



# The Prevention Planner

*A guide for local engagement in the GFWC-Prevent Child Abuse America partnership*

## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of GFWC’s broad commitment to helping to prevent violence in the home (domestic violence, elder abuse, teen dating violence, child abuse), Prevent Child Abuse America is proud to be considered a signature project of GFWC. This document, therefore, will provide ideas on how best to be active with this partnership in your community.

## **PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION®**

Through ***Pinwheels for Prevention®***, Prevent Child Abuse America has introduced the pinwheel as the symbol for child abuse prevention nationwide. With more than 3.5 million pinwheels distributed since April 2008, we’re off to a strong start. Still, we can do even more with your help!



1. Plant “pinwheel gardens” to help raise awareness, engage people:
  - Plant pinwheels outside your clubhouses, or (with permission) in parks, at schools, malls, community centers, houses of worship
  - Engage schools, youth groups with campaign arts & crafts
  - Utilize campaign signage to explain pinwheels’ meaning
  - Promote to your local media
2. Raise funds by:
  - Selling pinwheels at your fundraisers for \$1.00 or \$5.00 each
  - Selling pinwheels at local events, such as block parties, book fairs or street festivals
  - Asking local businesses to sell pinwheels or sponsor your pinwheel gardens

To purchase pinwheels, or obtain campaign messaging, signage, logos or children’s activities, contact the Prevent Child Abuse America chapter in your state (see attached contact list). For those instances where the chapter is not involved with Pinwheels for Prevention and/or cannot assist for any reason, contact Matt Feldman at Prevent Child Abuse America at 312/663-3520 x861 or [mfeldman@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:mfeldman@preventchildabuse.org).

## **HOUSE PARTIES**

As part of Prevent Child Abuse America’s House Party initiative, GFWC clubs are invited to plan, or convert existing, gatherings (such as BBQs, book readings, wine tastings, picnics) into parties that raise funds and awareness for Prevent Child Abuse America. How it works:



1. Register your party with [www.housepartyweekend.org](http://www.housepartyweekend.org) to get ideas and materials for your party, to send invitations, and track RSVPs and giving.
2. Sell tickets or ask for a donation at the door at pricing of your choosing.
3. Consider adding fundraising components such as raffle or silent auction.
4. Allot just a few minutes for the host, or Prevent Child Abuse America representative if possible, to deliver brief remarks on the cause and on how everyone can play a role.
5. Party like you normally would!

## **CONNECT THE DOTS (FORMERLY THE “CHILDRENS MOVEMENT”)**

Prevent Child Abuse America is one of 13 national founding organizations of Connect the Dots (formerly The "Children's Movement"), a fast-growing grassroots initiative to develop and promote a variety of actions that can be taken by individuals, groups, organizations, communities and policymakers to transform the culture of how children and families are supported in our society.

Actions you can take:

1. Use the website - [movementforchildren.ning.com/](http://movementforchildren.ning.com/) - to organize activities in your state, communities or neighborhoods.
2. Come to the website to learn more about “KidTips!,” simple steps you can take on behalf of your family, families you know and the community, and then share your “Success Stories” with us.
3. Follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/movement4kids](https://twitter.com/movement4kids).
4. Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/movementforchildren](https://facebook.com/movementforchildren)

## **GRANDPARENT PROGRAM**

Since the ground breaking research done by Dr. Arthur Kornhaber in the 1970’s revealing the special relationship between grandchildren and grandparents, it has become increasingly apparent that the impact grandparents have on children is powerful and long-lasting. This is called “Grandparent Power”—the power to love, care for others, and grow personally by so doing.

Research shows that today’s new and unique grandparent generation, including elders who are not biological grandparents, if coalesced into a cohesive group, contain the possibilities for changing society.

Dr. Kornhaber’s research found that most grandparents are much less judgmental than parents, who tend to see their children as reflections of themselves. For children, who often feel as if they are being evaluated by the adults around them, the relationship with grandparents is therefore unusual and welcomed.

The very thing that distinguishes the relationship—the distance between the generations—is the heart of its mystery and strength.

### **Quick Facts about Today’s Grandparent**

1. There are over 70 million grandparents in the United States
2. A new grandparent is created every 20 seconds
3. Two thirds of all baby boomers are grandparents
4. The average age of a first time grandparent is 48
5. Grandparents control 75% of the wealth of this country
6. Grandparents spend \$2 trillion every year on consumer goods and services
7. Grandparents have the highest average net worth of any other age group

In the U.S. over two million grandparents are raising full-time one or more of their grandchildren estimated to be over seven million children, while tens of millions more are caring for their grandchildren on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, there are millions of grandparents, who for one reason or another, are not in the lives of their grandchildren because of divorce or serious problems between them and the parents.

