

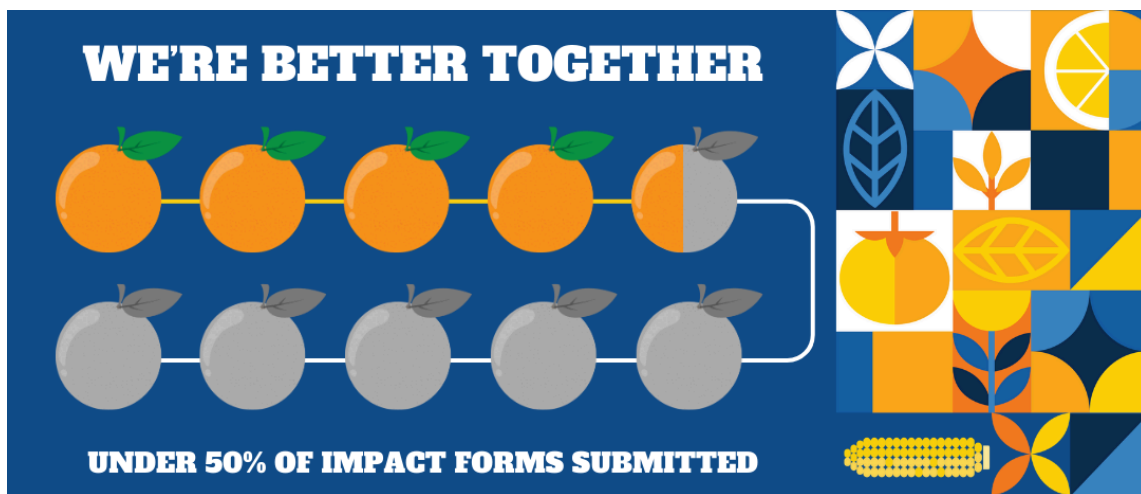


NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

[Unsubscribe](#)

October 17, 2024



Reminder: Complete the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service Impact Report

With over 1,000 groups participating, measuring our collective impact helps show the power of GFWC. Currently, **under 50% of registered clubs** have submitted their project data. Help us color in our bushel of oranges by submitting your form today!

Please submit one GFWC NDS Impact Report Form per group without delay! It is of primary importance that we gather data to show our **total** impact made by all GFWC groups engaging in our GFWC National Day of Service on September 28!

Remember to upload up to five action shots of your project for a chance to be featured in the Fall issue of *Clubwoman Magazine*!

Submit Form



You are cordially invited to attend the festive 2024 GFWC Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Join us as we feature the “Season of Giving” celebrating the most meaningful gift—the joy of serving others and the difference we make.

We hope you will join us in person at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC for a day of festivity.

Please RSVP at memberportal.gfwc.org/events and select ONE time slot in which you would like to attend.

If you are planning to bring a group, please contact GFWC Events Manager Nishu Raina at NRaina@gfwc.org



During Advocates for Children Week clubs and members are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement or child protective service agencies to identify their needs for children or families. In addition to responding to their determined needs, clubs can create “busy bags” that may be filled with items such as books, coloring books, crayons, art supplies, fidget toys, stuffed animals, and so much more. These bags will be immensely helpful in occupying children’s minds during challenging experiences.

Cares & Concerns



GFWC sends our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Lilly Ledbetter, a remarkable equal pay activist. Ms. Ledbetter’s fight for an equitable salary led to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. A former member of the GFWC Alabama Progressive Study Club, Ms. Ledbetter’s commitment to equal pay for equal work demonstrates the impact that just one member can make.

Ride 4 A Woman - Empowering African Women



Our September 2021 journey to Bwindi, Uganda, initially intended for gorilla trekking, took an unexpected turn. Our guide led us to Ride 4 A Woman (R4W), where I, a professional quilt fabric and pattern designer, was pleasantly surprised to meet African quilters!

R4W supports over 300 women in 12 villages near Bwindi who are victims of domestic abuse, poverty, and homelessness. There is no running water and little electricity in the area.

Evelyn and her husband Denis founded R4W in 2009. In 2011, they expanded their bicycle rental business to make woven baskets and clothing, including quilts, on treadle sewing machines using charcoal irons. The organization relies totally on those sales and donations. In 2021 and 2023, I had the privilege of working closely with the women, teaching them quilt techniques.

How Ride 4 A Woman provides for women and their families:

- Women receive lunch and payment on days they work
- Sponsorships for primary and secondary school
- Solar panels for homes (mud brick, one or two rooms)
- Goat program for economic security
- Water filtration system for safe community water
- Hope for a Girl Child – counseling to delay marriage and pregnancy

This is a unique and compelling opportunity to assist impoverished women.

For more information and photos, visit www.GrizzlyGulchGallery.com/African-quilters and www.ride4awoman.org/all-about-r4w.

To support Ride 4 A Woman, click [here](#), where 100% of the proceeds go to the Ride 4 A Woman Program.



Some Challenges, but More Successes!

By: Marcia L. Wilson, 2024-2026 Middle Atlantic
Region President

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of this Middle Atlantic Region conference was that the hotel had not completed the promised renovations, so all day Saturday was in a wedding tent in the back parking lot! Federation members are adaptable, and all went splendidly, if a bit humid due to the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

Our conference aligned with the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service, with members donating 1,268 pounds and 990 items of food, plus \$255 in cash to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, which serves 250,000 individuals in 27 counties.

