

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - November 17, 2016



Support Prematurity Awareness Month

We all have a role to play in the fight against premature birth. Today on World Prematurity Day, we wear purple to raise awareness for the 15 million babies, one in ten of all babies, who are born too early each year. Premature birth is birth that occurs before 37 weeks of pregnancy, and these babies face long-term health problems.

Sadly, in 2016, the preterm birth rate increased for the first time in eight years. The United States received a "C" in the latest March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card, ranking behind countries such as Afghanistan, Cuba, and Ethiopia. GFWC is proud to partner with March of Dimes as they work to lower the U.S. preterm birth rate of 9.6 percent. What can you do to make a difference in the health of all babies?

There are several actions you can take right now to bring attention to this health crisis. **Deb Allen, GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children Chairman, shares several ways you and your club can support**



GFWC — an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service

Subscribe to *News & Notes*

If you haven't yet subscribed to *News & Notes*, the best source for all things GFWC, what are you waiting for? Signing up is easy and gives you access to timely news items from around Headquarters, our partners, and our work on a national and local scale.

Prematurity Awareness Month on the GFWC

blog: bit.ly/GFWCprematurebirth. Whether changing your profile picture on Facebook and Twitter, posting photos on social media using the hashtags #givethemtomorrow and #worldprematurityday, or finding an event in your community, it's important that we inspire others to advocate for every baby. Premature birth is the leading cause of death in children under five worldwide. Together, we can fight for children and give them tomorrow.

Bridging the Gap in Your Communities

GFWC may be the best kept secret out there, but we want the world to know about the life-changing work our members do on a daily basis. The 2016-2018 Membership Committee has been working diligently to ensure clubs have the resources needed to share this message and recruit new members. In the November+December issue of *Clubwoman Magazine*, Membership Committee Member Vicki Weber shares how clubs can work to "Bridge the Gap" in their communities. Every issue of *Clubwoman* will include an article highlighting membership best practices. As a special preview for from the November+December issue, which is currently in the mail, we are offering Vicki's article on the GFWC blog. Visit <http://bit.ly/BridgingtheGapGFWC> to read her article and learn about how a Community Impact Statement can help your club. To learn more about GFWC's "It's the Real Deal" Recruitment Campaign and how your club can be recognized in *Clubwoman Magazine* for recruiting three or more members, please visit <http://bit.ly/2f8VbkD>.

Are you subscribed to *Clubwoman Magazine*? If not, you're missing out on articles like Vicki's that share valuable insight on membership, communications, and more. [Click here](#) to sign up or update your subscription today!

Raising Awareness in Wisconsin

This week, we continue our cross-country tour highlighting GFWC State President's Projects. **Wisconsin President Sue**

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

Cares & Concerns

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of GFWC Alaska Past President (1998-2000) [Darlene Holt](#). She will be greatly missed by her Federation family.

We send our condolences to GFWC Jennie Award Chairman Jackie Boland on the loss of her mother, [Effie S. Sons](#).

Please keep Elections Committee Member Mary Ann Arnold in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from recent surgery and anticipates further treatment.

GFWC Sponsors a Screening of the Movie *Sold* on December 7

GFWC is excited to announce that we will be hosting an exclusive screening of the movie *Sold*. Based on true stories, *Sold* aims to inspire people to rise up against child slavery. The movie gives a heartbreaking look at what these children are forced to endure, and reinforces the importance of GFWC's

Labuda is working to bring awareness to the needs and concerns of cancer patients. As a cancer survivor herself, President Labuda knows firsthand how devastating a diagnosis can be for both the patient and those who love them. Therefore, she is raising money for research to find a cure and increase awareness about how friends and family may be supportive.

The fundraising comes from participation in events such as [Relay for Life](#), Shoot'n for a Reason, [Fishing for a Cure](#), and [Cook for a Cure](#) sponsored by KitchenAid. While a few of these events are currently only in Wisconsin, they are inventive fundraisers and ideas worth spreading. The [Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation](#) and Aura Cancer Foundation are two of the organizations that will benefit from GFWC Wisconsin's many activities.

Clubwomen are also taking a hands-on approach to the campaign through the creation of care packages, prayer shawls, knitted caps, and lap blankets for facilities providing chemotherapy/radiation to patients. As President Labuda can attest "seemingly little things can make a world of difference". If you are interested in finding out how to help or communicate your concern to a cancer patient, she recommends many of the resources available on [American Cancer Society's website](#).



Support GFWC through AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support GFWC every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at

involvement in UNICEF USA's End Trafficking Project.

Attend the screening on December 7 at 11:30 a.m., the same day as GFWC's Holiday Open House. Make the most of your time in D.C. by joining us at the AMC Loews Georgetown, 3111 K St NW, then attending the Holiday Open House at 3:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to buy tickets to *Sold*.



