

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - November 10, 2016



Clubwomen Support Our Nation's Veterans

By Nancy Jones, GFWC Public Issues Chairman

Each year on November 11, we set aside a special day to honor the sacrifice, bravery, and commitment of our nation's veterans. But although Veteran's Day is only officially commemorated once a year, clubwomen continue to advocate and support veterans every day, every month.

Whether advocating for these remarkable men and women through the Legislative Action Center, sending a message of support to service members via the USO's [Campaign to Connect](#), or making adaptive clothing for those injured from military service for [Sew Much Comfort](#), GFWC is proud to do whatever it takes to show our appreciation.

Members of the **GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne** (Wyoming) recently participated in the [Homeless Veterans' Stand Down](#), a nationwide event that provides supplies and services such as food, shelter, clothing, and other services for

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

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Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to

homeless veterans. The club purchased items such as underwear, heavy socks, reading glasses, and lip balm to donate to veterans at the event. The **GFWC Harvey's Lake Woman's Club** (Pennsylvania) began November by cleaning up and planting as part of their ongoing beautification project at the local Veterans Administration Hospital. The **Mesquite Club, Inc.** (Nevada) will be writing letters to deployed soldiers, while the **GFWC Arlington Woman's Club** (Florida) will be making desserts for a "Feed the USO" event. Follow the example of these clubs and take a moment to thank a veteran and current military member for their service.

In honor of Veteran's Day, learn more about how you can support Sew Much Comfort and USO by reading the Public Issues section of the *GFWC Club Manual*:

<http://bit.ly/GFWCPublicIssues>



2016 Region Conference Recap

September to November is an especially busy time for GFWC as the eight Regions host annual conferences. This year, Region Conferences were hosted in Pennsylvania, Utah, Missouri, Rhode Island, Louisiana, Florida, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. President Sheila E. Shea has greatly enjoyed her time at these conferences and visiting with all the members, describing them as dedicated, creative, and compassionate. She says that "GFWC members are all doing the very same things, just in different ways, and GFWC Members are all 'Girls (who) Just Like to Have Fun!'"

GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

GFWC Strategic Plan and Core Values Implementation Toolkit

To accomplish the goals outlined in the [GFWC Strategic Plan](#), all clubs and clubwomen must participate in the process. To assist you in creating programs and projects that achieve the plan's objectives, a GFWC Core Value Implementation Toolkit, "Putting the Strategic Plan into Action – Step by Step," has been created. Click here to download the [introduction letter](#) and [toolkit](#) from the Resources section of gfwc.org.

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 dtenant@gfwc.org or call 202-347-2938 for more details.

32 orphans to attend school this year. Additional support will be earned through the statewide fundraiser "Message in a Bottle"—where each club fills a 20 oz. bottle with dimes at least twice. This will result in each club contributing over \$200. President Libby summed up their objectives this way, "We want every child in this village to be able to attend school; we want to supplement the teachers' salaries so they will be able to continue their work, and we want to show that people 6,000 miles away care."

Box Tops for Education

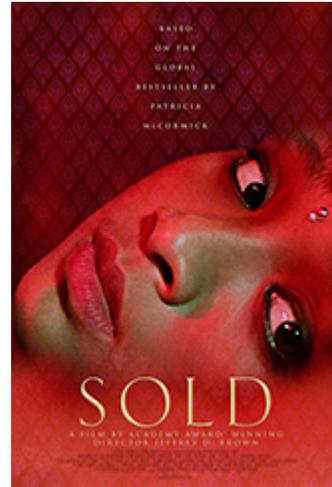
As the **Women's Club of Pittsford** (New York), **Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club** (Wisconsin), and **Deltona Woman's Club Charities** (Florida) can attest, there is much to be gained from collecting Box Tops for Education. Started 20 years ago by General Mills, Box Tops for Education has earned over \$719 million to support education and America's schools. That extraordinary sum was earned 10 cents at a time by volunteers diligently clipping box tops of frozen foods, produce, and cleaning supplies to name just a few eligible products. ([Click here](#) to view a complete list of approved items.)

If your club is not already participating, it is easy to begin! Simply check www.boxtops4education.com to locate a participating school in your area and start clipping! Once you are ready to submit your Box Tops, contact the local volunteer coordinator also found on the program's website. The coordinators generally request box tops be bundled into groups of 50. Each school may earn up to \$20,000 per year and the funds can be allocated to anything students need. Computers, books, and playground equipment are some popular ways schools have chosen to use their Box Top funds.

Follow Box Tops for Education on [Facebook](#) for useful tips about the program.

NW, Washington DC 20036 on Wednesday, December 7 from 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](#).



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 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

Partner Spotlight: Shot@Life

Shot@Life challenged supporters to aid global polio eradication efforts by participating in Race to Erase from late August to World Polio Day, October 24. We are excited to say that Shot@Life supporters, including GFWC clubwomen, raised over \$12,000 in this effort! The top overall individual fundraiser for the activation was **Fran Baker**, member of fundraising **Team-GFWC** and member of the **Statesville Women's Club** (North Carolina). We couldn't have done it without our GFWC supporters!

Do you want to get more involved with Shot@Life? [Applications are now open](#) for our annual Shot@Life Champion Summit, which will be held in Washington, D.C., February 27-March 1, 2017. At the Summit, you will hear from experts in the areas of vaccines, global health, and international development, and learn how to advocate and put your skills into practice with other Champions as you meet members of Congress together. Fill out an application today and join us!



GFWC Marketplace Veteran's Day Sale

This Veteran's Day, don't forget to visit the [GFWC Marketplace](#) for a great sale. **Buy one, get one 50% off on all apparel!**

Open House at 3:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to buy tickets to this event.

In The News

The **GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club** (Massachusetts) held their annual Election Day food drive to benefit the Community Survival Center's Food Pantry. The club operated a donation booth at an area polling station from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Since cash donations were frequently offered in 2014 by those who forgot canned goods, they decided to accept financial donations via PayPal this year as well. Read more about this successful project on [MassLive.com](#).

Our Contact Information

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