There are all kinds of grandparents—very involved, tired-out, ready to help or stressed and over-busy. But whether the grandparent lives close or halfway around the world, every grandparent has a vital role in the lives of their grandchildren.

Therefore, in September 2014 to align with National Grandparents Day and Month, **GFWC and Prevent Child Abuse America will launch a new effort to highlight the many important contributions grandparents can make, and are making, in the lives of children.** It is intended to run annually thereafter.

The initiative will consist of the following components:

### **1. National Promotion**

In September, GFWC, Prevent Child Abuse America and our mutual partner, *Grand* magazine, will promote the contributions grandparents can make, and are making, in the lives of children in their families and in their communities.

### **2. Collection of Anecdotes**

To give this effort a personal touch, GFWC members will have the opportunity to submit anecdotes of their fondest moments as grandparents, or of their grandparents, at Prevent Child Abuse America's booth at the 2014 GFWC Annual Convention, and by email and social media when the program is conducted in September. GFWC and Prevent Child Abuse America may then use some of these anecdotes (with permission of course) in public promotion come September.

### **3. Local Activities**

Following please find a list of activities your clubs may choose to conduct to help make further contributions in the lives of children in your communities.

### **4. Make a Donation and be Part of the "Grandparent Giving Circle"**

GFWC members and the public are invited to make donations of \$25 or more to Prevent Child Abuse America. Donors will be recognized in a "Grandparent Giving Circle" on the Prevent Child Abuse America website and receive a certificate from the organization acknowledging your contribution.

### **Timeline**

June:	Unveil program at GFWC Annual Convention
July to August:	Share information with GFWC Regions and States
September:	Conduct national promotion
Sept. to Nov.:	Encourage dissemination of information at GFWC Regional Conventions

### **Local Activities**

#### **1. Read together – Bring stories to life**

- a. Sometimes a child will just want to relax and listen as you read. Other times, he will want to talk about the why's of something you read to him. Turn the questions back to him now and then, and ask "Why do YOU think that happened?" Act out the story: You can do this with stuffed animals or puppets.
- b. Call your local library and find out when they have story time and take the child.

#### **2. Take a field trip together**

Visit the local fire station or police department to learn about safety, responsibility and caring for others, which is what firemen and police and service personnel are about. If you can't go to them, invite a firefighter or police officer to join you. As an added activity to a field trip, make a thank you card together or make a poster to simply say "thank you" and send or take.

#### **3. Plant a garden together and show a child the wonder of plants**

- a. Plant a garden together – choose flowers, vegetables or bulbs that you know will grow well in your area, like sunflowers, peppers, sweet peas and beans. Consider buying

bedding plants. Show the child how to dig a hole, loosen the roots on plants and pat dirt around the seedlings.

- b. You can do something as simple as showing a child how to plant a seed in a cup and how to take care of the plant.
- c. Visit a community garden or maybe your very own garden. A vegetable garden is especially interesting to children.
- d. Have a picture of what the plant will eventually look like and share with the child.

#### **4. Play educational games on a computer**

If you have access to a computer, tablet or smart phone, this is an easy and educational activity. There are many math and science games available for all ages. You can also visit the websites of museums and science centers to see what is showing and go on a field trip.

#### **5. Study butterflies**

- a. First find a book and read about them.
- b. Go outside and look for them.
- c. Use chalk or other drawing materials and draw butterflies.

#### **6. Get out the puppets**

Sock puppets are easy to make. Puppet play is often a good way for a child to express her feelings. With each of you speaking through a hand puppet character, you can play pretend in many ways or help her with the challenges of meeting a new friend, going to the doctor, feeling sad or being fearful.

#### **7. Cook or bake together**

Simple cookies or other simple dishes work well to entertain children. Just be sure to include them in the process.

#### **8. Play card games, board games, video games or any other game**

A regular deck of cards can be used to identify numbers and suits, play matching games, Crazy Eights or Go Fish. Children's card games such as Animal Rummy can be played with preschoolers and older children together. Play I-Spy, Clue, Monopoly, etc. Play water balloons – a fun outside activity sure to bring on laughter.

#### **9. Create artful gifts**

- a. Flower Pots – paint a clay flowerpot.
- b. Handprints – a simple tracing of the child's hand can be used on the front of a card or as a framed memory. Paint the palm of her hand (or the bottom of her feet) with fabric paint for a lasting imprint on a dishtowel, apron or t-shirt.
- c. Create greeting cards together.
- d. Decorate picture frames with glue, seashells, buttons, pebbles or jewels on a simple wood frame.

#### **10. Take a nature and photography hike**

Adding a camera to your nature hike can add a new dimension to your walk. Go to a nearby park with a hiking trail or a hike through the neighborhood and take pictures.

Grandparent information provided courtesy of *Grand* magazine, [www.grandmagazine.com](http://www.grandmagazine.com).