

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - January 5, 2017



End Human Trafficking Worldwide

By Janet Trombetti, GFWC International Outreach Chairman

It may be 2017, but slavery continues to exist in the world in the form of human trafficking. It is estimated that 21 million people worldwide, including 5.5 million children, are victims of trafficking and forced labor. It doesn't matter where you live—human trafficking has been reported in every U.S. state. In 2007, the United States Senate designated January 11 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day to bring attention to the plight of those who are exploited.

Human trafficking has been likened to modern-day slavery that subjects children, women, and men to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. This horrific practice can include prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism, as well as labor for domestic service, factory or construction work, and migrant farming.



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

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GFWC is proud to partner with UNICEF USA in their mission to end human trafficking. Members spread awareness of this issue in their communities by hosting screenings of *Not My Life*, purchasing fair trade products, and sharing information such as statistics and hotline numbers. Mark Human Trafficking Awareness Month this January by learning more about human trafficking and taking action.

What can you do to help? Everyone can do something to end human trafficking, including:

- Learn how to spot the signs of trafficking. Download the End Trafficking postcard at unicef.org/endtrafficking.
- Use End Trafficking resources to educate and mobilize. They are free to download on the U.S. Fund for UNICEF website.
- Find out how many exploited people are producing the products you buy. Slavery Footprint's website allows you to better understand the connection between your purchases and forced labor. Take the site's survey and raise your voice for ethically sourced products. Visit slaveryfootprint.org.
- Keep Learning. Visit: www.unicefusa.org/endtrafficking and notmylife.org to learn more about what UNICEF and other organizations are doing to protect children.

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

Cares & Concerns

Sadly, we must announce the passing of Past Nebraska State President (1998-2000) **Frances Kassmeier** on December 17. You may share your condolences on the [Life Tribute webpage](#) created by her children. Please remember her family and Federation sisters in your thoughts and prayers.

Democracy Reception Reminder

Join GFWC on January 19 from 3-5 p.m. for the 2017 Democracy Reception at our historical Headquarters. This event occurs every four years to welcome clubwomen and guests who are traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the inauguration or other events. If you plan on being in D.C. on January 19, please be sure to stop by GFWC Headquarters, located at 1734 N Street NW, for refreshments and to visit with GFWC leaders. For more information and to RSVP, please email gsoriano@gfwc.org.



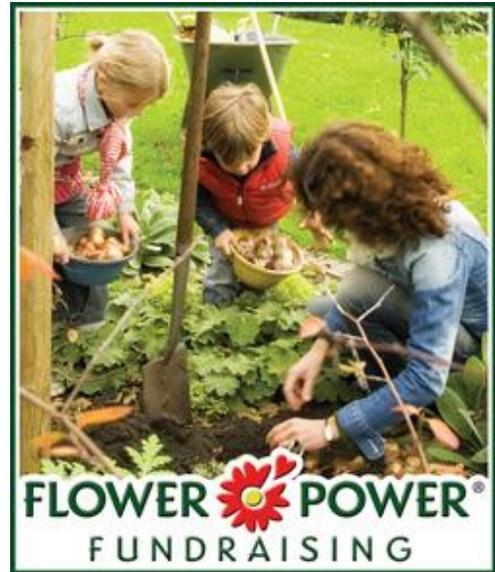
Digitizing the Past

Submitted by Sharon Rasmussen of GFWC Wake Forest Woman's Club for the December WHRC newsletter

The **Wake Forest Woman's Club** (North Carolina) marked its 55th anniversary as a GFWC-chartered club on December 1. At about the same time, the club's website editor, Sharon Rasmussen, completed a multi-year project to celebrate the organization's long history of community service by archiving memorabilia on the club's website at www.wake-forest-womans-club.com.

"When I joined almost six years ago, I offered to generate a website for the club. I envisioned a two-part site: a public page and a password-protected area for members," Sharon said. She easily filled the website's private area with materials such as forms used in the club's current work. However, she also wished to make historical scrapbooks, photo albums, and other memorabilia stored in bins in a rented storage unit, accessible to members. Sharon's goal was to include all of the historical documents on the website where members could enjoy and learn from them.

