are accessible and open to a diverse membership base. Plan a membership drive event to attract new members. When planning your club year, don't forget to refer to the Membership Unity Challenge. This is a great way to earn your star points.

Membership Report Due: October 1

October, November, December

Focus On: How your Club Connects with your Community

Early in a club year is a great time to get your name out into your community and to reconnect with organizations that you support and work with. Some ideas to get working with your community are to hold a Community Open House and invite local residents, nonprofits, schools, and businesses. Share your club projects and achievements with them and ask how you can work together to achieve positive outcomes for the community. You can feature a local organization that the club supports on your social media and/or website. Ask them if they will do the same for your club.

These and others, like a "Meet the Club" campaign or participating in farmers' markets, fairs, or town festivals to hand out flyers and engage face-to-face, make great projects to connect with your community. Fall is a great time to focus on your club's brand, and another way to earn star points.

Membership Report Due: January 2

January, February, March

Focus On: Member Value and Benefits of Belonging

Clearly educate and communicate the value of membership in your club and at all levels of GFWC. Review membership benefits regularly based on member feedback and adjust accordingly. Do all your members have an account on the GFWC Member Portal? If not, get them engaged and exploring to see what great ideas they can find. Winter is a great time for exploring and self-development.

Membership Report Due: April 1

April, May, June

Focus On: Clear Communication

Concentrate on providing your members with regular updates through email, newsletters, social media, and your club website. Be sure to include a way for them to contact leadership with feedback or any concerns. Consider conducting membership surveys and encouraging feedback to plan for the coming year. Spring is a wonderful time to get re-energized and take action.

Membership Report Due: July 1

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MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

A **Membership Retention Toolkit** has been developed and can be found in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. This toolkit contains information on how you can recognize members for their years of service, details on the Star Pin Program to recognize members' successes in bringing new members into your club, and celebrating your milestone club anniversaries. Tell everyone through *News & Notes* how many years your club has been in existence.

Get your members engaged. In this toolkit, you will find great ideas on how to unite and nurture your members. Support your members to take an active part outside the club, such as areas, districts, state, region, or even national roles. There are examples of club, State/District of Columbia Federation Membership Surveys. A Survey is a great way to receive feedback and make changes to meet your club's or state's needs. We need to support inclusivity by ensuring all members feel seen, heard, and celebrated.

Do you have a member who is moving? Help her find a new club. How to transfer members can also be found in this toolkit. Is she moving to a GFWC Desert where there isn't a club nearby? Talk to her about starting a new club. Assistance in how to do this can be found in the **New Club Toolkit**. Give her the assistance she needs, either from your club or the State she is moving to. Invite her to find her voice and purpose within GFWC as she makes this move.

Celebrate your club members' successes. Think about featuring members for their achievements in your club and state newsletters or on your social media. You can also send this information to your National Membership Chairman (GFWCMembership@gmail.com). This is a simple way to demonstrate our respect for each individual's story, culture, and journey of service.



The **Star Pin Program** and Circles are an incentive award for successful recruiters. Make sure your state has a system in place to track which members are bringing in new members. To do this, make sure your New Member Profile form includes a field to record the recruiting member. There are 10 levels, awards are cumulative, and can cross administrations. Below are examples of the Star Pin Program. You can find the complete list in the **Membership Retention Toolkit**.

- 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.

You get the idea!

Only your StateState/District of Columbia Federation Membership Chairman can order Star Recruitment Pins and Circles from GFWC Headquarters. The Star Pin Oder Form is available for download from the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

The GFWC Membership Taskforce is here for you. Need assistance? The Taskforce contact information can be found in the GFWC Taskforce Contact Sheet in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. Consider asking your top recruiter to be on the **GFWC Membership Taskforce.**

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MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

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!

The **Membership Recruitment Toolkit** is full of information to attract new GFWC members. You can find resources to build a recruitment campaign or have a recruitment event. Make sure you use both social media as well as traditional media to get the word out. Did a member transfer into your club? Talk to them about how they recruited members in their old club. You can learn from everyone.

Make sure you welcome your new members into your clubs in a timely manner. Do you have a buddy program? Do you hold regular New Member Orientations? Both of these can support inclusivity by ensuring all members feel seen, heard, and celebrated.

During recruiting season, ask every member to bring a friend to your prospective member event or first club meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to transform our organization through open hearts and open minds.

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's success, so it is important that we invite and encourage women to join our clubs. New members can help inspire collaboration that bridges generations, perspectives, and communities.

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 tracking and submitting the number of NEW members joining your club quarterly.

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/District of Columbia Federation Membership Chairman.



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ESTABLISHING NEW 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 contents of the New Club Toolkit. 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 a local high school. A Junior Woman's Club might start a cyber club. Whatever the case, State Membership Chairmen, the Membership Taskforce, and GFWC Membership Services Staff will be glad to provide assistance as needed.

There are many types of clubs that could be formed and the club type should be defined by the members creating the club. You can find a full listing and description of the club types in the toolkit. To name a few of the club types: there are the traditional Woman's Clubs, Junior Woman's Clubs, and Juniorette Clubs. Each of these can be set up with flexible club models that work across all club types. They could be a special interest club, a collegiate club, a cyber club, a single issue club, a workplace club, or even a retirement community club.

The point here is that a club can be tailored to meet the needs of those forming the new club and their specific interests.

The toolkit contains information critical to helping new clubs get started. It also provides information on club building basics, supporting the founding members in making decisions as to what their focus is, what the name of the club will be, when and how they will meet, etc. There are examples of club by-laws, standing rules, and officer and member induction scripts that cover the basic requirements to get them started.

Your Membership Committee is here to support you in your efforts to bring both Unity and Diversity to the club experience. We are here to help you re-invigorate your club's focus as well as to celebrate the success of member retention, member recruitment, and the development of new clubs.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

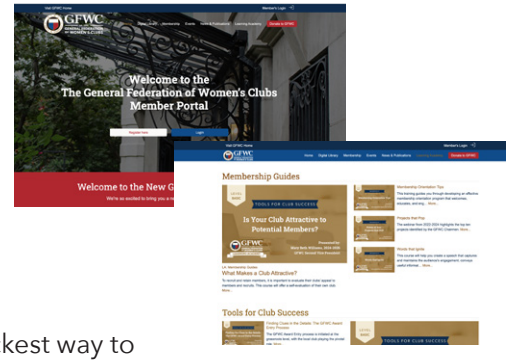


Clubwoman Magazine

The premier publication of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and one of the most useful and beneficial communication tools we have to inform and educate our Federation about community service opportunities, project ideas, and ways to enhance club operations. Published quarterly, the magazine is a source for insightful and informative content that keeps our members in tune with all things GFWC.

GFWC Member Portal

As a direct link to GFWC Headquarters, get the latest information on upcoming events, download all GFWC documents like the Club Manual, access exclusive member discounts, advance your knowledge in the GFWC Learning Academy, and connect with fellow members through your account.



NEWS & NOTES
YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

News & Notes

Our weekly newsletter is the quickest way to stay current on GFWC programs, events, and activities. Don't miss articles from GFWC Chairmen and updates from Affiliate Organizations. Subscribe on the "News & Publications" page of the GFWC Member Portal.

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RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARIES

RECOGNIZE MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Let members know how grateful you are for their dedication to GFWC by celebrating their service with a GFWC membership recognition pin:

- **GFWC Jubilee Pins celebrate the milestone of 70 and 75** years of continuous membership to GFWC. The member's club president must request the Jubilee Pin, which is free of charge, by filling out a request form available in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.
- **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 in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. If State/District of Columbia 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 Staff 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

GFWC acknowledges milestone club anniversaries with a certificate, letter from the GFWC International President, and recognition in *News & Notes*. GFWC defines milestone anniversaries as 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, Download the **Club Anniversary Form** from the Digital Library on the Member Portal and return it to GFWC Headquarters at GFWC@GFWC.org. Please allow a minimum of 3-4 weeks to process your certificate request.

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GFWC MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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 members 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/District of Columbia 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 section of the Club Manual.

NATIONAL CLUBS

These clubs 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.

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 Staff and the Chairman of the GFWC International Liaison Committee who is responsible for maintaining communications and a strong bond with these clubs.

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GRANTS

GFWC grants are available to clubs to assist with recruitment efforts and to State/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federations, found in the Membership Recruitment Toolkit, from the Digital Library on 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/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Membership Advancement Plan projects as follows:

- **A certificate to one State/District of Columbia 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/District of Columbia Federation may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for Membership Advancement Plan projects. **Entries should be submitted to the State Federation or District of Columbia Federation Membership Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

An award certificate will be given at the 2028 GFWC Annual Convention to each State/District of Columbia Federation that **federates one or more new clubs** with GFWC during the 2026-2028 Administration, plus a financial award of $50 for each club that is federated. State/District of Columbia Federation 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, 2026, and February 15, 2028, and with new club dues paid by February 15, 2028.

