

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - March 30, 2017



## Mark National Child Abuse Prevention Month with Pinwheel Gardens

It's almost April, which means it's time to start planning your pinwheel gardens! April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and GFWC is proud to support Prevent Child Abuse America in its Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign. Every year, clubwomen raise awareness of child abuse and promote healthy childhoods by planting pinwheel gardens. Prevent Child Abuse America introduced the pinwheel in 2008 as the official symbol of great childhoods. The pinwheel reminds us of our own childhoods and the fact that all children deserve to be happy and healthy. The photo above was taken in September 2015 at the National Pinwheel Garden in Washington, D.C., and we're excited to see pinwheels take over the rest of the country this year! Learn more about the symbolism behind the pinwheel at <http://preventchildabuse.org/resource/pinwheels-for-prevention/>.



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

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## 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.

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

Is your club planning a pinwheel garden to mark National Child Abuse Prevention Month? Send details and photos to the GFWC Communications and Public Relations Department at [pr@gfwc.org](mailto:pr@gfwc.org). This year, we will be building an interactive map showing locations of GFWC-sponsored pinwheel gardens across the country! Be sure to send information about your pinwheel garden so it can be included. We can't wait to see how many pinwheel gardens clubwomen are planting. You can view photos of last year's pinwheel gardens by [clicking here](#).

We all have a role to play in preventing child abuse and neglect. Learn more about how you can make a difference by reading about project ideas and Prevent Child Abuse America in the [GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention](#) section of the *GFWC Club Manual*.

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## Reasons to Attend the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention

Are you registered for the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Springs, California? If you are still on the fence about attending, GFWC Meetings and Convention Chairman Donna Shibley offers dozens of reasons why you should absolutely join your fellow clubwomen this summer. From catching up with your Federation sisters to connecting with GFWC leaders, Convention is always a worthwhile experience. Visit <http://www.gfwc.org/attend-2017-gfwc-annual-convention/> to read Donna's blog and get inspired to register today!

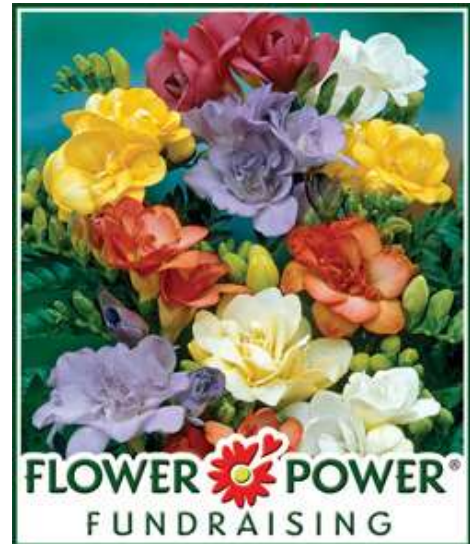
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## A Better World for Every Girl

Hacienda Girls Ranch was built through the care and generosity of GFWC Florida clubwomen over more than four decades. Founded in 1968, the Ranch gives teenage girls with nowhere else to turn a place to call home. The girls who live at the Ranch have been removed from their homes due to their families' inability to care for them. Many residents have suffered abuse or neglect.

Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at [kgarlick@gfwc.org](mailto:kgarlick@gfwc.org) and you're all set!

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## Be The Hero

With Flower Power by your side you will raise fantastic profits, all the while beautifying your community and rejuvenating Mother Earth.

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Earn 50% profit from sales!

**An extra 5% from every sale goes directly to GFWC to support national projects.**

[www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC](http://www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC) or call 1-888-833-1486.

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While ownership of the Ranch was relinquished to the Children's Home Society in 1998, GFWC Florida continues to support the organization. Current GFWC Florida President Mary Powell has selected the Ranch as the Special Project for her administration. President Powell's goal is to meet four key objectives:

- The construction of a fence to protect residents from outside intruders.
- The purchase of necessary home supplies such as comforters, sheets, towels, and curtains as well as decorative items that allow the girls to personalize their rooms.
- Provision of the extra items teenage girls need to fit in with their peers such as prom dresses, homecoming tickets, school pictures, art supplies, and birthday cakes.
- Allowing the girls to participate in activities that promote healthy living, social skills, and positive relationships in the community. For instance, girls may attend summer camp or be given YMCA memberships, sports equipment, or musical instruments.

Although many heartwarming tales could be shared, one particular example of how much the services mean to the girls living at the Ranch is Alyssa's story. Alyssa was about to turn 15 and was told she would be given a birthday party. She did not want any of the usual birthday treats such as a cake or ice cream. However, when told she would receive a gift, Alyssa quickly requested a pair of virtual reality glasses. While most children Alyssa's age would have had 14 other birthday celebrations with lots of presents, this was Alyssa's first birthday party and present.

