

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - January 12, 2017



GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship: Opening Doors for Abuse Survivors

For past recipients of the award, the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship is more than just a check—it's something that will bring them one step closer to achieving their career goals. While living in a domestic violence situation, many of these women were forced to put their education on hold as their partners controlled every aspect of their lives. When they were able to leave and seek help, these dreams continued to wait as the women worked to heal and recover from the trauma of their abusive relationships. In addition to undergoing intensive counseling, many of the recipients faced homelessness and had to provide for their children. It is remarkable that in spite of all of these challenges, these women remain committed to receiving an education and rising above their history of abuse.



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

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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.

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One recipient left her abusive situation with nothing but the clothes on her back. Forced to move over 200 miles away to start a new life free from her abuser, she overcame both breast cancer and domestic abuse and enrolled in college. The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship brought her closer to receiving her associate's degree in business management. Another recipient with two small children faced homelessness after leaving her domestic violence situation. The lack of resources available to her inspired her to pursue a bachelor's in social work, promising to help others who were in her same situation. The Success for Survivors Scholarship gave another woman who overcame PTSD due to an abusive spouse the resources needed to work towards her goal of receiving a bachelor's degree in community health. As one applicant explains:

"The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship would put me one step closer to obtaining my dream of a college education. My degree will put an end to low-paying jobs, allow personal independence, responsibility, and growth, and break this vicious cycle of poverty and abuse."

We hope these stories will reinforce the importance of the scholarship and inspire you to continue supporting the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. Applications are due February 3, 2017. Please visit <http://www.gfwc.org/success-survivors/> to learn more.

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

Cares and Concerns

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of **Lenore Shoemake**, Past GFWC Louisiana State President (2010-2012). A dedicated educator and clubwoman, she will be greatly missed by DeQuincy Study Club, GFWC Louisiana, and all her Federation family. Words of comfort may be shared with her family at www.hixsonfuneralhomes.com

We send our condolences to Elections Committee member Debbie Bach on the passing of her husband **Don Bach**, December 22, 2016. Please keep Debbie and her family in your thoughts.

Please keep Preshus Howard, GFWC Kentucky Director of Junior Clubs, and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Her grandmother recently passed away.

Join GFWC for the Democracy Reception

Will you be in Washington, D.C. next week for the inauguration or other events? Whatever brings you to town, please join us at GFWC Headquarters for the 2017 Democracy Reception. The event takes place at 1734 N Street NW,



Bringing Joy and Comfort to Arizona's Children

Care packages for children dealing with traumatic events such as illness, domestic violence, or homelessness are distributed as part of GFWC Arizona State President Celene Post's Special Project. The program, "Arizona Cares 4 Kids," aims to make the lives of at least 1,000 children a little brighter.

Clubs are invited to use their imagination when selecting the type of kits they create. Emergency bags for children removed from their homes due to domestic violence, school supply kits, birthday party boxes complete with cake mix and party favors, and art kits for children in hospitals have proven popular choices. No matter what type of kit is created, each includes an informational sheet about the GFWC Juniors' Special Program and GFWC Arizona. Assembled activity or comfort kits are distributed by clubwomen to local hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, and first-responders.

President Post developed the project to be successful regardless of a club's size. The project is cost effective for even the smallest club and fundraisers are essential to the program's success. Clubwomen across Arizona have held garage sales, craft fairs, and Halloween festivals to sponsor the creation of their kits. Children's delight receiving the kits was witnessed first-hand by President Post when 75 Christmas themed kits were donated to the new Ronald McDonald House in Mesa, Arizona. As President Post stated, "It is our hope that these kits bring a measure of joy and comfort to the children."

Washington, D.C. 20036 from 3-5 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, please email Events Coordinator Grace Soriano at gsoriano@gfwc.org.

Communications and Public Relations Contest Submission Reminder

Please remember that submissions for the Newsletter and Website contests should be sent directly to GFWC Communications and Public Relations Committee Chairman Darlene Adams. Entries must be received by March 15. For specific contest rules and guidelines, please refer to the awards, contests and grants section of the *GFWC Club Manual*.

Apply for the Croly Award

The Jane Cunningham Croly Award for Excellence in Journalism Covering Issues of Concern to Women, or simply the Croly Award, recognizes journalists who best capture the courage, vision, and spirit of Jane Cunningham Croly. The Croly Award winner will demonstrate concern for the rights and advancement of women in our society; an awareness of women's strength and bravery; and/or an attempt to counteract existing sexism.