Additionally, each State/District of Columbia Federation that **retains at least 90% of its membership** between July 1, 2026, and February 15, 2028, will be recognized onscreen at the 2028 GFWC Annual Convention. The recognition is based on information provided via the State Federation and the District of Columbia Federation Retention Form, submitted by February 15, 2028.

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GFWC JUNIORETTE CLUBS

MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028
JUNIORETTE CHAIRMAN

Shannon Bailey, Chairman
1096 Gasparilla Dr NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
shannonbaileygfwc@gmail.com

"YOU ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LEAD, AND NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN." – KOFI ANNAN

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.

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

COLLABORATING FOR COMMUNITY SUCCESS

JUNIORETTE UNITY PROJECT

Juniorette clubs can participate in a collaborative project with their Sponsoring Club for greater community impact and awareness. The Unity Projects suggested in each Community Service Program in the Club Manual are a great place to start. Details about each project are in the relevant section of this Club Manual.

ARTS & CULTURE: THE OCTOPUS CHALLENGE

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH: SAVE THE BEAT!

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES: UNITY THROUGH READING: EVERY STORY MATTERS

ENVIRONMENT: THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE

HEALTH & WELLNESS: MOVE FOR A HEALTHIER YOU



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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.



WATER WAGONS FUNDRAISER

The GFWC Pinellas Juniorettes (FL) sold water at a booth during the community's annual arts and crafts show. They also walked the event with wagons in tow, full of ice-cold water for attendees. This was a very simple idea for a warm and sunny climate. The club sold over 500 bottles of water and received additional donations. Wearing GFWC-branded t-shirts, members promoted both their club and GFWC to the community while raising funds to support their projects.



STUFF THE BUS

GFWC Hoover Juniorettes (AL) collected items for Bundles of Hope, which provides diapers, wipes, and period products for women who cannot afford them. The organization held an event called "Stuff the Bus," where a big yellow bus was parked at a local mall. People came with donations of diapers and other goods. Members volunteered at the collection site and donated to the drive. They also volunteered at the Bundles of Hope Warehouse, sorting and bundling diapers for moms to pick up.



PARTICIPATING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

GFWC Les Amies Juniorettes of Purvis (MS) members attended a City Hall meeting, inspiring other young people to take an active role in their community, to learn the process for acquiring city government approval. During the meeting, the club president presented a proposal for organizing a 5K run in town, envisioned to promote health and fitness and to bring the community together. Such initiatives not only benefit the community but also nurture the leadership skills and civic awareness of the young members.

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LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUNIORETTES

GFWC JUNIORETTE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

GFWC offers a club-level certification program in which Juniorette Clubs may participate. The intent of the certification program is to allow all members to learn more about GFWC and obtain valuable personal development and leadership skills. Clubs watch eight video topics to earn this certification. More information can be found in the Digital Library on the Member Portal in the Junior Club Leadership Certification folder.



ST. JUDE LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder
Finding cures. Saving children.

The St. Jude Leadership Society (SJLS) is a distinguished membership of high performing high school students from across the country who share a passion for leadership, service and community. 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. This administration, GFWC will partner with St Jude to offer an exclusive GFWC cohort of Juniorette members. Members attend four live online leadership training sessions, raise funds for St. Jude, and may be eligible to attend the St. Jude NextGen Experience. To learn more, visit the Juniorettes folder located in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

HOBY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

HOBY
HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP

GFWC clubs have a long history of sponsoring students to attend HOBY Youth Leadership seminars and of volunteering with this program. This leadership event is open to 10th graders, and is a powerful experience that awakens students to their leadership potential. In addition to sponsoring local high school students, Women's and Junior Clubs have the opportunity to sponsor eligible students in their own Juniorette clubs through the Community Nomination process. Juniorettes who attend can be invited to report on their experience at Club, District and State GFWC meetings and may be encouraged to take leadership roles in their clubs and beyond. To learn more, visit the Juniorettes folder located in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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 (or members) 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/DC Federation, Region, and/or GFWC.

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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/DC Federations.
- Young people responding to volunteer opportunities posted on the club website.
- GFWC Juniorette Clubs can be open to all students! There are currently several successful mixed gender GFWC Juniorette Clubs. While they are classified by GFWC as Juniorette Clubs, "Juniorette" need not be in the club name if student members prefer a different name.

Potential members might be recruited through the assistance of:

- Using Social Media.
- Post in the school paper or other communications.
- Teachers and school administrators.
- Homeschool 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 or groups. Encourage any students who are interested to bring their friends!
- 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

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Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy.
- 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.
- Take leadership roles in the club as comfort levels and self-confidence grow.

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.

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- The meeting place conveys a message about the club; select a neutral, easily accessible 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/DC 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 as a group. Sample Juniorette Club Bylaws are located in the GFWC Member Portal Digital Library under "Juniorettes."
  - 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 parliamentary procedure to help meetings run smoothly.
- Is a member of the sponsoring club and knowledgeable about GFWC and the State/DC 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*

- Juniorette Club members may download the *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* and all other resources located in the Digital Library on the GFWC 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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GFWC JUNIORETTE CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

It is imperative that parents assist during outside general meetings. Chaperoning is an important responsibility and needs to be taken seriously. The safety of all is compromised when chaperones do not follow the established procedures. Chaperones should behave in a positive manner that Juniorettes can use as a model. Although some of the items below may seem common sense, it is our duty to make you aware of each one for the safety of all involved.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ADULT CHAPERONES

- All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age.
- Carry Medical Release Waiver/Emergency Contact information at all times (provided by club advisors). In case of an accident, the medical release waivers shall be presented to the treating physician Chaperones are required to report any illness of members to the Lead Chaperone.
- The level of supervision of students while on an outside community project is no less than the level of supervision of members required when they are at general meetings.
- Arrive at any meeting place at or before the assigned time.
- Monitor your assigned group. Stay with the group until completion of the volunteer experience. Do not allow any Juniorette to leave without permission and only if accompanied with another member. Remember – they travel in pairs!
- Keep the focus on the members, not on other adults.
- Discourage social talking amongst adults/ chaperones.
- Remind everyone to stay on task.
- Watch and assist all the members in your small group, not just your own children.
- Share your enthusiasm for community service with your group.
- Parent chaperones are responsible for supervising members.
- Cell phones need to be used at appropriate times.
- We need chaperones who are interested in helping all members. Although your main responsibility is to take care of your own group, please be aware of what all members are doing and discuss any inappropriate behavior with any member not acting appropriately.
- Inappropriate language is unacceptable for adults or students. Please be mindful of the way you speak.
- Drinking of alcoholic beverages and/or use of tobacco products by a chaperone at any time during an outside community project is prohibited.
- Chaperones must actively supervise and keep an accurate check on members assigned to them. Typically 4-5 Juniorettes per chaperone.
- Overnight chaperones may not retire until all group members are in their rooms, all visiting between rooms has stopped, and the chaperones are sure the students are secure.
- Chaperones are typically not permitted to bring siblings of participating members, unless they are of the age that they may participate in the volunteer opportunity as well.
- If transporting Juniorettes to and from an event, you must have a valid driver's license and a registered/insured vehicle. Obey all traffic laws and do not take driving risks that will place anyone in a harmful situation. Ensure all Juniorettes have a seat in the vehicle and wear seatbelts.

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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 members will be able to download *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.
  - Note: While they are classified by GFWC as Juniorette Clubs, "Juniorette" need not be in the club name if student members prefer a different name. Ideas are GFWC xxxx Youth Service Club, GFWC xxxxx Youth Volunteers, or even an acronym such as is used by an existing Juniorette Club: GFWC HOPE Junior Youth Club. HOPE stands for Helping Other People Everyday.
- Decide on permanent meeting place, if possible.
- Establish meeting schedule (i.e., once a month, twice a month, etc.)
- Establish meeting time.

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- Establish dues amount (include GFWC and State dues.)
- Start discussing potential projects and programs.
  - 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 Agreement Form
- Juniorette Permission/Medical Authorization & Release
- Juniorette Medical & Insurance Questionnaire
- Juniorette Photo Release
- Juniorette Advisor or Sponsor Form

KEEP GRADUATING JUNIORETTES ENGAGED WITH GFWC

Juniorettes are valuable GFWC members! As Juniorette members graduate from high school, they have developed a heart for service, leadership skills, and a connection to GFWC's mission. Becoming a member of a Junior club can keep these members connected to GFWC.