Hacienda Girls Ranch thrives today thanks to the support of GFWC Florida. President Powell's Special Project continues work toward the state's ultimate aim of creating "a better world for every girl".

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## National Walking Day

Take the first step to a healthier life by taking part in the American Heart Association's National Walking Day. Wednesday, April 5 kicks off a month-long celebration designed to help us all become more active. On April 5, participants are encouraged to lace up their sneakers and take 30 minutes out of their day to walk. Local companies and groups will host National Walking Day events. Participants can also get involved on social media by pledging their steps towards AHA's 2 million steps campaign using hashtags #2millionAL and #LaceUpandGo.

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## It's Our Time to SHINE: 2017 GFWC Annual Convention at JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa June 23-26

GFWC Clubwomen have shined throughout the year! We invite you to join us at the pristine JW Marriott in Palm Desert, California to celebrate those accomplishments, learn about new initiatives, and participate in the advancement of the organization.

Online registration is now officially open! You can access registration using this link <http://www.cvent.com/d/2vqg5g/4W> or by visiting [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) and following the instructions to register for Convention and all events. GFWC's user-friendly online registration system

## Help Raise Awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders

In 2016, the **GFWC Grundy Woman's Club** (Virginia) launched a very successful campaign to advocate for those with autism and their caregivers by sharing the personal story of clubwoman JoBeth Wampler. In a blog post placed on the club's website, JoBeth shared her reaction upon receiving an autism diagnosis for her son Josh, saying:

*... he may never enjoy a baseball game, come home with a frog in his pocket, kiss a girl, or tell us he loved us. It was the hardest time of our lives, as we came to grips with the possibility we may someday wish he'd die before we did. Because, being on the severe side of the spectrum, it's possible he'll never be able to function without our care.*

Saturday marks the start of Autism Awareness Month. This year, let's take the Grundy Woman's Club's campaign to the next level by sharing JoBeth's blog with your Federation sisters, friends, and family. [Click here](#) to view the post on gfwc.org. Then, click the social media icon of your choice from the right side of the screen. This will add the post to your personal Facebook or Twitter timeline.

The clubwomen of Grundy are planning to go even further in their own support of Autism Awareness Month this year. They will hold a 5k race, sell blue light bulbs, sponsor informational sessions at the local YMCA, and continue their social media campaign in an effort to fund a new project. Based on Joshua's experiences and the prevalence of drowning deaths among autistic individuals, the Grundy club will provide free swimming lessons for autistic children.

When the clubwomen of Grundy welcomed JoBeth into their club, they also took on her mission and her concerns. Can there be any greater example of Federation sisterhood?

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is quick, secure, and easy. Paper registration is available upon request. Registration closes on June 1. For assistance, contact GFWC Headquarters at 1-800-443-GFWC (4392) or call Derek Tennant ([DTennant@GFWC.org](mailto:DTennant@GFWC.org)) directly at 202-347-2938 or Jennifer Simpson ([JSimpson@GFWC.org](mailto:JSimpson@GFWC.org)) directly at 202-628-2478.



**The complete *Call to Convention* is now available for download.** The *Call* features Convention details such as transportation, tours, daily activities, a preliminary award schedule, and a full agenda. [Click here](#) to download the *Call*.

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## GFWC Legislative Action Center and Clubwoman Magazine Subscription Contest

Since 2015, GFWC honors the top state in each award category for percentage increase in subscription numbers to the Legislative Action Center and *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. This year, the contest period began on March 16 and will close during Convention in Palm Springs. Winning states are awarded \$50. We encourage you to subscribe to each of these vital GFWC resources.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to the Legislative Action Center.

Subscribe to the magazine by visiting the [GFWC Marketplace](#) or by mailing a check to GFWC Headquarters.

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### Marketplace: 4' x 6' GFWC Flag

Promote your GFWC club and increase your visibility with the 4ft x 6ft Official GFWC Flag. Get noticed with this handsome GFWC

logo flag. It is the largest flag available for GFWC clubs to display outdoors or indoors for any events or special occasions. Made out of durable nylon fabric, this flag will last for years through rain or shine. Available at the [GFWC Marketplace](#) for \$40 each.

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## In The News

The **GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club** (New Jersey) was profiled in the *New Jersey Herald* for collecting over 300 bras and raising awareness of human sex trafficking. These bras will be donated to Free the Girls, an organization that donates bras to victims of sex trafficking. [Click here](#) to read the article and learn more about the club's efforts and how bras can help survivors of human trafficking achieve independence.

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### Our Contact Information

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