We encourage all clubs, clubwomen, and partners to spread the word to any print, broadcast, or digital publication that may be interested in submitting an entry for this prestigious award. [Click here](#) to

We congratulate President Post and all of GFWC Arizona on this inventive project, which is certain to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children in their state.

Keeping New Members Engaged

By Vicki Weber, GFWC Membership Committee Member

New year, new members. Now what?

Whether they are new or established, retaining all members is extremely important. However, the first year for a new member is critical. A member who is not made to feel a part of the club or is not communicated with properly will not be an engaged member.

Here are few ideas to remember:

Send a thank-you note to new members after they have joined. Does your club give new members a welcome packet? This packet should include informative materials such as a calendar of events and meetings, a list of members and board members with contact information, your club's history, bylaws and standing rules, and brochures about GFWC. If you don't already have one, establish a mentoring program. Pair a new member with a current member so there is a dedicated person to guide, help, and answer any questions your new member may have during the first year. Survey your new members to see what interests they have. That will help determine what committees they will be best suited for. Get new members engaged as soon as possible so they can find value in their membership. At meetings or events, make sure everyone wears a name tag and designate whether they are a new member, board member, etc. so new members can start putting names with faces. Set up a special email list or Facebook page just for first-year members so they have a dedicated resource to connect with other new members in their club.

download the entry form and guidelines for the 2017 Croly Award.

All applications must be received by March 15, 2017.

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Are you traveling to the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention?



Picture of the Week

Did you happen to see this float during the 2017 Rose Bowl Parade? It was created with the help of **GFWC Torrance Woman's Club** (California). Each year, the club contributes a monetary donation towards construction of a float, and several members volunteer their time serving on committees and applying flowers to the design during those crucial final hours before the parade. This year's City of Torrance float was aptly titled, "Be Your Own Knight" and awarded the Tournament Volunteers Trophy. Congratulations GFWC Torrance Woman's Club!

It's not too early to start searching for or booking plane tickets. Search early and often to get the best flight deals. Many travel websites and apps have price alerts. Type in your projected travel dates and they'll send you a text or email when prices drop. [Click here](#) to view recommended arrival and departure dates for this year's Convention in Palm Springs.

In The News

The **GFWC Glendale Woman's Club** (Arizona) brightened up the holidays at Mary Ellen's Place, an organization that provides housing for women veterans. The club donated over 50 gifts for women veterans, as well as hot plates for the women to use in their apartments. [Click here](#) to read the *Glendale Star* article about the club's relationship with Mary Ellen's Place, which is named after U.S. Navy Veteran Mary Ellen Piotrowski.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and GFWC: Finding Cures, Saving Children

By Becky Wright, President-elect of GFWC Mississippi and member of GFWC Mississippi Fine Arts Club

GFWC Mississippi Fine Arts Club and the **Twentieth Century Club**, both of Bruce, Mississippi, recently donated a check for over \$4,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A substantial portion of the funds were raised through the clubs' second annual daddy/daughter dance. The theme of this year's dance was "A Night in Paris." Once the local community heard of the event on social media, many stepped up to contribute either items needed for the party such as decorations, or to volunteer their time. The clubs also sought sponsorships from area businesses to keep the ticket cost affordable. In the end, over \$3,000 was donated and the clubs were overwhelmed by their community's generosity.

The clubs presented their donation to St. Jude while attending a tour of the hospital. Their guide during the tour emphasized the fact that St. Jude not only treats the patient, but also treats the entire family with counseling and accommodations during their stay. Patients are afforded opportunities to continue school, attend prom, celebrate holidays, and for the most part have as normal of a childhood as possible. The clubwomen were also informed about the new proton therapy being utilized. Last year, St. Jude purchased the pencil beam proton therapy system at a cost of nearly \$200 million. It is just one

way the facility has increased the survival rate for childhood leukemia from four percent to 94 percent.

All GFWC clubs supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital should be proud of the outstanding accomplishments of this organization and know that the funds they raise are helping to find cures and save children.



Marketplace: USA and GFWC Flags in Desk Base

This U.S. and GFWC flag set is a quick and easy way to

decorate a head table, enliven a centerpiece, or promote GFWC at a community event. Each flag is 4" x 6" and set in a small black base. Available for \$10 at the GFWC Marketplace.

[Click here](#) to order yours at the GFWC Marketplace.

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