The sponsoring Club and local District can provide leadership and support to retain Juniorettes as GFWC members. Leaders in the Juniorette Club may want to reach out to recently graduated Juniorette members as well.

There are several options:

- Join an existing Junior club in their local community. Some clubs waive the first year of dues for graduating Juniorettes who move into the Junior Club.
- Form a new Junior Club comprised of graduating members and recent graduates from the past few years. This club can meet in person or be chartered as a cyber club. There are sample club bylaws in the Digital Library on the GFWC Member Portal, located in the Leadership Toolkit. Junior Clubs do not need a sponsoring club; they are formed according to the same procedures as Woman's Clubs. While it may be beneficial to meet in person if there are enough members staying local, cyber clubs that meet quarterly may be the best fit for

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members who are moving away for college. They can stay in touch with friends from their time in Juniorettes, participate in a few volunteer projects throughout the year, and keep their connection to GFWC.

- **If forming a new Junior Club is not feasible, members can join the new National Club: GFWC Next.** This is a national per capita club chartered in 2026 specifically for recently graduated Juniorette members. It meets exclusively as a cyber club, with quarterly online meetings, focusing on continued personal and leadership development and volunteer projects that members can do independently wherever they live. It's a great way for members to stay connected to GFWC until they find a local club to join or are able to form a new club in their area. Membership in this club offers access to valuable GFWC resources open to all members.



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 unhoused.
- 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.

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 shelters for the unhoused.
- 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.

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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/DC Juniorette Advisors should send statistical data to the State/DC 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/District of Columbia Federation should submit the Juniorette Recognition Form to the GFWC Juniorette Chairman for recognition at the GFWC Annual Convention.

RESOURCES:

A Starting Point www.astartingpoint.com

Youth.gov www.youth.gov

HOBY Youth Leadership www.HOBY.org
Please also see the document in the Member Portal Digital Library.

St. Jude Leadership Society www.stjude.org/get-involved/school-fundraising-ideas/high-school/leadership-society.html
Please also see the document in the Member Portal Digital Library.

For additional information, contact GFWC Juniorette Chairman Shannon Bailey at shannonbaileygfwc@gmail.com.

SAMPLE JUNIORETTE FORMS

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GFWC JUNIORETTE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

1. CONTACT INFO		
First Name		Last Name
Juniorette Email		Juniorette Cell Phone
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
DOB		Current Grade
School		
Graduation Year		
Parent/Guardian Name		
Primary Phone		Secondary Phone
Email		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code

2. SECONDARY EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
Emergency Contact Name
Primary Phone

As a member of the GFWC _____ for the year_____–_____, you must attend at least _____ meetings, complete at least _____ hours of community service and participate in at least __ fundraising activities over the year. (Only as applicable to your club)

A signed copy of the GFWC Juniorette agreement, medical release form, copy of medical insurance card, photo release form, and dues of $_____ along with parent/guardian signatures must be completed for this application to be accepted.

I fully understand that by signing this application to become a GFWC _____ member that I am to act responsibly, in a mature and respectful manner, as I will be a representative of the club. Inappropriate behavior may serve as grounds for dismissal from the club. It is also my responsibility to notify the Juniorette Advisor and/or the President when I will be unable to attend a volunteer opportunity that I have signed up for.

_____ _____

Student Signature Date

Contact the Juniorette Advisor/Chaperone with any questions or concerns.

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GFWC JUNIORETTE AGREEMENT

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

I, _____pledge to abide by the following agreement while I

am attending the,_____(meeting/event)

_____(place)

_____(date)

I will not leave the meeting premises without a chaperone or advisor.

I will abstain from the use of illegal drugs and alcohol.

I will check in with my chaperone at an agreed upon time.

I will behave in a manner that will reflect a positive image of the Juniorettes.

I will attend the meetings and share the information with my club members.

I will follow any rules set by my advisor.

I understand that failure to abide by this agreement can result in my having to leave the meeting immediately and that my parent/guardian will be called and responsible for returning me to my home.

I further understand that there might be other disciplinary action taken.

_____ _____

Juniorette Signature Date

1. CONTACT INFO	
Club Name	
Juniorette Email	Juniorette Cell Phone
Parent/Guardian Name	
Primary Phone	Secondary Phone
Email	

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GFWC JUNIORETTE PERMISSION & MEDICAL RELEASE

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

I, _____, as parent/legal guardian of
Print Full Name

_____, hereby give my permission for my child's
Print Student's Full Name

attendance and participation at _____
Event Name/Meeting

From _____ To _____

In the event of illness or injury, I authorize to give consent for any necessary emergency medical treatment on behalf of my child. I understand that GFWC or GFWC _____State Federation, its members, or chaperones are not liable for expenses incurred, including hospital or emergency transportation, for the treatment of any such injury or illness and that I am liable for all such expenses. In the event of a medical emergency, I further authorize the Juniorette Advisor / Chaperone to provide the medical services provider with insurance information. A copy of my child's insurance card is attached for that purpose, as well as a list of any known allergies and any medications my child may be taking at this time.

As consideration for allowing my child to attend and participate in the above mentioned meeting/ event, I release and forever discharge GFWC, GFWC_____ State Federation, its members and chaperones from any and all claims, actions, or liability which I or my child have or may have against GFWC, GFWC_____ State Federation, it's members and chaperones concerning or in any manner connected with or arising from my child's attendance and participation in the above mentioned event, including any and all acts of negligence occasioned by GFWC, GFWC _____State Federation, its members and chaperones.

_____ _____

Legal Guardian Signature Date

EMERGENCY CONTACT	
Parent/Legal Guardian Name	
Student Name	
Relation to Student	
Guardian's Primary Phone	Secondary Phone

Please attach a copy of your child's medical questionaaire.

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GFWC JUNIORETTE MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

This form is required for Chaperone/Juniorette Advisor's to have on file for all members.

STUDENT INFORMATION	
Student Name	
Birth Date	Student Phone
Student Phone	
Club Name	

MEDICAL INFORMATION
Any Allergies (food, medication, plants, insects)
Special Health and/or Behavioral Considerations
Current Medications
Dietary Restrictions
Primary Care Physician
Physician Phone

Please attach a copy of your child's health insurance card. (front & back)

Legal Guardian Signature

Date

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GFWC JUNIORETTE PHOTO RELEASE

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

I hereby grant permission to the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), GFWC _____ (State/DC Federation) and the GFWC Juniorette Club named below, the right to use, reproduce and/or distribute photographs, films, videotapes, and sound recordings of my child, without compensation or approval rights, for use in materials created for purposes of promoting the activities of GFWC and GFWC Juniorettes.

STUDENT INFORMATION
Student Name
Club Name

GUARDIAN INFORMATION
Parent/Guardian Name
Primary Phone

_____ _____

Legal Guardian Signature Date

_____ _____

Advisor/Chaperone Signature Date

Contact the Juniorette Advisor/Chaperone with any questions or concerns.

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CLUB JUNIORETTE ADVISOR OR SPONSOR

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

Complete and email this form to both your GFWC State/DC Federation Juniorette Chairman and your GFWC State/DC Federation Membership Chairman.

1. CLUB ADVISOR'S CONTACT INFO		
First Name	Last Name	
Email	Primary Phone	
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Sponsoring Club Name		
Club President Name		
Club President Phone	Club President Email	
District		
State Federatrion		

2. JUNIORETTE CLUB INFORMATION	
Juniorette Club Name	
Juniorette Club Contact Name	
Juniorette Club Contact Email	Juniorette Club Contact Phone

Advisor's Signature

Date

Approved by (print name)

Approved by Signature

Date

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WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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"WOMEN'S HISTORY IS WOMEN'S RIGHT . . . . AN ESSENTIAL, INDISPENSABLE, HERITAGE FROM WHICH WE CAN DRAW PRIDE, COMFORT, COURAGE, AND LONG-RANGE VISION." — DR. GERDA LERNER

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. The Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, officially opened at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC, on May 1, 1984. The WHRC was designed to preserve and better document GFWC history and members' work on club, state, national, and international levels, and to promote and document volunteerism.

Regardless of the focus of a community service project, it can 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, online research catalogs, educational programs and publications, creative exhibits, and dynamic partnerships to all those interested in using its resources. Benefits of GFWC membership made possible through the WHRC include preservation of historic records, buildings, and artifacts, as well as 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 WHRC makes these historical projects accessible to club members looking for inspiration.

The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Guide encourages every club to investigate and document its own history, and learn about GFWC's past. Use the guide to explore and share GFWC's amazing history while documenting your own!

