

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - May 4, 2017



GFWC Attends A Nation United For A Safer Future 2017 Gun Violence and Prevention Summit

This week, GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman Becky Weber and GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman Cynthia Geis are in Washington, D.C. to participate in A Nation United For A Safer Future 2017 Gun Violence and Prevention Summit. As stated in the *GFWC Club Manual*, 19% of domestic violence situations involve a weapon and the presence of a gun increases the risk of a homicide occurring by 500%. GFWC is committed to ending domestic violence and supports legislation that would keep guns out of the hands of those convicted of misdemeanor stalking. GFWC also supports prohibiting abusive dating partners from owning firearms. The summit was hosted by Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Brady Campaign, and aims to build a safer future for all Americans. At the summit, Becky and Cynthia learned more about advocating for laws that will protect victims of domestic violence. "The summit focused on gun safety



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

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and action to end senseless gun violence, while protecting everyone's second amendment rights," Becky said.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence provides information about the connection between firearms and domestic violence—[click here](#) to learn more. To read GFWC's resolutions pertaining to guns and domestic violence, please refer to the Resolutions on *GFWC.org*, which can be found [here](#).



Join the Campaign for Children's Smiles!

Every three minutes, a child is born with a cleft lip or cleft palate. Since 1982, Operation Smile has provided hundreds of thousands of free surgeries for children from more than 60 countries. In 2018, GFWC will sponsor a medical mission with Operation Smile to provide surgeries for children who would otherwise not have access to them. GFWC will also give a few clubwomen the chance to witness this life-changing experience firsthand! Clubs donating \$500 or more to Operation Smile will be entered into a GFWC-sponsored drawing. For each additional \$500, clubs will receive another entry into the drawing. Winning clubs will be able to give one member the opportunity to participate in a self-funded Operation Smile Medical Mission in Central America! Clubs may participate in this campaign through October 31, 2017. GFWC will draw the winning tickets on November 8, 2017, and will notify winners by November 15. Contact Victoria Rusu-Ebert at Victoria.Ebert@operationsmile.org for more information.

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

Congratulations Janelle Germanos!

We congratulate Communications Coordinator Janelle Germanos on her acceptance to Georgetown University's graduate program in Public Relations and Corporate Communications. As Janelle will be leaving GFWC to focus on her studies May 5, we wish to thank her for the outstanding contributions she has made to GFWC's Communications Department. Since joining GFWC in September 2015, she has led our social media outreach, written inspiring stories for both *News & Notes* and *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and brighten the days of Headquarters staff with her good cheer.

Best wishes for all your future success!

Help GFWC Tennessee Win a \$100,000 to Promote Literacy

GFWC Tennessee is looking to promote literacy by competing in Gannett's ACT (A Community Thrives) Grant Program. If they win, GFWC Tennessee clubwomen would use the \$100,000 grant to build Christmas trees constructed of children's book at hospitals throughout the state. **Help GFWC Tennessee win the grant so**

Headquarters is pleased to announce that the Campaign has already received a \$5,000 contribution from GFWC Florida. International President Sheila E. Shea gratefully accepted the donation on behalf of Operation Smile during the Florida State Convention. GFWC Florida's generosity will undoubtedly put a smile on the faces of many children in need.



GFWC Mississippi Is “Informing Minds and Inspiring Hearts”

GFWC Mississippi President Tinker Forrester has a great love for all things creative and she believes that artistic ability lies within each of us. For these reasons she became involved with the T.K. Martin Center's EXPRESS Yourself! Art program at Mississippi University in 2006, by hosting the program's first art show. She has since continued her support by selecting the EXPRESS Yourself! Art program as the Special Project for her administration. The program provides Mississippi residents with severe physical impairments the opportunity to experience the power of self-expression through art.

Utilizing laser-guided devices and trained volunteers who act “as neutral arms,” physically challenged individuals, most of whom have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, learn to paint on canvas. A teacher with EXPRESS Yourself! proudly described the program this way, “A person who is unable to hold a paint brush becomes capable of creating subtle, exacting works of art.” The

they can promote literacy! Visit <http://act.usatoday.com/submit-an-idea/#/gallery/60443919>, where you can vote for the project daily until **May 12.** Share the link with your club members and encourage them to vote for this great cause.

GFWC Membership Quarterly

GFWC has created a new publication, *Membership Quarterly*. Each club president will receive a copy in the mail. The theme of the first issue is the "Benefits of Belonging". The publication outlines many of the valuable reasons to be a part of GFWC and how to find additional information about perks and programs. We ask that club presidents share their copy of the *Membership Quarterly* during upcoming club meetings. You may also download the newsletter by [clicking here](#).

