

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - August 31, 2017



## GFWC Texas Assists Victims of Hurricane Harvey

Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall last Friday, people in Houston, across the Gulf Coast, and around the country have come to the aid of those affected by the devastating flooding in southeastern Texas. Many of our own clubwomen have been impacted and many are offering assistance. GFWC Texas President Patti Poe says, "I have received phone calls and emails from all over the United States from the smallest clubs to state presidents asking what they might do to help in Texas."

In response to this outpouring of concern, [GFWC Texas](#) has established a fund to aid hurricane victims. If you would like to support their effort, send monetary donations to: GFWC Texas, 2312 San Gabriel, Austin, TX 78704-5014. Please write "Hurricane Harvey" on the memo line of your check. Once flood waters have abated, the funds will be used to purchase crucial items such as food, water, clothing, and household necessities for victims.

Over the last week, we have witnessed incredible acts of generosity as neighbor helps neighbor; as first-responders work tirelessly to



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.

ensure the safety of residents; and as people across the country reach out in support. Help is still required to alleviate immediate needs and assist in long-term rebuilding. President Poe thanks everyone who is contributing to these efforts.

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## The Annual August Board Meeting and Day in Boston

Over 170 GFWC leaders gathered for the 2017 Board of Directors meeting August 24-27 in Quincy, Massachusetts. The event granted board members the opportunity to tour the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, as well as visit the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate as part of Saturday's *Day in Boston* event.

This was a particularly auspicious time for GFWC's board members to visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum as 2017 marks the centennial of the president's birth. Among the first to see the new exhibition "JFK 100—Milestones and Mementos," board members related to the president on a personal level by viewing items from his home life.

After reminiscing at the Presidential Library, board members traveled to the adjacent Edward M. Kennedy Institute (EMK Institute) to learn about the workings and achievements of the United States Senate. At EMK, board members watched the *Great Senate Debates* program -- a blend of live performance and historic film footage focusing on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They also took part in the *Today's Vote* program, assuming the role of senator and debating the merits of

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at [kgarlick@gfwc.org](mailto:kgarlick@gfwc.org) and you're all set!

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## New on the Blog!

Read GWFC's blog article about clubwomen who were Rosies—women who stepped into the male-dominated work force during World War II to make important contributions to the war effort from the home front. You can also **learn about the nationwide Ring the Bell for Rosies event that is occurring this Labor Day to honor Rosies.**

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legislation recently considered by the real Senate in Washington, D.C.

While the *Day in Boston* gave our leaders the opportunity to learn valuable information that will aid their advocacy endeavors, it was just one part of the Board of Directors meeting. Board members spent an additional two days discussing the Federation's goals, planning for the year ahead, and listening to influential speakers. One of the presenters, Executive Director of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association Patricia Depew Wirth, spoke of the need to commemorate the U.S. suffrage movement including GFWC's substantial role in the fight for equality.

GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea took great pride in welcoming the 2016-2018 Board of Directors to her home state of Massachusetts. "I am certain GFWC's leaders gained a better understanding of why I cherish Boston -- both the people and the history -- from their brief stay. I also know they will return to their own hometowns with a renewed sense of commitment to our great Federation," stated President Shea.



## Set Sail with GFWC and Princess Cruises

**MARCH 21-31, 2018**

You're invited to join GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea and your fellow clubwomen for an unparalleled experience – sailing the Panama Canal.

While explorers began dreaming of a route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans over 400 years ago, carving of the 51-mile canal was not completed until 1914. Travel through this man-made wonder of the modern world with Princess, the number one cruise line in the region. Go beyond the locks to explore the wildlife-filled rainforest of Central America. While on the voyage you will dine on fresh, local cuisine, visit colorful towns, and unwind on sun-kissed beaches.

Ports of call will include: Fort Lauderdale, Aruba, Cartagena, Colon, Costa Rica, and Jamaica. Fares for the 10-day tour, departing and returning to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, start at \$1,499 plus additional taxes of \$370 per person.

**The deadline for providing a deposit has been extended to**



## 87 Miles for Smiles

Margie Gonzalez has spent the last few months walking around the local lake and getting closer to her goal of providing 20 surgeries for those in need with each mile. Margie, a member of the **Plant City Woman's Club** (Florida), was raising funds for GFWC Partner Operation Smile by walking 87 miles, a mile for every year she has been alive. When she completed her "87 Miles for Smiles" fundraiser

on August 25, she was accompanied by her fellow clubwomen and greeted at the finish line with a special brunch to celebrate her achievement.