2026-2028 WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER COMMITTEE

Dale Fisher, Chairman
GFWC Southeastern Region
9079 Park Ave
Manassas, VA 20110
dalegfwc86@gmail.com

Rae Lynn Hicks
GFWC Great Lakes Region
raelynnH99@gmail.com

Teresa Sanford Shipplett
GFWC Great Lakes Region
ib4gfwc@gmail.com

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

"HER"STORIES SHAPE OUR FUTURE



Observe Women's History Month in March by collaborating with your local library, museum, school, and/or other civic organizations to sponsor an event. Consider one that honors a community leader or club past and/or present members who exhibit outstanding service and exemplify the qualities set forth in Mary Stewart's Collect for Clubwomen. Perhaps you could organize one that celebrates several women, such as an educator, a community servant (firefighter, librarian), a business leader, and a volunteer. Utilize print and social media throughout the month to promote your project.

COLLECT FOR CLUBWOMEN

Keep us, Oh God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are at one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all,

and, Oh Lord God, let us forget not

to be kind.

Mary Stewart | April 1904

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FEATURED PROJECTS



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT PROJECT

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club (NC) has established a committee, "HERSTORY TEAM, It's Monumental!" to inform members and others about the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation and to encourage support of the construction of a women's suffrage monument in celebration of the semi-quincentennial. The committee has planned several educational sessions, including a public forum for the community, and is making plans to visit Washington, DC, to see the completed Suffrage Monument.



GFWC TRAIL BLAZERS

The GFWC Woman's Club of Bridgeport (WV) created a Women's History Month program honoring six famous notable GFWC trailblazers, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Pearl S. Buck, and GFWC International Past Presidents Mary Katherine Miller and Maxine Scarbro. Members were asked to bring a guest to the club's March meeting, which was such a success that the skit was also performed at the GFWC WV District Spring Workshop and the GFWC WV Summer Conference.



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Members of the GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (AZ) held their first Women's Equality Day with information provided by the National Women's History Alliance. A NWHA presentation was shared at a luncheon, and NWHA magazines were distributed as parting gifts along with bookmarks celebrating women's history. Members invited friends and family, and the occasion was advertised in print and online to ensure a successful event.



THE HEART OF THE HOME

The Women's Club of Pittsford (NY) funded an interactive flat panel (IFP) as an educational tool for the Ontario County Historical Society's Open Hearth Kitchen, a 1914 interpretation of an early nineteenth century kitchen in an established household. The panel offers a dynamic and engaging learning experience, combining the functionality of a whiteboard, projector, and computer into a touch-enabled screen, which helps teachers and others access and share information that promotes collaborative learning.

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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. The collections encompass our long-time broad programmatic areas of art and literature, conservation, personal and public education, national 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/District of Columbia Federation and club histories, oral histories, photographs, artwork, and artifacts. GFWC's most significant "artifact" is its historic Washington, DC Headquarters, which was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

GFWC's Research Library consists of over 5,000 publications and manuscripts that provide a broad context for researching the history of GFWC and women volunteers.

The WHRC collections are governed by a Collections Management Policy, which defines how the collections are acquired, maintained, and preserved. The WHRC collections encompass GFWC's institutional archives, including convention records, files related to our programs and leadership, and *Clubwoman Magazine* (and its predecessors). We hold a robust photograph and audio-visual collection, as well as GFWC ephemera, memorabilia, and the art and artifacts that furnish our historic Headquarters building. We also maintain a reference library collection focused on women's history, the women's club movement, and the history of volunteerism. (Note that while we do have many federation- and club-level archival and photographic materials, we do not maintain official records for State/District of Columbia Federations, or local clubs, or for outside organizations.)

HOW DOES THE WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER SUPPORT MY CLUB?

The WHRC can help you preserve your club's archives, plan an oral history project to record the stories 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, or download them from the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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 historic Headquarters buildings, an important part of GFWC operations and impact, and offers tours and on-site research appointments.
- The WHRC can help you navigate the historic collections, and provide advice to clubs and State/District of Columbia Federations on how to make their own collections accessible to researchers. The WHRC uses the latest technology to make collections available to GFWC members throughout the world. Visit https://www.gfwc.org/research/ to learn more.
- The WHRC shares historical information through GFWC.org, the WHRC blog, *Clubwoman Magazine*, and on social media. These stories assist clubs in identifying historical connections in their own clubs and communities, and provide suggestions for research and exhibits.

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- The WHRC provides research opportunities for GFWC members and the public through both on-site visits and long-distance research assistance. Contact the WHRC at WHRC@GFWC.org or 202-638-2028.

HOW CAN MY CLUB SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER?

- Encourage the appointment of a WHRC Chairman in State/District of Columbia Federations and clubs.
- 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 and tote bag from the GFWC Marketplace. gfwc.allegranaperville.com/category/WHRC
- WHRC funds are used to purchase preservation supplies, collections management technology, and books/reference materials for the WHRC research library, and to support preservation work and community outreach efforts.
- Purchase the Silver Ironworks Necklace in support of the GFWC Headquarters Façade Project.
- Purchase items from the Wishlist on Amazon or at local book retailers.
- Support the restoration and preservation of GFWC artifacts through the GFWC Annual Giving Program specified for the Women's History and Resource Center Fund. Funds may also be used for purchasing additional resources as needed.

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.

- 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. nhd.org
- Honor GFWC leaders including past or present officers, chairmen, State/DC Federation Presidents, and/or Club Presidents by creating a profile of each leader, including their photograph if one is available, to preserve in their respective archives. Utilize GFWC's *A Guide for Recording Oral History*.
- Write your club history and update it annually or biannually (once an administration) by recording significant projects, achievements, and community impacts. Don't forget to submit your history to the WHRC Club History collection! Download a free copy of *A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History* from the Digital Library on the Member Portal.
- 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 well-being 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. Or utilize your club newsletter to feature notable women corresponding with a national monthly observance (i.e., National Book Month in October) feature a female author).
- Prepare a table-top display board 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.

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- Educate the public about your club history and GFWC by inviting history teachers and students to a club meeting or event. Share scrapbooks from early days and club histories.
- Partner with local historical societies, museums, and cemetery preservation organizations to research, preserve, and share the stories of women in your community.
- Support GFWC's partnership with the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation's efforts to build a monument on the Mall in Washington, DC dedicated to prominent women in American history, www.womensmonument.org. Watch the WSNMF's informational video at a club meeting or share the link with club members.
- To educate members on the women's suffrage movement watch "Iron Jawed Angels," a 2004 movie that focuses on the American women's suffrage movement during the 1910s and follows women's suffrage leaders Alice Paul and Lucy Burns as they use peaceful and effective nonviolent strategies, tactics, and dialogues to revolutionize the American feminist movement to grant women the right to vote.
- Encourage members to register U.S. servicewomen on the Military Women's Memorial National Register. Create profiles for female veterans to preserve their memory and legacy of service.
- Engage our members, clubs, and communities in commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country, america250.org. In recognition of the U.S. Semiquincentennial, sponsor a writing or poster contest at a local school highlighting women who played a significant role in our nation's independence.

SUGGESTED GFWC HISTORY PROJECTS

- Contact the WHRC for tips on using WHRC historical resources for club program ideas. A scripted PowerPoint presentation is available for download from the Digital Library on the Member Portal that provides a 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.

WHRC PIN & TOTE BAG

The WHRC was founded in 1984, and GFWC celebrated 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 or tote bag 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.



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HOW CAN I OR MY CLUB ARRANGE A TOUR OR RESEARCH VISIT?

A National Historic Landmark, A National Historic Landmark, GFWC's Headquarters at 1734 N Street, NW is a Washington, DC must-see for GFWC members 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, calling the WHRC Librarian at 202-683-2028, or use the online request form https://www.gfwc.org/tour-requests.

Scheduled 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 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/research/
2. For photographs, objects, and archival material, click the link for the PastPerfect Web Edition Public Access site. For our reference library, including State/DC 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/DC 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 to a Friend button (top right): send the record to someone else.
- Send us Feedback button (top right): email the WHRC with new information, a question, or a request to use the image.
- People and Search Terms: clicking on a blue (hyperlink) name or phrase in these fields will bring you to other associated records.
- If the record includes a photo, click on it to see a larger version and to access the Image Request Form button, which will email the WHRC with your request.

TinyCat Library Catalog

SEARCH FOR... – 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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AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State/District of Columbia Federation for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Women's History and Research Center projects, as follows:

- **Certificate to one State/District of Columbia 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 and the District of Columbia Federation may submit one State/District of Columbia Federation Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Women's History and Research Center Advancement Plan. **Entries should be submitted to the State/District of Columbia Federation Women's History and Research Center Chairman.** Forms are accessible to the State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents in the Member Portal.

