

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - January 19, 2017



## Reach Your GFWC Potential with LEADS

If you are interested in becoming a leader in GFWC, there's no better resource than the Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS). This day-long event takes place on Friday, June 23, one day prior to the official start of the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Desert, California. As former LEADS participants will tell you, it's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about GFWC, giving you the knowledge necessary to continue *Living the Volunteer Spirit* in your communities. Topics addressed in the seminar include conflict management, public speaking, GFWC history, and more. LEADS graduates have gone on to serve as leaders in their State Federations, as well as on the GFWC Board of Directors.

In the January+February issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, which is currently in the mail, graduates of LEADS share their experiences with the program. From going on to serve as club president to State Director of Junior Clubs to Community Service Program Chairman, each LEADS participant has accomplished great things! While you're waiting for your copy



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 Membership Services Manager Kate

of the magazine to arrive, you can read part of the article now on the GFWC blog: <http://bit.ly/LEADSblog>. We hope you will be inspired by their stories and consider attending this insightful program. Learn more about LEADS by visiting <http://www.gfwc.org/membership/leads-ilts/> or by contacting your State Federation. Applications are due April 1!

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## Empowering Survivors

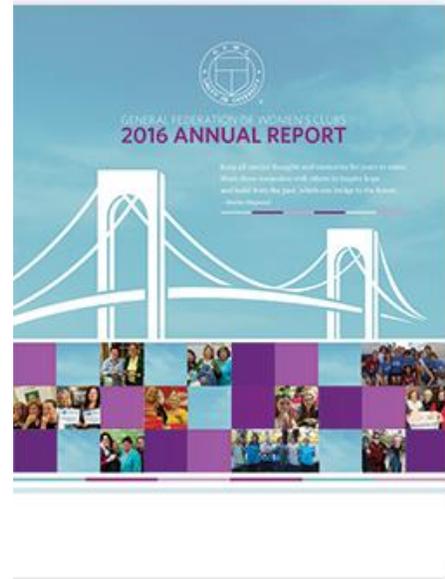
Not long ago, South Carolina International Outreach Chairman and President of the **Chapin Woman's Club** (South Carolina) Suzanne Carswell began looking for an International Outreach Project that would be meaningful and sustainable for her state and club. Through online searches she discovered [Free the Girls](#).

A 501(c)(3) non-profit, Free the Girls, provides sex trafficking survivors with a path to financial freedom. Groups, such as the Chapin Woman's Club, collect new or gently used bras that the charity distributes to women in El Salvador, Mozambique, and Uganda. The charity also collaborates with partners on-the-ground in those countries to encourage, equip, and empower the women to earn a safe income selling the donated bras in second-hand markets.

As President Carswell said, "We all have bras in the back of our closets that did not fit and cannot be returned. This program allows them to go to a worthy cause that benefits women who have overcome unimaginable adversity." To date, the club has collected 165 bras. While many donations were the result of

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

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## 2016 GFWC Annual Report

2016 was a year of excitement, energy, and enthusiasm as GFWC empowered clubwomen to build from the past and create bridges to the future. [Click here](#) to download the complete report.

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## Vote in the GFWC Shares Polls!

Participate in the following polls and your responses will be included in the March+April edition of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine!*

### **What's your go-to-activity when you want to unwind and relax?**

From tranquil spas to world-class golf

social media announcements on the club's Facebook page, most were gathered by members or through collection sites established at local businesses.

Learn more about Free the Girls by watching [Mozambique or Bust](#), a documentary produced by CNN that includes a full description of the program and interviews with the charity's founders.

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## GFWC New Mexico Raises Awareness of Human Trafficking

Mary Jo Montgomery, GFWC New Mexico President, selected raising awareness and prevention of human trafficking as the Special Project for her administration. Human trafficking is one of the most heinous crimes imaginable. In its worst manifestation, human trafficking is equivalent to modern-day slavery. Victims are forced into prostitution, involuntary labor, and other forms of servitude. In many cases, the victims are mere children. They find themselves surrounded by an unfamiliar culture, unable to speak the language, and fearing for their lives.

While human trafficking is of heightened concern in New Mexico due to the state's proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, trafficking has been reported in every state. View the [National Human Trafficking Hotline's website](#) for statistics, resources, and event listings by state.

President Montgomery is distributing information from UNICEF and others to help in her cause. She also hopes to arrange for viewings of the movie *Sold* throughout New Mexico to increase her efforts. *Sold* is the film adaptation of the acclaimed novel by Patricia McCormick. Based on true stories, *Sold* tells of a girl who travels from a rural village in Nepal to a brothel/prison in Kolkata, India. The movie illustrates the brutality of human trafficking and is a call to action. Those interested in following President Montgomery's lead by hosting a screening of *Sold* in their community will find helpful resources on the [film's website](#).