Margie's walk is the latest fundraiser supported by her club's International Outreach Committee and their Chairman Patricia Wolff. During the last year, the club has raised over \$4,000 hosting cooking classes, an international fashion show, and a yard sale. Margie's astounding success can be attributed to both her passion for the cause and the promotional efforts of Chairman Wolff. In recent weeks, Margie's story has appeared in two local newspapers, on the pages of a magazine, on social media, and on the area's morning news program. Thanks to this media savvy campaign Margie has received contributions from the local community and from as far away as Canada.

In one of her many media appearances, Margie was quoted as saying, "Whenever I would wake up and just be too tired to go walk or considering stopping, I would just think of the faces of the children who have successfully had the surgery and suddenly I was ready to go. They're my inspiration."

With her remarkable and giving heart, clubwomen will no doubt consider Margie an inspiration. Happy 87th birthday!

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## Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking in Louisiana

Human trafficking occurs across America and throughout Louisiana. Children from every walk of life are being abducted, deceived, or cajoled into harmful situations from which they may never escape. Becky Akins, GFWC Louisiana's Director of Junior Clubs, was horrified to learn that Louisiana is one of the top 20 states of human trafficking. In an effort to shed light on the issue, she partnered with State President Denise Cannatella in hope that they could make a difference.

Becky and GFWC Louisiana are supporting the construction of [Metanoia](#), a proposed safe house that will offer medical, educational, and psychological assistance to adolescent victims of human trafficking. Through both in-kind and monetary donations, GFWC

**October 1.** Final payment is due by December 20, 2017. To reserve your cabin contact Avoya Travel Representative Linda Stone at 866-617-2470.

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## Be The Hero

There could not be an easier way to be the Hero and support your cause. Earn 50% profit and the bulbs get delivered directly to your supporters. They are 100% guaranteed, with no minimum order and no upfront cost required! Order your free sales supplies to start your door to door fundraiser or build your online campaign today!

Raise fantastic profits, all the while beautifying your community and rejuvenating Mother Earth.

### Earn 50% profit from sales!

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



Louisiana is ensuring survivors of human trafficking will have a place to go and receive the help they need to recover.

The issue is becoming an increasing concern, and as Becky says, "People do not like to talk about it." However, part of her project is to get people talking about it, and learning about it, because that is the only way to create change and help victims. As she remarked, "If we can help one victim or bring awareness to one mother so that she recognizes the signs before her daughter becomes a victim, then the project will be a success. I think just giving this appalling crime a spotlight and offering support for law enforcement officers who fight this daily is a win for us. I hope to continue to raise awareness and educate people in our state of how they can prevent human trafficking."

Human trafficking is a serious issue, and conversations about it are necessary. Luckily, GFWC clubwomen like Becky are making sure those conversations are taking place.

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## A Woman's Journey

GFWC is collaborating with Johns Hopkins Medicine's *A Woman's Journey* to offer GFWC members the latest health information specifically focused on us as women! Stay tuned for health information in *News & Notes* or *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* and learn about women's health conferences throughout the country! There are already several conferences planned throughout the East Coast:

- Baltimore, MD - Saturday, November 11, 2017
- Palm Beach, FL - Thursday, January 25, 2018
- Naples, FL - Friday, February 23, 2018
- Tampa, FL - Wednesday, February 28, 2018
- St. Petersburg, FL - Thursday, March 1, 2018
- Sarasota, FL - Friday, March 2, 2018
- Greater Washington, D.C. Area - Wednesday, May 2, 2018

To request an invitation to one of the above conference, please go to:

[http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/awomansjourney/invitation\\_request\\_form.html](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/awomansjourney/invitation_request_form.html)

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

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## Partner Spotlight: Heifer International

Fall is a great time to get active with Heifer International! It's not too early to plan your holiday shopping with Heifer, or create an even bigger impact by hosting a *Living Gift Market* in your community.

*Living Gift Markets* are charity events that can last a few hours or even a few days. Either way, shoppers buy gifts that lead to eliminating hunger and poverty around the world. You can find planning ideas, instructions, and resources on our website, [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) under the "Get Involved" tab.

With great partners like you, we can bring an end to hunger and poverty!

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## In the News

The **GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League** and the **GFWC Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs** were among the sponsors of their community's annual Women's Equality Day celebration. An article in the *Tribune Chronicle*, highlights the day's activities and provides a detailed historical account of



## Marketplace: GFWC Earrings

GFWC earrings are the perfect accessories at any GFWC event! Be sure to add these to your growing GFWC jewelry collection. The earrings are on stainless steel fishhook wires; charms are made

of stainless steel. Available for \$15 per pair at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

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violence faced by suffragists during the 'Night of Terror' a century ago.

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### Our Contact Information

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