Note: Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC or GFWC Chairmen.

Refer to the Deadlines for GFWC Awards and Contests sections of the Club Manual for more information.



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DEADLINES FOR GFWC AWARDS AND CONTESTS

2026–2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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Dr. Susan Gettys,
Second Vice President
SGettys@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, 2027 & 2028

Statistical Report *(one per State/District of Columbia Federation, sent by State/DC Federation President*). Available in the Member Portal – State Presidents Folder, send to Programs@GFWC.org and MBWilliams@GFWC.org.

Community Service Program Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Community Service Program Chairmen:

- **Arts and Culture:** Nancy Kaufman, Chairman, aandcnpk@gmail.com or 1929 Linden Ridge Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80524
- **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Nancy Dickman, Chairman, nancy.dickman@outlook.com or S68W17666 East Drive, Muskego, WI 53150
- **Education and Libraries:** Missy Kimball, Chairman, missywithtwins@yahoo.com or 1050 Shady Lane, Oconomowoc, WI 53066
- **Environment:** Susan Tyler, Chairman, gfwcenvironment@gmail.com or 801 9th Street SE, Auburn, WA 98002
- **Health and Wellness:** Laurie O'Kelly, Chairman, GFWChealthandwellness@gmail.com or 316 Longbow Ct., Columbia, SC 29212

Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Advancement Plan Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)*. Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Tina Smith, GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman, Tismith12@comcast.com or 189 N. Main St., Apt. 202, Concord, NH 03301.

Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Nicole Braun, GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children Chairman, nbraungfwc@gmail.com or 109 Ridge Crossing, Temple, GA 30179.

Communications and Public Relations Advancement Plan Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Chrissi Cuel, Chairman, CPRentries@gmail.com or 109 Pleasant Ridge Lane, Woodbine, KY 40771

Newsletter Contest Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/ DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send Award Entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Chrissi Cuel, Chairman, CPRentries@gmail.com or 109 Pleasant Ridge Lane, Woodbine, KY 40771

Website Contest Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/ DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send Award Entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Chrissi Cuel, Chairman, CPRentries@gmail.com or 109 Pleasant Ridge Lane, Woodbine, KY 40771

Fundraising Advancement Plan Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/ DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send Award Entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Kim Sekulow, GFWC Fundraising Chairman, kbsekulow@gmail.com or 3730 Timberlake Dr., Gainesville, GA 30506.

Juniorette Recognition Form *(State/DC Federation President should submit a list of each Juniorette Club that submitted statistical information for the state statistical form)* Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Shannon Bailey, Juniorette Chairman, shannonbaileygfwc@gmail.com or 1096 Gasparilla Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702 AND Second Vice President Dr. Susan Gettys, SGettys@GFWC.org or 3144 E. Topping Circle, Springfield, MO 65804.

Leadership Advancement Plan Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/ DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send Award entries to Programs@GFWC.org and Linda Jones, Chairman, linjns3@aol.com or 6440 Stoney Ridge Dr., Austintown, OH 44515.

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/ District of Columbia Federation, or International Affiliate. Send candidate bio and photo to Programs@GFWC.org and Linda Jones, Chairman, linjns3@aol.com or 6440 Stoney Ridge Dr., Austintown, OH 44515 and Second Vice President Dr. Susan Gettys, SGettys@GFWC.org or 3144 E. Topping Circle, Springfield, MO 65804.

Legislation and Public Policy Advancement Plan Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Barbara Whitaker, Chairman, GFWCLPP2628@gmail.com or 2519 Valleyview Dr., Belpre, OH 45714.

Membership Advancement Plan Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send to Programs@ GFWC.org and Karen Bard, Chairman, GFWC Membership@gmail.com or 3225 Mesquite Lane, Laramie, WY 82070.

Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Plan Award Entries *(one Award Entry and one Club Creativity Entry per State/DC Federation, Awards Entries presented in Membership Categories)* Send to Programs@GFWC.org and Dale Fisher, Chairman, dalegfwc86@gmail.com or 9079 Park Ave., Manassas, VA 20110.

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APRIL 1, 2027 & 2028

Affiliate Organizations State Data Form and Affiliate Organizations National Club Data Form sent to Mary Beth Williams (MBWilliams@GFWC.org) and Dr. Susan Gettys (SGettys@GFWC.org).

Writing Contest Award Entries *(one entry per State/DC 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 Member Writing Contest form or GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form (found in the GFWC Club Manual and the Member Portal Digital Library) from each state winner. Entries will not be returned by GFWC. Please see the GFWC Club Manual for all rules. Send to LeeAnn Conlon, Chairman, leeannconlon20@gmail.com.
All entries must be submitted digitally.

MAY 15, 2027 & 2028

Photography Contest Award Entries *(one entry per State/District of Columbia Federation per category)* To be eligible for judging, entries must be accompanied by a cover letter from the State/DC Photography Contest Chairman, along with the Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form (found in the GFWC Club Manual and the Member Portal Digital Library) from each state winner. Entries will not be returned by GFWC. Please see the GFWC Club Manual for all rules. Use subject line "GFWC Photography Contest" sent to Programs@GFWC.org.
All entries must be submitted digitally.

JUNE 30, 2027 & 2028

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.

2027

Jennie Award Nominations (All deadlines are 2027 - see GFWC Club Manual for details)
All entries must be submitted digitally.

- **June 1** - Clubs send Jennie Award Nomination Form to State/DC Jennie Award Chairman.
- **August 1** - State/District of Columbia Federation sends ONE Jennie Award Nominee to GFWC Region President.
- **December 1** - Regions send TWO Jennie Award Nominees to GFWC Headquarters.
- **June 2028** - One nominee per Region will be recognized at the GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

2028

Community Impact Program Award Entries (All deadlines are 2028 – see GFWC Club Manual for details)
All entries must be submitted digitally.

- **March 1** – Clubs send entries to the State/District of Columbia Federation or International Affiliate Community Impact Program Award Chairman.
- **March 20** – State/District of Columbia Federation or International Affiliate CIP Chairmen send the Award Entry to GFWC CIP Chairman Linda Babeuf at gfwccip@gmail.com and GFWC Second Vice President Dr. Susan Gettys at SGettys@GFWC.org. *(Awarded by Membership Categories and one International Affiliate.)* GFWC will issue checks to winning clubs after GFWC Annual Convention.
- **June 2028** – GFWC Community Impact Program Awards will be presented at the 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

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COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

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 members.

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2026-2028 COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

Linda F Babeuf, Chairman
GFWC Middle Atlantic Region
915 Zimmy Drive
Middletown, DE 19709
GFWCCIP@gmail.com

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 Unity Projects highlighted in each of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. These Unity Projects can be found in each of their respective sections in the Club Manual under their respective sections.

- **Signature Program:** GFWC Pledge to Stand with Survivors
- **Juniors' Special Program:** Being a Unified Force for Children
- **Arts and Culture:** The Octopus Challenge
- **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Save the Beat!
- **Education and Libraries:** Unity through Reading: Every Story Matters
- **Environment:** The Right Plant in the Right Place
- **Health and Wellness:** Move for a Healthier You

AWARD PERIOD

January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027

AWARD CATEGORIES

State/District of Columbia Federations are sorted into 1 of 5 Awards Categories based on membership numbers reported beginning each administration. Find your level in the Awards Categories Document in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

ORGANIZE AND IDENTIFY A COMMUNITY NEED

- Identify a project that would appeal to members of your community in addition to your club members. A successful project requires the collaboration of community organizations, funding sources, media, and community volunteers.
- It is essential that club members are all on board for undertaking a CIP Project. Not all members need to be active members of the steering committee, but all should be included in the initial discussions.
- If a project is not easily identified, a valuable resource is a Unity Project from Special Program Areas and/or the Community Service Programs listed in the GFWC Club Manual.
- Solicit input from community organizations (schools, churches, business leaders and local officials). The more support you garner from the beginning, the more successful your project will be.

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

It would be helpful to have the members of the committee become familiar with the Community Impact Program Award Entry Form. Knowing what will be expected and how the project will be judged will keep everyone focused as they make plans and form timelines.

- Set clear, realistic goals.
- Form definitive committees to avoid duplication of effort.
- Create a workable timeline

REMEMBER this is a project for your community. DO NOT compare your project to any you have read about in the past. Even if you have a similar focus, how you implement the project will be uniquely yours. When the project is done and the reporting begins, PLEASE make sure you enter the contest. Do not be judge and jury of your project, let the judges decide how well you executed your project. Once you have done the work, let everyone share in your accomplishment.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Each Community Impact Program Award Entry Form can feature one project based on community need or a Unity Project 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, 2026, to December 31, 2027**.

