

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - September 7, 2017



One Small Club Makes a Big Difference

Members of the West Valley Federated Women's Club (California) first heard of GFWC's [Campaign for the Future](#) during the Western States Region Conference in 2015. The club's president Anne Cochrane stated, "We learned that funds were needed to secure and sustain the property and programming for our heart and home -- our Headquarters in Washington, D.C. For more than a century this historic building has been a powerful symbol for women who dedicated themselves to the betterment of our country. Realizing this means us, we returned to our club excited about leaving a legacy that would also be part of West Valley's history."

All twelve members of the club voted to sponsor the 1734 Entry Parlor. The Campaign is designed to recognize substantial contributions through "Naming Opportunities." The most prestigious rooms and artifacts at Headquarters will carry the

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

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names of clubwomen, clubs, and State Federations that help to preserve them for posterity.

During the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention, the West Valley Club presented the first installment of their Campaign pledge, a check for \$10,000, to International President Sheila Shea. Over the next five years, the club will contribute an astounding \$50,000 to the Campaign for the Future. The West Valley Club earned the majority of their pledge through the sale of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Senior Center where their meetings were held for over 20 years.

President Cochrane encourages all clubs to consider making a donation "large or small to the Campaign for Future to further insure GFWC's home will continue to be a symbol of all that we do to help others." Learn more about the Campaign for the Future by visiting gfwc.org.



Going Out on a Limb: Protecting Children

GFWC Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs Loretta Caron was astonished by the [National Runaway Safeline's](#) statistics on homeless youth in America. Estimates show that nearly 1.4 million children are reported to be homeless each year. Vulnerable and susceptible to manipulation, homeless youth have become the human trafficking industry's prime target.

Loretta has made raising awareness of the connection between homelessness and human trafficking a goal of her administration

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

Cares & Concerns

We send our belated condolences to the family and friends of Past Arkansas State President [Susan King Skillen](#). Susan passed away on August 11, 2017 in Little Rock.

Please keep Fundraising and Development Committee Member Linda McCourt and her family in your thoughts. [Kim McCourt](#), Linda's daughter-in-law and a member of GFWC Prairie Grove Junior Civic League, passed away on August 31.



2017 GFWC Poetry Contest Winner

The winner of the 2017 GFWC Member Poetry contest is **Sharon Paulson** of GFWC Amery Woman's Club (Wisconsin). To read her award-winning poem, visit gfwc.org.

through the "Go Out on a Limb" campaign. Over the last year, Loretta has been inundated with requests for information and speakers from both Wisconsin clubs and community organizations. The number of people reaching out to her is mark of the campaigns success as Loretta stated, "The best way to combat the issue is through awareness."

The second goal of the campaign is to aid women and children who have already fallen victim to human trafficking. A multitude of fundraisers are being held at the state, district, and club level to support charities that assist human trafficking survivors. During their spring convention, Wisconsin Juniors held a "Pillow Fight", where each district decorated a pillow and raffled it off to the highest bidder during a silent auction. The districts fought to see whose pillow would raise the largest sum, and a shelter located in the winning district received a portion of the proceeds.

Wisconsin Juniors also supported Free the Girls, a nonprofit organization that collects bras for women who are survivors of trafficking to sell, allowing them to safely earn an income and gain control over their lives through economic empowerment. The clubwomen collected monetary contributions to cover the cost of shipping 2,613 bras, the largest donation that the Chesterton, Indiana location had ever received.

The phrase "going out on limb" means being at risk. Today, too many American children are at risk due to homelessness and human trafficking. Thanks to the efforts of Loretta and the GFWC Wisconsin Juniors many such children will be rescued from dangerous situations and will find a safe place to call home.

Partner Spotlight: UNICEF

Human trafficking is not just happening in other countries, it is happening right within our own neighborhoods. UNICEF USA's End Trafficking project works to mobilize communities to take meaningful action to prevent trafficking from happening here at home. The U.S. reports trafficking cases daily in every single state. The human trafficking industry makes profits of \$150 billion annually. Fundraise, educate, and advocate on behalf of the End Trafficking project. YOU can take action:



New on the Blog!

Summer break doesn't have to mean a break in volunteer work. [Read our latest blog post](#) about GFWC clubs who organized back to school supply collections to make sure kids have what they need to succeed in school this year!



FUNDRAISING

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- [Donate](#) to the End Trafficking project.
- Learn how to spot the signs of human trafficking by downloading the [trafficking hotline postcard](#).
- Hold a screening of *Not My Life*. Facilitate a discussion afterward about ways to take action.
- Make your meetings Fair Trade! Visit fairtradeusa.org to identify coffee, tea, chocolate, and other fair trade products you can serve that are made without child or slave labor.
- Advocate! You can also find these calls to action at the [GFWC Legislative Action Center](#).

On Wednesday, **November 8, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., GFWC and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF will be sponsoring a movie screening of the film *Not My Life* at GFWC Headquarters.**

We hope to see you there! This documentary portrays the cruel and horrific reality of trafficking across the globe, where millions of children are exploited every day, through an astonishing array of practices including forced labor, domestic servitude, begging, sex tourism, sexual violence, and child soldiering. Join us for a brief discussion after the screening to address ways in which YOU can help. Change starts with you.



Marketplace: GFWC History Timeline

The GFWC History Timeline includes important milestones and photographs covering GFWC history from 1890 to the present. The publication is printed on heavier paper, with larger font size and photographs, making it easier to read and display. Use this

as a resource for club programs on GFWC's history! Available for \$2 each at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

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In the News

The **GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club** (Florida) hosted an exclusive benefit concert for Hacienda Girls Ranch. The Hacienda Girls Ranch provides a safe haven for girls ages 12 to 17 who have been displaced from their home due to no fault of their own. Clubs throughout the state of Florida are supporting the facility as part of Florida President Mary Powell's Special Project. [Click here](#) to read the complete article detailing the highly successful fundraiser in the *Apalachicola & Carrabelle Times*.

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