If club presidents do not receive a copy of the *Membership Quarterly*, they may email Membership Services and Programs Director Melanie Gisler at mgisler@gfwc.org.

creative process also helps participants to better cope with emotional strains and traumatic events, such as the loss of beloved friends and family members.

The art program is currently funded through grants and the sale of artists' paintings, prints, and notecards. The artist do not pay a fee to participate and EXPRESS Yourself! provides all of the materials needed to create their masterpieces. President Forrester's goal is to ensure the future of the program with the help of Mississippi clubwomen by raising \$25,000 for an endowment.

As the 60th President of GFWC Mississippi, Tinker Forrester is leading a campaign to "Inform Minds and Inspire Hearts" by exhibiting how much individuals with physical challenges can accomplish. You may find inspiration and view examples of the artists' work by [clicking here](#).

WHRC Newsletter Call for Articles

Over the past year, clubwomen from across the county have sent in stories about their own clubs and past clubwomen for publication in the WHRC newsletter. These stories have provided us with inspiration and historical perspective on GFWC and on our own lives as women. However, knowledge of most of these stories would not be possible without the archives that contain them. The upcoming edition of the WHRC newsletter, which will arrive in June, will be focusing on GFWC archival projects across the country. We encourage you to send in your stories on miraculous archival saves, ongoing preservation projects, or even future plans for your club's documents, pictures, and other archival materials. This edition will be accompanied by a major announcement about our own archival project at Headquarters. Please send in your submissions to WHRC manager, Alyssa Constad, at aconstad@gfwc.org by May 18.



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Rosies Kept America Running during World War II

Are you a Rosie? Rosies worked in factories and shipyards during WWII to make sure soldiers on the front lines were never short of vital warfighting equipment. Munitions, planes, tanks, and ships by the score were manufactured by American women. If you count yourself among these heroes, GFWC Headquarters would like to hear from you. We are in the process of writing a feature article for *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* that will

International Update: American Women's Club of Toronto

The American Women's Club of Toronto (AWCT) will celebrate their 100th Anniversary this weekend on May 7. Along with a reception and brunch, their program will include a special presentation by Jonathan Walford, Co-founder and Director of the Fashion History Museum, "A Century of North American Style: Canadian and American Dress." Mr. Walford will illustrate the fascinating journey that technology, modernity, and femininity took during the last century in a lecture detailing fashion history since 1917, with examples of Canadian and American dress. GFWC International Liaisons Committee Chairman Elaine Ko-Talmadge will be attending the celebration.

Another reason for celebration, AWCT has met their goal of 100 blankets for Project Linus. The final blanket was completed during a March meeting when members added the fringe around the blanket's edge. AWCT also continues its work with Sleeping Children Around the World, stamps for Oxfam charities, and donations to the Children's Book Bank. They also support Victim Services of York Region by contributing duffel bags full of necessary items for victims and will be preparing for the New Circles Prom Boutique in May. AWCT has much to celebrate as they mark a century together.

Clean Hands Count for World Hand Hygiene Day on May 5

In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) introduced the [Clean Hands Count campaign](#) that focuses on improving adherence to hand hygiene recommendations and empowering patients to play a role in helping to prevent infections. Celebrate World Hand Hygiene Day on May 5, and start a conversation about why [#CleanHandsCount](#) for safe health care.

recognize your invaluable contribution to the war effort. Please email pr@gfwc.org or call 202-347-3168 to tell us your story.

Apply for the Easterseals Shelby P. Hamlett Award

GFWC clubs and states across the country are participating in Easterseals' campaign to provide services for children and adults with disabilities. To recognize the clubs' efforts from January to December 2016, the General Federation of Women's Clubs and Easterseals will bestow awards at the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in three categories: Enhancement of Awareness of EasterSeals Services, Fundraising Efforts for Easterseals, and Volunteer Service for Easterseals.

[Click here](#) to learn more and download the application. The deadline to apply is **May 19, 2017**.

In The News

The **Torrance Woman's Club** (California) was profiled in an article in *The Daily Breeze* for their annual fashion show luncheon. Several clubwomen served as models, raising money for scholarships. [Click here](#) to read the article.



Marketplace: GFWC Emblem Stickers

GFWC Emblem Stickers are perfect for cards, notes, gifts, and more! There are 63 stickers per sheet. Each sticker is one inch in diameter. \$5 per sheet at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

Our Contact Information

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