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.

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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.
- 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 Program.
- Award entries of national winners will be kept in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2026 through FEBRUARY 2028
State/District of Columbia Federation Community Impact Program Award Chairman must obtain three judges. Judges may not be members of GFWC.

MARCH 1, 2028
Club entries must be sent to the State/District of Columbia Federation CIP Chairman via email no later than this date. A fillable version of this form can be found in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

MARCH 5-15, 2028
Club entries are judged at the state level.

MARCH 20, 2028
State/District of Columbia Federation Community Impact Program Chairman – The Award Entry of the **first-place winner only** must be emailed by 11:59 p.m. Eastern, to GFWC CIP Chairman AND to Second Vice President.

There can be no "ties" submitted; only one winning club is accepted by GFWC for the award process from each State/District of Columbia Federation.

Award Entries at the national level will be judged by a non-GFWC panel of judges and overseen by the Community Impact Program Chairman.

Email to:
Linda F Babeuf
GFWCCIP@gmail.com

AND

Email to:
Dr. Susan Gettys
sgettys@gfwc.org

SPRING 2028
State/District of Columbia Federation Community Impact Program Awards are presented at State/District of Columbia Federation Conventions.

APRIL 2028
National judging takes place by a judging panel overseen by the CIP Chairman.

JUNE 2028
National and International Community Impact Program Awards will be presented at the 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan. GFWC will issue checks to winning clubs after the GFWC Annual Convention.

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SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR STATE/DC FEDERATION 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 $18,600 to winners of the GFWC Community Impact Program Award. Nationally, only first place winners are given monetary awards within the five membership categories.

GFWC STATE FEDERATION AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION AWARDS:

First Place $100 *Total for 50 State/District of Columbia Federations $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

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE EMAILED BY MARCH 1, 2028
TO YOUR STATE/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION CHAIRMAN

Submit digitally to your GFWC Community Impact Program Award ***State/District of Columbia Federation Chairman****.*

1. CLUB AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Submission Date		
GFWC Club Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
District	State/DC 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. UNITY PROJECTS OR OTHER SELECTION

Indicate the project being submitted

- ☐ **Other:** Any grassroots project that meets contest descriptions and guidelines

  Title: _____

- ☐ **Signature Program:** GFWC Pledge to Stand with Survivors
- ☐ **Juniors' Special Program:** Being a Unified Force for Children
- ☐ **Arts and Culture:** The Octopus Challenge
- ☐ **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Save the Beat!
- ☐ **Education and Libraries:** Unity through Reading: Every Story Matters
- ☐ **Environment:** The Right Plant in the Right Place
- ☐ **Health and Wellness:** Move for a Healthier You

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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.)

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7. PHOTOS
Attach up to 10 pictures of the project activities.

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 WINNING PROJECT FORM

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

(SUBMITTED BY STATE/DC FEDERATION CHAIRMAN ONLY)

Only one winner can be submitted to GFWC, no ties accepted.

*Submit digitally to your **GFWC Community Impact Program Award Chairman**.*

1. STATE/DC FEDERATION WINNER INFORMATION		
State/DC Federation		
State/DC CIP Chairman Name		
Email		
Winning Club Official Name		
Winning Club Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

2. STATE/DC FEDERATION WINNER - CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION		
Winning Club Contact		
Phone	Email	
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code

*Note: **The Community Impact Program State/DC Federation Chairman** is responsible for digitally sending the first place winning Community Impact Project documentation to BOTH **GFWC CIP Chairman Linda Babeuf, GFWCCIP@gmail.com, and GFWC Second Vice President Dr. Susan Gettys, sgettys@gfwc.org,** with this form.*

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JENNIE AWARD

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028
JENNIE AWARD

Kathy Lewis, Chairman
4665 Green Dr.
South Channel
Harsens Island, MI 48028
kmlew22@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 the State/District of Columbia Federation, Regional, and National levels for the Federation's highest honor. The Jennie Award was first given in 2006 during GFWC International Past President Ernie Shriner's administration.

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 State/District of Columbia Federations 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 Digital Library on the Member Portal.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

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.

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 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.

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/District of Columbia Federation, Regional, and National levels. Below are some public relations suggestions for each stage during the 2026–2028 Administration:

CLUB

GFWC encourages clubs to recognize one member each administration who has excelled not only in club duties, but in the the community and their personal life. 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/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION

State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents should appoint a GFWC Jennie Award Chairman to assist in publicizing and managing the award process. State/District of Columbia Federation 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/District of Columbia Federation meeting in summer 2027 or at another appropriate venue, such as your State/District of Columbia Federation 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 nominees in their Region during the 2027 Region Conferences. Honor all 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 are to be emailed to Programs@GFWC.org at GFWC Headquarters by Region Presidents or Region Jennie Award Chairman and must be emailed by December 1, 2027. GFWC will prepare certificates for the 16 selected Region nominees and highlight them in the Winter 2028 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

NATIONAL

At the time of the awards ceremony during the GFWC Annual Convention in June 2028, 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, District of Columbia, cities, and regions of all eight honorees. Clubs and State/District of Columbia 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 officials to arrange photo opportunities and recognition events.

The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is included at the end of this section and may be downloaded from the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

CALENDAR

AUGUST 2026 – State/District of Columbia Federation 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, 2027 – Clubs

- Email nomination materials (1 per club) to respective State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents by this date.

AUGUST 1, 2027 – State/District of Columbia Federation Presidents

- Email nomination materials (1 per State) to the respective GFWC Region President, by this date.

DECEMBER 1, 2027 – Region Presidents

- EMAIL nomination materials (2 per Region) to Programs@GFWC.org at GFWC Headquarters at by this date.

JAN-MARCH 2028

- 16 Region Nominees featured in Winter *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

MARCH/APRIL 2028

- GFWC National Selection Committee Meets.

JUNE 2028

- 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 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan. 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 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 current member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. Their tenure of service may be with several clubs. Years of service must be consecutive, not concurrent.
- The nominator must be a current member of the nominee's Club and State/DC Federation.
- 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, 2027**, the GFWC Jennie Award Nomination that contains no more than 25 single-sided pages total of required documents and supportive materials, including the following:
    - **Title Page** – Cover sheet that could include basic information as:
        - GFWC Jennie Award Nomination 2026–2028 as heading.
        - State/District of Columbia Federation.
        - Picture (if desired).
    - **Letter of Introduction** – The nominator provides information about the nominee that describes the reason for the nomination. The letter of introduction needs to be a maximum of 500 words, double-spaced, using a 12-point Arial font and one-inch margins on all sides.
    - **Official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form** which includes narrative descriptions of the nominee's:
        - **Commitment to GFWC** – Through involvement in activities. Maximum of 250 words.
        - **Commitment to Community** – Participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional. Maximum of 250 words.
        - **Commitment to Family** – To her nuclear or extended family. Maximum of 250 words.
    - **Digital color photograph** of nominee no older than 5 years, (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 or screenshots** 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.
- Submit all required documents and supportive materials in a digital format.
- Nomination packet, including all forms, supporting materials, and photographs, will not be returned.
- The 16 Region Nominees will be featured in the Spring 2028 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 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan.
- All eight national GFWC Jennie Award honorees will be awarded round-trip transportation to attend the June 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

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JENNIE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

2026–2028 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 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan, if selected as a national award winner.		
Nominee Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Club	Current State/DC Federation	
Year Nominee Joined GFWC		
First State/DC Federation		
Region		

2. NOMINATOR/CONTACT PERSON		
Nominator/Contact Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

3. COMMITMENT TO CLUB
Name(s) of project(s), duration, and results, if any, including leadership and positions held. *250 word limit*

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4. COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Non-GFWC club service, names of the organization(s), titles held, unique approach to volunteer service. *250 word limit*

5. COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Include examples separate and apart from GFWC club and community work. *250 word limit*

Clubs: Email the title page, completed nomination form, letter of introduction, photos, press clippings, letters of endorsement, and materials digitally by **June 1, 2027**, to your State/DC Federation President. Please note: materials will NOT be returned.

Contact the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman (Kathy Lewis, kmlew22@gmail.com) or the GFWC Programs Department with any questions: 1-800-443-GFWC or ***Programs@GFWC.org***.

