

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - June 15, 2017



## GFWC Recognizes Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Over a decade ago, the World Health Organization designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The goal of the effort is to raise awareness of the issue of elder abuse and to serve as a call to action for individuals, communities, and organizations such as GFWC.

The U.S. Administration on Aging estimates that as many as 1 in 10 older Americans are abused each year. Elder abuse can be financial, emotional, physical, or sexual. The consequences of elder abuse are severe: older adults who are abused are twice as likely to be hospitalized, four times as likely to go into nursing homes, and three times more likely to die prematurely.\*

We all have a role to play in protecting these valued members of society. Just one example of how clubwomen are joining the effort is **GFWC Maine's** partnership with the state's Council for Elder Abuse Prevention. In 2016, the two organizations created a high school essay contest to raise awareness of elder abuse. Today, the Maine Signature Program Chairman Katherine White



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

will present this year's winning student with a \$1,000 scholarship during a ceremony at the State House in Augusta. The first place essay will be read during the event and local media have been invited to draw attention to the cause.

If your club would like to take part in the campaign to end elder abuse, follow GFWC Maine's lead and design an attention grabbing event of your own. The *GFWC Club Manual* offers a myriad of ideas on how your club can address this most pressing concern. By making our voices heard we can end the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of our vulnerable elders.

\* <https://ncea.acl.gov/>



## Why Do We Have a Strategic Plan?

In the May + June issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* President-elect Mary Ellen Brock answered the question, "Why do we have a strategic plan?" GFWC is now making this highly valuable information available to all of our members on [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) as a [blog post](#). Please take the time to learn the six major issues facing GFWC and how your participation is essential to our organization's future success.

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



## 2017 GFWC Annual Convention Reminders

Please bring your March + April issue of *Clubwoman Magazine* to Convention so that you will have a copy of the proposed amendments to the bylaws and resolutions under consideration.

Alternately, you may [click here](#) to print a copy of the *Call to Convention* for packing in your suitcase.

If you are bringing California Dreamin' Raffle or USO Service Project donations, please take them to the GFWC Staff Office upon arrival.



## GFWC California's Southern District Provides Care Kits to Human Trafficking and Domestic Abuse Survivors

Andrea Canfield, **California's Southern District** Domestic Violence Chairman, feels it is her responsibility to discover new projects all clubs can participate in, large or small, and all members, from the young to "not so young." In her search for new projects, she met with a Highway Patrol Officer who had recently completed a seminar on human trafficking. Inspired by the seminar, he told Andrea how he now carries a small bag with basic necessities for trafficking victims while on duty. She immediately thought of how women's clubs could elaborate on the idea and make a positive impact in the lives of human trafficking and domestic violence victims.

Andrea thought about what she would need if she were forced to leave home with nothing but the clothes on her back. From that, she assembled the first kit. The local Sheriff Crime Prevention Specialist was presented with the prototype and remarked, "Why haven't we thought of this sooner? And, when can we get them?" Andrea's club, **The Woman's Club of Lakeside**, began making the "Care Kits" and the project evolved from there.

One member of the group commenced sewing the carrier bags, while the others collected needed items. The Care Kits consist of a fleece blanket, a t-shirt, personal hygiene products, a notepad and a pen, and first aid kit. Each Care Kit also contains a domestic violence and human trafficking assistance pamphlet and slipper socks with an inspirational message from the club's members. The note reads, "As you begin your new life and step away from abuse, we hope you will find comfort and warmth as you walk into your newly found freedom."

## News & Notes during Convention

*News & Notes* will not be published on Thursday, June 22 or June 29 due to the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates during Convention. We hope to see you in Palm Springs!

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## FUNDRAISING

### From Our Family to Yours

Since 1936, Terri Lynn's proven fundraising programs have raised healthy profits for hundreds of GFWC clubs nationwide. Put over 75 years of experience to work for you!

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Today, club members across California's Southern District are eagerly working together to fill orders for the kits. Through club collaboration, this is certain to be an ongoing project.

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## Partner Spotlight: Sew Much Comfort

Since 2004, Sew Much Comfort (SMC) has proudly provided free adaptive clothing to military hospitals and individual service members.

They are grateful to those who have helped to "honor, remember and support" our wounded service members as they recover from injuries and transition back into their communities. Sew Much Comfort thanks GFWC clubwomen for their assistance in providing 153,000 pieces of adaptive clothing.

Unfortunately, Sew Much Comfort is unable to attend the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention. However, they appreciate your continued support, and would be happy to talk to you about ways your club can help SMC. To learn more, visit their website [www.sewmuchcomfort.org](http://www.sewmuchcomfort.org). Suggestions and printable information to assist you can be found by clicking the "Volunteer" tab, and then selecting "GFWC" from the dropdown menu. Feel free to contact Sew Much Comfort President and co-founder Michele Cuppy at [mmc.cuppy@comcast.net](mailto:mmc.cuppy@comcast.net)

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## Become a Shot@Life Champion at Convention!

For the first time in our partnership, Shot@Life will be hosting champion training workshops at the Annual Convention during Session 1 (3:15pm – 4:00pm) and Session 2 (4:15 pm – 5:00 pm) on Saturday, June 24. This training will help prepare you to advocate on behalf of Shot@Life and learn skills you can apply to all issues that concern you. This will be the best opportunity of the year for an in-person training with the Shot@Life team and will also help get everyone prepared for our fall advocacy activation. From clubwomen who have fundraised only, to clubwomen who have just learned about Shot@Life and want to get involved, all are welcome. Please keep in mind this is NOT an



## International Update

The destruction wrought by Hurricane Matthew to Grand Bahama Island in October 2016 was beyond destructive. Eight months later, two of the island's largest hotels remain closed, other businesses have failed, and many residents are jobless. Nonetheless, the **Grand Bahamas American Women's Club** raised over \$36,000 at its annual golf tournament in February. With the funds, the club which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, was able to provide scholarships to 16 high school students and \$8,500 to community organizations. [Click here](#) to learn more about this remarkable achievement.

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## Worth Watching

While their video submission arrived too late for entry into the GFWC video contest, the **Kirkland Woman's Club** (Washington) did a wonderful job of answering the question, "What does being a GFWC Clubwoman mean to you?" [Click here](#) to see their answer.

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informational session, this is a training. If you have any questions, please email [champions@shotatlife.org](mailto:champions@shotatlife.org).

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### Marketplace: *Living the Volunteer Spirit* Button

This popular button features the tagline *Living the Volunteer Spirit*.

Measuring 2.5 inches in diameter, it includes the classic design with an

updated twist. Wear this button wherever you go to show others the difference you make in your local community and around the world. Available for \$3 each at the GFWC Marketplace. [Click here](#) to order yours today!

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## In the News

**GFWC Park City Athenaeum Club** (Utah) hosted the 75th Annual Girl Graduate Tea on June 5. The 140 guests celebrated the upcoming graduation at Park City High School. Holly Flanders, gold medal Olympic winner in downhill ski racing, was the guest speaker. Flanders spoke of how we can all be the "best in the world." She asked each person to identify her greatest talent and then start to develop it. [Click here](#) to read the full *Park Record* article.

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### Our Contact Information

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