



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

October 5, 2023



National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

#GFWC23NDS

Thank You!!

It's fantastic to hear that the Inaugural GFWC National Day of Service was a tremendous success! The engagement of over 880 Clubs, 24 Districts, 29 State Federations, 5 National Clubs, 1 Region (Middle Atlantic Region), and 1 International Affiliate Club (Aruba) demonstrates a remarkable commitment to making a positive impact on the serious issue of Food Insecurity.

The diversity of projects, ranging from supporting food banks and soup kitchens to backpack programs, the collections of food, and gift cards, reflects the dedication and creativity of GFWC members. Seeing the effort towards addressing such a crucial issue is heartwarming.

Your GFWC International President is proud of each of you for making a significant difference in your communities. The spirit of service and collaboration showcased during this event is a testament to the power of collective action in addressing important social challenges.

Congratulations to everyone involved in organizing and participating in the GFWC National Day of Service. It's a wonderful example of the positive change that can be achieved through community service. Well done!

You are truly *Living the Volunteer Spirit!*

Deb Strahanoski
GFWC International President 2022-2024

2023 NDS Impact Reporting Form

If your club participated in the 2023 GFWC National Day of Service, please complete and submit the 2023 NDS Impact Reporting Form by **October 31, 2023**. The form can be found in the Digital Library under "N" in the NDS folder.

Clubs must submit the NDS Impact Reporting Form to be recognized.



View the 2023 NDS Photo Album

<https://gfwc.smugmug.com/2023-GFWC-National-Day-of-Service>

See photos of all the creative projects clubs completed last Saturday!
New photos are being uploaded every day as reporting forms are processed.

Mobilize to Immunize with Shot@Life

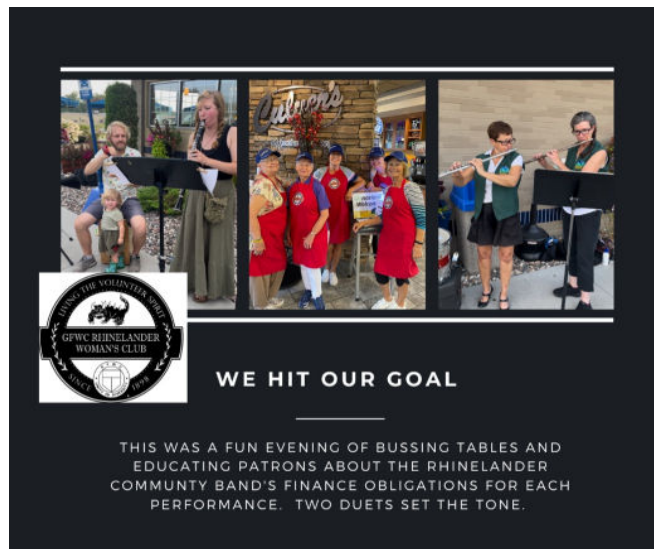
While the world has made great progress in increasing childhood immunization over the past few decades, one in five children around the world still does not have access to vaccines. Mobilize to Immunize with Shot@Life this fall—help increase access to lifesaving vaccines by telling your members of Congress that funding for global health is more important than ever.

Please take two minutes to sign the petition and then share it with your club: shotatlife.org/petition. To get more involved with advocacy this fall, visit bit.ly/shotresources.



Welcome Olivia!

Please extend a warm welcome to our new Office and Membership Coordinator, Olivia Higgins. She has been working at GFWC as a temp for a few months now, and we are so excited she has joined us full-time.



Wisconsin State President's Project: Arts, LIVE!

By: Nancy Dickman, GFWC Wisconsin State President

The GFWC Wisconsin President's Project is named "Arts LIVE!" The many programs and interests of GFWC were considered in evaluating a project that would resonate with members, our FIRST community to support physically and mentally, and with GFWC values. It became so brilliantly clear - it was time to lighten the veil of our heavy lifting service and CELEBRATE. What better way than to formulate a special project with a goal to elevate joyful creativity, teamwork, and a sense of accomplishment in each of our communities?

“Arts LIVE!” is the support of non-professional performing arts. This program helps fund anything from youth choirs, youth symphonies, school drama/musical performances, marching bands, solo/ensemble events, band trips, community bands, dance troupes, swing choirs, summer theater camps, forensics, Odyssey of the Mind teams, Destination Imagination, instrument donations, and more.