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THE JANE CUNNINGHAM CROLY AWARD

2027 ENTRY FORM AND GUIDELINES

2027 CROLY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM



The **Jane Cunningham Croly Award for Excellence in Journalism Covering Issues of Concern to Women** recognizes journalists who best capture the courage, vision, and spirit of Jane Cunningham Croly. Jane Cunningham Croly was a pioneering journalist who devoted her life to helping women improve their lives and expand their rights. The Croly Award winner must demonstrate a concern for the rights and the advancement of women in our society; an awareness of women's empathy, strength, and courage; and/or an attempt to challenge sexism.

GUIDELINES

The contest is open to all journalists who contribute to newspapers, broadcast news programs (radio and television), magazines, news services, or online publications, either as staff or in a freelance capacity.

- Complete entries consist of:
  - Original versions of article/segment published/produced in the 2025 or 2026 calendar years;
  - Digital submissions must be submitted with an active link;
  - Print submissions must include original work or high quality PDF/image/copy of the article, appropriate for duplication on letter-size paper (8.5" x 11");
  - Broadcast submissions must be submitted in MP4 format or though an active link;
  - Completed application form.
- Although more than one journalist from a news outlet may enter, all individual entrants must submit their own original news piece and a completed application form.
- A journalist may submit multiple entries, but each individual entry may only be submitted once.
- All news stories should contain byline of the entrant, name of news outlet, and date published.
- For digital publications, original versions are identified as printed copies of articles where the printed copy contains byline of the entrant, name of publication, and date published in the body of the printed copy rather than as an adjustable printed footer.
- Entries must be emailed or postmarked by April 30, 2027.
- Winner will be notified by May 31, 2027.
- Award will be presented at the 2027 GFWC Annual Convention June 26–28, 2027, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The winner is invited to attend the Convention remotely or in person and will deliver an address of 10-15 minutes at the awards ceremony.

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ENTRY SUBMISSION

Please send your Croly Award entry form and required materials by **April 30, 2027**, to:

Alexandria Evers
Digital Communications Manager
Email: AEvers@GFWC.org
Mail: General Federation of Women's Clubs
ATTN: Croly Award
1734 N Street NW Washington, DC 20036

AWARD

The Croly Award will be presented at the 2027 GFWC Annual Convention June 7-9, 2027, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The winner will receive a $1,000 cash award and airfare/expenses to attend and speak at the Convention if they choose to participate in person. The recipient will be offered the option of accepting the award remotely or in person.

JUDGES

A judging panel will review entries to select an overall winner whose submission (print, broadcast, or online) demonstrates a concern for the rights and advancement of women in our society; an awareness of women's empathy, strength, and courage; and/or an attempt to challenge sexism.

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JANE CUNNINGHAM CROLY AWARD ENTRY FORM

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

1. ENTRY

Name of Journalist		
Status (check one) ☐ Freelancer Writer ☐ Reporter ☐ Other (explain)_____		
Phone	Email	
If employed full time by a newspaper, magazine, news service, television station, radio station, or online publication, provide name of publication/organization:		

2. NOMINATOR/CONTACT PERSON

Nominator/Contact Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	

3. STORY NOMINATION

Please list the title of each story submitted, along with name of news outlet in which the story appeared and the date(s) published.

Title	News Outlet	Date
Title	News Outlet	Date
Title	News Outlet	Date

4. AGREEMENTS

INITIAL HERE ☐ If chosen as the 2027 Croly Award winner, I agree to attend the 2027 GFWC Annual Convention June 26–28, 2027, in Charlotte, North Carolina or participate in the Convention remotely, and deliver an address on the background, creation, and reception of my award-wining entry.

INITIAL HERE ☐ I pledge that the articles submitted are my own work and do not plagiarize or rely substantially on the work of other authors or through Artificial Intelligence (AI) except where noted.

_____ Print Name of Entrant

_____ Signature of Entrant

Thank you for your interest in the 2027 Croly Award

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NEWSLETTER CONTEST

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 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/District of Columbia 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 logo.

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2026-2028
NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Chrissi Cuel, Chairman
GFWC Southeastern Region
109 Pleasant Ridge Lane
Woodbine, KY 40771

Correspondence:
chrissihinklecuel@gmail.com

Contest Entries:
CPRentries@gmail.com and
Programs@GFWC.org

CONTEST RULES

NEW THIS ADMINISTRATION

Only digital submissions are accepted. Newsletters are to be submitted by the State/District of Columbia Federation Chairman or GFWC Club President to CPRentries@gmail.com AND Programs@gfwc.org.

- Each club or State/DC 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 logo and mention membership in GFWC. Refer to the *GFWC Style Guide* for GFWC Branding Guidelines on the Digital Library on the Member Portal.
- Newsletter entries must include the contact information of at least one member, including an email address, telephone number, and/or mailing address.
- 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/DC Federation.
- Your entry must include the attached cover letter with your no more than 250 word essay describing the club or State/DC 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 Logo Included (5%)
- Adherence to rules (10%)

DEADLINE

Entries must be 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/DC LEVEL

GFWC certificates are awarded at the GFWC Annual Convention to one State/DC Federation in each membership category to recognize creativity and outstanding achievement in producing a State/DC Federation newsletter.

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GFWC NEWSLETTER CONTEST

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

1. ENTRY		
Date Submitted		
State/DC Federation or Club Name		
State/DC or Club President's Name		
Number of Members in State/DC Federation or 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 or State/DC Federation's approach to utilizing its newsletter for members as well as expanding GFWC's mission and brand. *250 word limit*		

Email subject line must include GFWC Newsletter Contest and the name of the club or State/DC Federation and be sent to CPRentries@gmail.com with a copy to Programs@GFWC.org.

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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 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. Members do not 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 four opportunities to participate in the Photography Contests.

THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST

These photographs showcase the people, animals, plants, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way. The three categories for this contest are:

- **Our Living World** – Highlight the people, animals, and plants that make our world a beautiful place to live. These photos can showcase a close-up view, such as the stamen of a flower, to a wide vista, like the Serengeti's animals from a helicopter.
- **Places Here and There** – Capture architecture or natural beauty in the air (clouds, moon, stars, etc.), land (mountains, deserts, meadows, etc.), and water (oceans, rivers, waterfalls, etc.) locally or around the world.
- **State Pride** – Showcase images that make you proud of your state! Examples are Rocky Mountains, university football game, saguaro cactus, pecan pie, the 16th U.S. President, etc. These photographs must be taken in the state submitting them.

GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC members as they actively meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate in groups or one-on-one. **Photos should be of volunteers in motion, actively working.** Try focusing on one subject rather than entire groups. Preference in judging will be given to photos that show members actively doing something, not simply posing.

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2026-2028 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

Shelli R. Fehr, Chairman
GFWC Western States Region
902 Dutch Oven Ln.
Mesquite, NV 89034
shellifehr@hotmail.com
309-737-3884

HELPFUL RESOURCES

11 Simple Tips to Capture Professional Photos With Your Phone - Alex Armitage
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bmn_GI4xZBQ

Mobile Photography Tips and Tricks! How to Become a Pro!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSaYUHdTwZE

How to Take Good Photos with a Phone – 11 Killer Tips:
Theschoolofphotography.com/tutorials/how-to-take-good-photos-with-a-phone

10 Easy Mobile Photography Tips for Beginners to Capture Stunning Images: focalfun.com/mobile-photography-tips-for-beginners


Cari Wood: GFWC Central Oregon "Natural Wonders"


GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club (GA)

RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS PARTICIPANTS

- All contest photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Contestants must be considered an amateur photographer. (Pursuing photography for pleasure versus for financial benefits.)

ARTWORK GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
- Photographs may be vertical (portrait) or horizontal (landscape).
- Photographs may be taken using digital cameras, film cameras, or cell phones and may be color or black and white.
- No Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated* photos are allowed. Photographs must be the result of a human photographer's work, not generated by AI. AI tools for editing (e.g., noise reduction, sharpening, dodging and burning, color adjusting, etc.) are permitted. AI tools may not be used to add new content or alter the original photograph significantly.

  **Definition of AI-generated: "Images created by computer software interpreting text descriptions (prompts) to generate new digital images pixel by pixel."*

STATE AND DC FEDERATION CHAIRMAN SUBMISSION RULES

NEW THIS ADMINISTRATION

Only digital submissions are accepted. Photos are to be submitted by the State/DC Federation Photography Chairman to Programs@gfwc.org.

- All photos must be submitted in a jpeg, jpg, or png format.
- Though not required, if you have the capability and knowledge, please submit the photo as 1400 pixels x 1050 pixels, with a high resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi).
- Photographs submitted for the first year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026. Photographs submitted for the second year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2027.
- Please prevent member disappointment by verifying that all GFWC Rules and Guidelines for the contests (see above) have been followed. Entries that do not follow the GFWC Photography Contest Rules and Guidelines will be disqualified.
- Forward the submissions for national judging, with three items, as instructed below:
  - **Attach only one photo per email.**
  - Use "**GFWC Photography Contest submission**" in the Subject line.
  - **Attach Photography Contest form with each emailed submission.** (Found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.)
- If available, please email the photographs using Dropbox, Hightail, or other large-capacity format software.