You're Invited to the GFWC Holiday Open House

Every year, the historic GFWC Headquarters is transformed into a holiday wonderland – complete with a floor-to-ceiling Christmas tree, traditional holiday décor, and a buffet of delicious holiday treats! This year, we invite you to once again join us in celebrating the holiday.

1734 N Street NW, Washington DC
Wednesday, December 7
3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Kindly RSVP by November 30 to gsoriano@gfwc.org, or [click here](#) for more information and to [register online](#).

smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices as on Amazon.com, with the added bonus that **Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to GFWC Headquarters.**

Millions of products are eligible for donations. All qualified products are marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile Donation" on their product detail pages.

How do you shop at Amazon.Smile? Just follow these 4 easy steps:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com. It's just like shopping on amazon.com.
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3. Start shopping! Your shopping experience will be the same as it is on the Amazon website. **There is no extra cost at checkout!** Amazon will donate .5 percent of your purchase to GFWC Headquarters.
4. **Please remember to shop our smile.amazon.com link every time.** Purchases on the main Amazon.com site do not support GFWC. To help remember, bookmark our smile.amazon.com link.

[Click here](#) to sign up and start shopping.

Your contributions to GFWC Headquarters will help fund club grants and awards, maintain GFWC Headquarters as a National Historic Landmark, support the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center, and meet community needs in times of disaster.



**Partner
Spotlight:
March of
Dimes**

November is Prematurity Awareness Month® and when the March of Dimes focuses the nation's attention on premature birth. November 17 marks World Prematurity Day, and the March of Dimes and our partner organizations

Vote in the GFWC Shares Polls!

Vote in the GFWC Shares Polls and the answers will be included in the January+February Issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*:

Palm Springs, the site of the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention, is home to numerous celebrity homes and was often referred to as "Hollywood's Playground." Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Bob Hope are just a few of the stars who owned houses here. **Which movie star would you like to run into in California? Share your favorite with us now:** <http://poll.fm/5pbq9>

It's hard to believe that 2017 is almost here! If you had to pick an anthem for the New Year, which song would you choose? Share it with us now: <http://poll.fm/5pbra>

Dartmouth Decibelles

On Sunday, December 4, Dartmouth's oldest all-female a cappella group will be performing at GFWC Headquarters as part of their winter tour. [The Decibelles](#) set will begin at approximately 7:45 p.m. and will include contemporary pieces and holiday favorites, arranged and sung by the vocal group. Local clubwomen are welcome to attend, and we encourage you to bring a guest that may have interest in joining GFWC. If interested, please email dtennant@gfwc.org or call 202-347-2938 for more details.

worldwide are asking everyone to help spread the word on the serious problem of premature birth.

Check out the landing page at www.marchofdimes.org/tomorrow. There we are encouraging March of Dimes supporters and consumers nationwide to do something today by taking an action:

Shout out: Share your #babysfirst in your social community

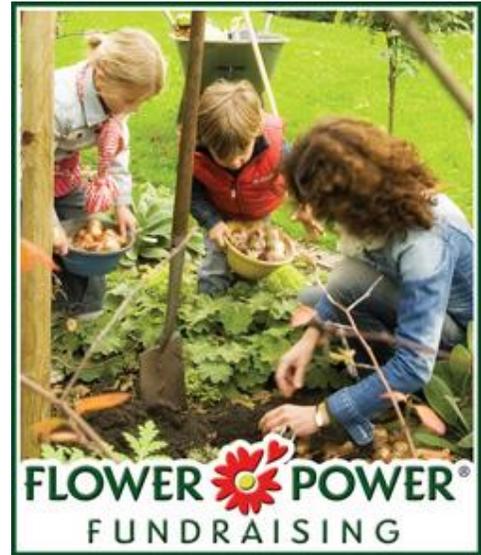
Reach out: Send a hand-delivered message of hope to a family in the NICU

Help out: Fund prematurity research

Our goal is to have a minimum of 380,000 actions by the end of November to fight for every baby born too soon in the U.S. this year.



GFWC International President Sheila Shea and Chief Operating Officer Rosemary Thomas wish to express their gratitude to the clubwomen of Northern Virginia District for their continued efforts to beautify GFWC Headquarters.



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www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com or call 1-888-833-1486.



Black Friday & Cyber Monday Sales

Celebrate the holiday season with sales at the [GFWC Marketplace!](#)

Shop Black Friday, November 25, to get **15% off your entire purchase**. Shop Cyber Monday, November 28, to get **25% off your entire purchase!** Don't miss out on these great deals.

Our Contact Information

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In The News

GFWC Centennial Woman's Club (Tennessee) has donated two flags flown over military stations in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom for display in their community. The flags were given to the club in response to their ten years of support to deployed servicemen and women in the form of care packages. Read all about it in the [Tullahoma News](#).
