



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Darrell N. Jones  
**P:** 202-347-3168  
**E:** [dnjones@gfwc.org](mailto:dnjones@gfwc.org)

### **GREAT CHILDHOODS CELEBRATED ON THE NATIONAL MALL**

*GFWC Joins Prevent Child Abuse America At Their Inaugural Pinwheel Garden on the National Mall*

**October 14, 2015 (Washington, D.C.)** – Tuesday was a day to celebrate children and their great childhoods.

Pinwheels took over the National Mall in Washington, D.C. October 13, as GFWC clubwomen and staff, led by President Babs. J. Condon, joined Signature Project partner Prevent Child Abuse America to celebrate these great childhoods with a National Pinwheel Garden. The pinwheel, introduced by Prevent Child Abuse America in 2008 as part of Prevent Child Abuse America's Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign, is the symbol for child abuse prevention.

Leading up to the event, GFWC encouraged its members to purchase a pinwheel to honor their grandchildren or grandparents. Volunteers planted the pinwheels near the Washington Monument, creating the pinwheel garden. Overall, 1,200 pinwheels were donated and planted as part of the National Pinwheel Garden.

“We are thrilled to partner with PCAA during this important and moving event,” said Condon. “GFWC’s vision of a better world is not possible without ensuring children from all walks of life enjoy safe, healthy, and happy childhoods.”

The thousands of pinwheels on the National Mall created a beautiful scene to celebrate great childhoods. Clubwomen in attendance heard from Jim Hmurovich, President and CEO of PCAA, as well as Johanna Schuchert, who in addition to serving as Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, is also a member of GFWC, and Pat Cronin, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Maryland.

“The partnership with GFWC and Prevent Child Abuse America has been one that has evolved into an educational and awareness project that allows all of our members to value the positive dimensions of family and children,” said Chris Sienkielewski, GFWC Signature Project Committee Chairman. “Through the Pinwheels for Prevention Program, our members experience a first-hand reflection of how a symbol – in this case, the pinwheel – allows a conversation to begin and grow into advocacy and hands-on projects.”

Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, The Family Tree, Sigma Delta Tau, Kappa Delta, and Chartwells K12 were also partners of Prevent Child Abuse America's National Pinwheel Garden.

Following the National Pinwheel Garden event, a small reception, sponsored by the GFWC District of Columbia Woman's Club, was held at GFWC Headquarters in DuPont Circle.

### **About the General Federation of Women's Clubs**

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 90,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging civic involvement, and working toward world peace and understanding.

### **About Prevent Child Abuse America**

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972 in Chicago, works to ensure great childhoods for all children because our children are our future. The organization promotes that vision through a network of chapters in 50 states and more than 630 Healthy Families America home visitation sites in 39 states, the U.S. Territories, Puerto Rico and Canada, serving over 85,000 families annually. A major organizational focus is to advocate for the existence of a national policy framework and strategy for children and families while promoting evidence-based practices that prevent abuse and neglect from ever occurring. To learn more about what we're doing to prevent child abuse and neglect and how you can help, please visit our websites at [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org) or [www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org).

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1734 N Street NW | Washington, DC 20036-2990 | [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org) Phone: 202-347-3168 | Toll Free: 800-443-GFWC (4392) | F: 202-835-0246