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DEADLINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

STATE/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION LEVEL

Clubs must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation Photography Contest Chairman for judging. **State/DC Federation entry deadlines are determined by the respective State/DC Federation.**

NATIONAL LEVEL

To be eligible for national judging, each State/DC Federation may email one photograph winner for each of the four contests to GFWC at Programs@GFWC.org. Please include the photograph, a signed Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form (available in the Digital Library on the Member Portal) with each email. Include "GFWC Photography Contest submission" in the email's Subject line.

The submission must be emailed by 11:59 p.m. on May 15*.

*If your State/DC Federation Convention takes place on or about this deadline date, contact GFWC Photography Contest Chairman Shelli Fehr at shellifehr@hotmail.com or 309-737-3884.

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

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. The following awards will then 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

Honorable Mention may also be awarded at the judges' discretion with no monetary award attached.

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.

CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST FORM

The Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form is required for entry in the Photography Contests program. It is available for download in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. For further information, contact GFWC Photography Contest Chairman Shelli Fehr at shellifehr@hotmail.com or 309-737-3884.

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WEBSITE CONTEST

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 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/DC Federation 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/DC 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/DC Federation may be submitted.
- The website homepage must contain a link to www.GFWC.org and display the current GFWC logo.
- 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 a no more than 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 Digital Library on the Member Portal.

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2026-2028 WEBSITE CONTEST

Chrissi Cuel, Chairman
GFWC Southeastern Region
109 Pleasant Ridge Lane
Woodbine, KY 40771

Correspondence:
chrissihinklecuel@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.
- Current GFWC logo is prominently displayed.
- Links to GFWC website and State/DC Federation 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/DC Federation in each membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in website implementation and maintenance.

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GFWC WEBSITE CONTEST

2026–2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

1. ENTRY			
Website URL			
State/DC Federation or Club Name			
State/DC or Club President's Name			
Phone	Email		
Number of Members in State/DC or 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 or State/DC 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/DC Federation and sent to CPRentries@gmail.com with a copy to Programs@GFWC.org.

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WRITING CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING A LIFE. PAY ATTENTION. BE ASTONISHED. TELL ABOUT IT." — MARY OLIVER

Inspire creativity through the power of the written word. Encourage club members and students to write stories or poems through self-expression to share their thoughts and allow their voices to be heard. Contest entries in short stories and poetry are open to club members and students in grades K-12. Engage and empower your communities to participate in the GFWC-sponsored writing contest to ignite new and budding talents for writers of all ages and boost the confidence of existing writers.

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2026-2028 WRITING CONTESTS

LeeAnn Conlon, Chairman
GFWC Great Lakes Region
169 South Collier Boulevard, Unit H106
Marco Island, FL 34145
leeann.conlon@aol.com
Award entries submitted to leeannconlon20@gmail.com

GFWC MEMBER CONTESTS

Entries are limited to one per member per category – short story or poetry.

- **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.
- **Writing submitted must be the original work of the author, not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.**

AUTHORS MUST:

- Be a dues-paying member of an active per capita club.
- Be amateurs, with earnings from writing not to exceed $500 annually.
- Submit original works that have not been published prior to the competition.

ENTRIES MUST:

- Be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Be typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Include the Author's Name on the top right-hand corner of each page and page numbers in the bottom right corner.
- Attach the Creative Arts Waiver Member Writing Contest form.

SUBMISSION:

- **Submitted digitally**, using PDF format (preferred) or Microsoft WORD only.
- Must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Member Writing Contest Form in digital format (PDF) for each submission. The Creative Arts Waiver can be found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

STUDENT WRITING CONTESTS

CONTEST CATEGORIES

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

- Entries are limited to one short story and/or one poem per student per grade category.
- **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.
- The "Six Traits of Writing" will be used in the judging of the Student Writing Contest entries in categories 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- **Writing submitted must be the original work of the author, not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.**

AUTHORS MUST:

- Be amateurs, with earnings from writing not to exceed $500 annually.
- Submit original works that have not been published prior to the competition.

ENTRIES MUST:

- Be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Be typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Include the Author's Name on the top right-hand corner of each page and page numbers in the bottom right corner
- Attach the Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form.

SUBMISSION:

- **Submitted digitally**, using PDF format (preferred) or Microsoft WORD only.
- Must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form in digital format (PDF) for each submission. The Creative Arts Waiver can be found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.



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STATE AND DC LEVEL

Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation Writing Contests Chairmen for **state-level judging by the state submission deadline**.

State/DC Federation Writing Contests Chairmen will:

- Determine state entry deadlines for club entries, keeping in mind the national deadline (April 1) when arranging for state-level judging.
- Select judges who will evaluate entries and select a first-place winning entry in each category.
- Submit one winning state entry per writing contest (including Creative Arts Waiver Member/Student Writing Contest form), per category, to the national GFWC Writing Contest Chairman digitally no later than April 1 each year, including a cover letter with a complete list of state writing contest winners.

NATIONAL LEVEL

By midnight on April 1, a digital cover letter with a complete list of state writing contest winners and all winning state entries must be **submitted digitally to the GFWC Writing Contest Chairman at leeannconlon20@gmail.com and Programs@GFWC.org.** A Creative Arts Waiver Member/Student Writing Contest form with the author's contact information must be digitally submitted with each entry.

Winners will be recognized at the GFWC Annual Convention with certificates and monetary awards.

GFWC Member Short Story Winner: $50

GFWC Member Poetry Winner: $50

Student Short Story Winner:

Category 1 (Grades K, 1, and 2): $25

Category 2 (Grades 3, 4, and 5): $25

Category 3 (Grades 6, 7, and 8): $25

Category 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12): $50

Student Poetry Winner:

Category 1 (Grades K, 1, and 2): $25

Category 2 (Grades 3, 4, and 5): $25

Category 3 (Grades 6, 7, and 8): $25

Category 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12): $50

Winners will be published on the Digital Library on the Member Portal after the GFWC Annual Convention in the Awards & Certificates folder in two documents:

- **GFWC Awards & Contest Winners**: Lists the name of the winner, category, and name of the poem or short story.
- **GFWC Poetry and Writing Contest Winners**: Publishes the full winning poetry and short stories.

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HELPFUL RESOURCES

6+1 Trait Writing Rubrics (Grades K-2) educationnorthwest.org/sites/default/files/resources/traits-rubrics-k-2.pdf

6+1 Trait Writing Rubrics (Grades 3-12) www.readingrockets.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/traits-rubrics-3-12.pdf

How to Write a Short Story That Captivates Your Reader jerryjenkins.com/how-to-write-short-stories/

How to Write a Poem writers.com/how-to-write-a-poem-step-by-step

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 Member/Student Writing Contest** form must be submitted with each entry. This form can be found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.
- **When do I (a member) submit my contest entry?**
    - Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/DC Federation Writing Contests Chairmen for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC Writing Contest Chairman or leadership for your individual deadline.

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER
MEMBER WRITING CONTEST
2026–2028 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 written work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. My writing was not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

☐ 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 non-commercial 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.

The work submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

☐ Member Short Story ☐ Member Poetry

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		

_____ _____

Signature Date

Writing Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Member Writing Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER
STUDENT WRITING CONTEST
2026–2028 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 written work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. My writing was not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

☐ 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 non-commercial 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.

The writing submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

☐ **STUDENT SHORT STORY** ☐ **STUDENT POETRY**

Student Grade Classification (please check only one):

☐ **CATEGORY 1: GRADES K-2** ☐ **CATEGORY 3: GRADES 6-8**

☐ **CATEGORY 2: GRADES 3-5** ☐ **CATEGORY 4: GRADES 9-12**

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if student is under 18 years of age) _____ Date _____

Writing Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
2026–2028 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.

☐ In my photograph, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. No Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated photo has been used. Photograph is the result of my work, not generated by AI. Only permitted AI editing tools (e.g. noise reducing, sharpening, dodging and burning, color adjusting, etc.) have been used. No AI tools have been used to add new content or significantly alter the original photograph.

☐ 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 non-commercial 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.

The photograph submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

THE WORLD IN PICTURES: ☐ Our Living World ☐ Places Here and There ☐ State Pride

☐ **GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT**

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		
Title and brief caption giving location, date taken, and other pertinent information about the photograph:		

Signature _____ Date _____

Photography Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.

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