In addition to human trafficking, President Montgomery is also supporting "caring about others by paying it forward." Inspired by a personal interaction assisting a young family, President

courses, Palm Desert, the sight of the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention, is a vacationer's paradise. Which fun activity (other than the GFWC events, of course) are you most looking forward to trying in Palm Desert? Vote now:

<http://poll.fm/5qlru>

### **Which historic GFWC moment would you have most liked to witness?**

In preparation for Women's History Month in March, take a second to look back on the incredible role GFWC clubwomen have played in improving the lives of others! If you had to choose, which monumental event would you have most liked to have been a participant? From the purchasing of GFWC Headquarters in 1922 to Edward R. Murrow interviewing GFWC President Chloe Gifford in 1959, there are so many moments that make up GFWC's exciting history! Vote now: <http://poll.fm/5qlse>

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Montgomery would like every New Mexico clubwoman to consider what action they may take to improve the lives of their neighbors. Whether it is buying a meal for a homeless woman, or a tank of gasoline for a stranded stranger, there is always a way to show we care. The expectation in return should be nothing more than that the act of kindness be extended to another individual in need.

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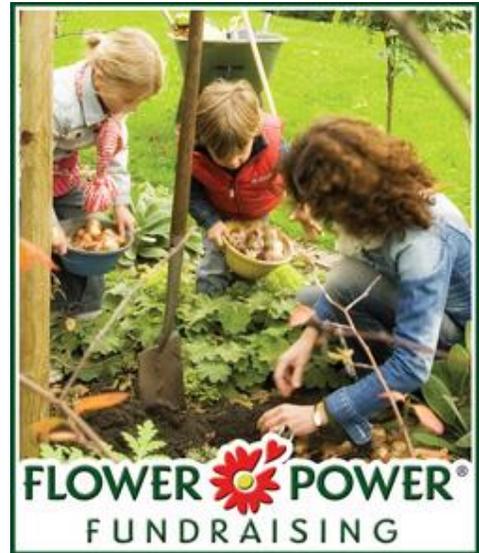


### **International Update: Grand Bahama American Women's Club**

In early October 2016 Hurricane Matthew, an extremely destructive and long-lived category 5 hurricane, devastated Grand Bahama. Since then members of the Grand Bahama American Women's Club have been working in tandem with the American Women's Club of Toronto (Canada) to assist relief efforts. Together they have donated two car loads of children's gifts, which were delivered to Santa's Little Helpers. Both clubs also collected household goods and clothing which were distributed through their joint hurricane relief project.

In December, club members held their first event since the hurricane at Taino by the Sea, a restaurant damaged during the hurricane. They raised almost \$3,000 at the event through donations, raffles, and an auction. The money was given to the local Rotary Club to go toward the purchase of much needed building materials to help repair homes destroyed by the storm.

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Earn big with America's Green Fundraiser.

Earn 50% profit from sales! An extra 5% from every sale goes directly to GFWC to support national projects.

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

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### **In The News**

The **GFWC Greenville Woman's Club** (Tennessee) honored Past GFWC Tennessee President Edith O'Keefe



Susong with a quilt block presented at the offices of the *Greenville Sun*, the local newspaper. O'Keefe was president of GFWC Tennessee from 1927-1929 and owned and published the *Greenville Sun* for over 50 years. Read more about this remarkable woman and the club's efforts to honor her in [this article](#).

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## End Human Trafficking with UNICEF USA

GFWC clubwomen have proven their commitment to ending human trafficking by fundraising and raising awareness. Looking for even more ways to promote National Human Trafficking Awareness Month? GFWC International Outreach Partner UNICEF USA has developed a few specific ways that GFWC clubwomen can get involved with the End Trafficking project:

**Sign the pledge:** [Click here](#) to take the pledge and demonstrate your support for ending trafficking forever.

**Follow the End Trafficking project on social media!** Their [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) accounts will keep you up to date on the latest information.

**Spread awareness on your social media accounts!**

Whenever possible, include @EndTraffick and the #endtrafficking hashtag in your tweets. You can download sample language to post on your Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram pages by [clicking here](#).

**Get informed:** Check out the [annual series of blog posts](#) developed by the End Trafficking Team to learn about the progress anti-trafficking has made and to learn more about this issue.

For more information, please email Mansi Mehta at [mmehta@unicefusa.org](mailto:mmehta@unicefusa.org).

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## WHRC Call for Articles

The Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) is looking towards the past and thinking about the future as we prepare for Women's History Month. In celebration of Women's History Month, the upcoming *WHRC Newsletter* will be focused on highlighting past clubwomen of GFWC, and the ways in which they have made history and empowered other women. Do you have a story about a remarkable clubwoman or club from the past that you're willing to share? Consider submitting your story for the March edition of the *WHRC Newsletter*. Ideal articles will be between 250-500 words. Accompanying photographs are encouraged, but not required, and articles should be submitted to WHRC Manager Alyssa Constad by February 9 at [aconstad@gfwc.org](mailto:aconstad@gfwc.org). We will not be able to print all articles due to newsletter length restrictions, but Alyssa will contact each club or individual to confirm that their submission has been received. Please feel free to contact Alyssa if you have any further questions. The WHRC Committee looks forward to learning more about your club's history!



## Marketplace: GFWC Business Cards

These professionally printed cards are full color with full bleeds. Premium quality

business cards are essential in making a great first impression. They are great tools for marketing and networking yourself or your club. [Click here](#) to view quantities and prices.

\*Due to the customization required for this product, please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

\*\*Shipping included in cost. Shipped separately via UPS, which does not ship to P.O. Boxes.

### **Our Contact Information**

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