A corporate donation, along with funds from the GFWC-WI treasury, is used to reimburse a portion of club donations to facilitate performing arts programs and participation. Detailed reimbursement instructions are included on the GFWC-WI.org website, along with a long list of suggested program ideas.

The response has been wonderful! More than 25% of the clubs from every corner of the state participated in the first year of the program, and many more are upcoming.

At the 2023 state convention, clubs pulled out the stops on their creativity. Articulated mannequins were decorated in every theme of art expression and live-auctioned. Members’ vision for the mannequins covered the spectrum from patriotic Americ’Anna’, Bob Ross painting at his easel, the Phantom of the Opera with a working lantern, rose and Playbill, and the cast of Wizard of Oz on the yellow brick road. Proceeds were used to provide instruments and music lessons to underprivileged Wisconsin students.

The delighted faces of convention attendees reflected how this rejuvenating and light-hearted program re-energizes members as they prepare for that next big community project while the program contributes funds to club treasuries to support those more serious community improvement efforts that GFWC-WI volunteers readily rally to tackle.

“Arts LIVE!” it completes the circle.



GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children

by: Katie Robey, GFWC Juniors' Special Project Chairman

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs has a strong history of

advocating for children and supporting them in our local communities. All GFWC clubs have the opportunity to create projects and participate in activities for children during GFWC Advocates for Children Week, celebrated each year during the last full week of October.

For the 2022-2024 administration, clubs were challenged to focus on children removed from their homes due to unsafe conditions by collecting personal hygiene items, clothing, and blankets. In 2022, GFWC Lake Placid Junior Woman's Club (FL) took up the challenge and donated \$342 of in-kind donations of baby diapers, baby wipes, baby food, baby bottles, and pacifiers to Ft. Myers Children's Home Society. The GFWC Woman's League of Mount Holly (NJ) held "Socktober." They put up a clothesline with clothespins in the library, asking visitors to donate and hang socks. A local Girl Scout Troop counted 1,031 socks donated to six children's organizations.

GFWC has created a template for the Advocates for Children State Proclamation to spread the word on state and club projects. A sample proclamation can be found on the GFWC Portal under "A" in the Advocacy folder. GFWC State Officers are encouraged to contact their governor's office for details on submitting a proclamation. The proclamation can be modified to be submitted to a mayor or select board. In 2022, the GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club (SC) accepted a proclamation from its mayor and city council recognizing the club's efforts that benefitted children in their community.

Does your club have its activities planned for this year's **Advocates for Children Week, October 22-28, 2023**? I can't wait to read about them in your reports.



Growing Members with Cyber Clubs

By: Catrina Sistrunk, GFWC Membership Committee Member

When I first heard *cyber club*, I thought, "Do you have to be a techie to join?" No, you don't have to be a member of the Geek Squad to join. Cyber and virtual clubs are synonymous and are real, federated clubs! Although all clubs are different, cyber clubs tend to meet less frequently than traditional clubs and typically meet via virtual meeting platforms such as Zoom. Cyber clubs may fill the gaps of traditional brick-and-mortar clubs through a greater outreach not limited by geographical area.

Potential cyber club members include women who:

- can't meet at traditional meeting times such as lunchtime or in the early evening
- have relocated temporarily or permanently
- lack transportation
- are military personnel or spouses
- are past Juniorette members while in college/trade school
- have extremely limited free time
- live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities
- are friends but live far apart

Cyber club members tend to micro-volunteer by participating in parts of a project and sending their labors to one chairman to collect and assemble or by completing a project at home and reporting their progress to the club.

Cyber clubs transcend all physical boundaries and unite members with similar interests and passions! If you want to start a GFWC Cyber Club, locate the Sample Bylaws template in the Member Portal: My Digital Library > Resources > "L" > Leadership Toolkit > 4. Club, District, and State Leader Resources > 2023 Sample Bylaws Cyber Final.docx

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Sedley Woman's Club (VA)



The GFWC Sedley Woman's Club participated in the GFWC National Day of Service by volunteering at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Members sorted food donations, stocked shelves, and assembled boxes. They took a tour of the facilities to learn how the food bank feeds people in Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

Submit photos and a short story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to PR@gfwc.org.

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