She experimented and decided the best method was to photograph the 2,000- plus documents and items and enhance the resulting images with Photoshop. Albums were later converted into multi-page PDFs. It has taken several years, but most of the historical artifacts are now displayed online. You may view one of the scrapbooks on the public page of the club's website. Other volumes will rotate as a means to keep the home page fresh for potential new members.



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"Past clubwomen served this town in amazing ways, and their stories are now available for our members' exploration, from the launch of Wake Forest's first library to driver safety courses, from fluoridation of the water supply to administering polio vaccinations to children," she said. "We can learn from our predecessors' examples and even incorporate many of their ideas into the service activities we carry out today."

Founded in 1984, the Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of GFWC and women volunteers. Your donations enable us to produce publications such as the WHRC newsletter; engage in outreach activities for students, teachers, and others interested in learning more about the history of GFWC; preserve and catalog the WHRC's multimedia collections; build the research library collection; and offer internships and research fellowships. Learn more about the benefits of joining the Friends of the WHRC by visiting <http://bit.ly/FriendsoftheWHRC>.

Making Change in Illinois

GFWC Illinois President Phyllis Skubic has entitled her State President's Project "Let's Make Change." The goal of the year-long project is to have every member of every Illinois club donate \$4.00. This small amount is a little more than a penny-a-day and will support four charities. President Skubic said, "The hardest part was keeping it to just four charities as there are so many in need of our monetary donations." In the end, the causes selected each held a personal connection for President Skubic.

The Illinois Leadership Seminars (ILS) are at the top of her list as a result of her 28 year involvement with the program. President Skubic became aware of the seminars when her eldest daughter was selected for participation. Personally having witnessed the passion and enthusiasm of the high school sophomores attending the seminars, she was strongly motivated to become a leader within the organization and to choose ILS for assistance during her administration.

Wreaths Across America Pinterest Board

Wreaths Across America 2016 was a great success, as wreaths were placed at every grave at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition to the 44,000 volunteers who attended the event in Arlington, thousands more participated in events across the country. View photos of GFWC members honoring veterans in their communities on the GFWC Pinterest page: <http://bit.ly/2izxvIv>. If you would like your photos to be included, please email pr@gfwc.org.

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

Due to an even more profound connection, President Skubic advocates for the support of Easterseals. There was a time when her granddaughter Libby was considered unlikely to ever walk. However, with the help of programs and physical therapists provided by Easterseals, Libby not only walks but runs and plays. The dedication of the Easterseals' staff and their mission to change the way the world defines and views disability has made a lasting impact on President Skubic's granddaughter and countless others.

The final two organizations selected for support, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and Children's Research Foundation (CRF), also help children with medical concerns. CRF has been the Illinois Junior Project since 1979 and over the last 38 years more than \$400,000 has been raised to assist the Foundation. The research funded by the Foundation saves children like President Skubic's nephew who underwent open heart surgery just three days after his birth.

The organizations GFWC Illinois members will be supporting over the coming year have made a significant difference in their president's life and will doubtless benefit many others in the future. When clubwomen join forces, their collective impact can change lives.

All applications must be received by March 15, 2017.

In The News

GFWC Benson Juniors Woman's Club (Arizona) led a community-wide effort to assist area families during the holidays by providing food and gifts. One mother who received donations at the party put it this way, "My children would not have had a Christmas without their help. This is a wonderful, generous community." Read about this amazing club's work in the [San Pedro Valley News](#).



Partner Spotlight: March of Dimes

Join March for Babies and help give all babies a fighting chance. Sign your club up today at www.marchforbabies.org and walk to save babies. GFWC and March of Dimes are teaming up to

make a difference in the lives of babies and families across the country. One in every 10 babies are born too soon and your club can help change the statistics by stepping up, lacing up and joining March for Babies. Find a walk near your club and register today. Make this an opportunity to be seen in your community and shine bright for our GFWC clubs across the country.



Marketplace: GFWC Infinity Scarves

The GFWC infinity scarf is made of lightweight and slightly sheer fabric, measures 21" x 70", and is seamed together to create a loop. Our custom looped scarf provides high fashion appeal so you can look and feel your best whether you are dressing up or down! Wrap yourself in this soft and silky Viscose scarf, a perfect stylish GFWC accessory. Scarves are available in black with white lettering and white with purple emblems for only \$20 each. [Click here](#) to order yours at the GFWC Marketplace.

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