A tour of Pennsylvania's magnificent state capitol was a highlight – you've not seen a capitol until you've seen ours.

Instead of naming a region project for this administration, I chose to feature the host state's special project at each conference. Pennsylvania's project of mental health awareness provided a speaker from the National Association on Mental Illness at the state night dinner and a small service project to write notes of encouragement for homeless teens.

Centerpieces for meals included personal care items for a local domestic violence shelter and food that was donated to a food bank collection.

Several members held a walk for St. Jude Children's Hospital early one morning, coincidentally pairing with the Mayor of Harrisburg's request that a donation in her name be made to St. Jude in place of a speaker's fee. Members

also donated \$500 for the GFWC Annual Giving program designated for the [Façade Restoration and Beautification Project](#).



The MAR 2024 GFWC National Day of Service
Project "Fill the Bus."



Elvis was in the building!



The Foundation of Our Future

By: Dana Jones, GFWC Education and Libraries Chairman

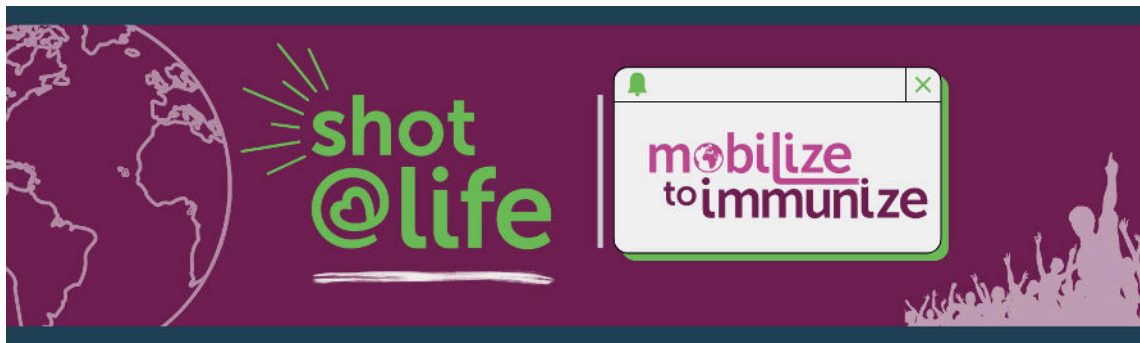
Would you agree that education is a necessary foundation for life? Whether we move beyond a high school diploma or head right to the workforce after high school, the basics of education are important to our success in life. Now there are more options for us to learn than ever before. There are opportunities to take online courses or seminars, read books that we may not have had access to previously through e-books, or attend a course through a community college. The goal is to keep learning as we go through life and set a good example for others in our world. What subject interests you? Where can you learn more about it? If you wish to pursue it, there is an opportunity for you to learn about it – no matter your age!

To get back to the basics and the starting foundation of learning, the 2024-2026 Education and Libraries Community Impact Initiative is “Supporting High-quality Early Learning Programs.” Our youngest learners need as much support as we can provide, and club members can make a difference by volunteering time or needed supplies to a program in their community. Just taking time to read a story or two can make a difference to the children and add a lot of fun to their program (and to your day). Many suggestions are in the GFWC Club Manual so make that community connection and help a child love learning!

Upcoming Awareness Months

October: National Book Month

November: Picture Book Month



Join us as we *Mobilize to Immunize* this fall with Shot@Life, a campaign of the United Nations Foundation that advocates to give children around the world access to vaccines.

Learn how to advocate for important global childhood immunization programs: shotatlife.org/resources, and sign their updated petition to tell U.S. policymakers we need to vaccinate the world: bit.ly/gfwcpetition

THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES

GFWC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE NEXT *GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY* WEBINARS PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN.

OCTOBER 23 @ 7 P.M. – Celebrate Child Advocacy Week. David Coffey, Safe Surfin' Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Cyber Safety and Responsibility educational initiative created by law enforcement professionals who are dedicated not only to protecting youth from those who would do them harm but also pro-actively educating youth in the safe and responsible use of today's ever-changing technology.
https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_WCZNa3Dp5v2TF@seNeYxw



Don't miss the next webinar! **Sign up today** to learn from 2024-2026 GFWC Honorary Chairman David Coffey.

OCTOBER 23 @ 7:00 pm EASTERN– Celebrate Child Advocacy Week with David Coffey, Safe Surfin' Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Cyber Safety and Responsibility educational initiative created by law enforcement professionals who are dedicated not only to protecting youth from those who would do them harm but also pro-actively educating youth in the safe and responsible use of today's ever-changing technology.

<https://bit.ly/gfwcgateway2>



Membership: Focus on the Benefits of Belonging

By: Karyn Charvat, GFWC Membership Chairman

During October, November, and December, the GFWC Membership Committee has asked that clubs focus on the Benefits of Belonging to GFWC, which can help clubs with their retention and recruitment efforts. Here are just a few to share at your next meeting:

- **Strength in Unity.** GFWC members strengthen their voices in shaping public issues and policy through the combined efforts of women serving in their club, District, State Federation, Region, and national level.
- **Support and encouragement.** GFWC offers a network of members with similar interests and concerns. Fun, fellowship, and lasting friendships are a large part of the GFWC experience.
- **Leadership training and professional development.** Knowledge and experience acquired through GFWC volunteer training and community service can enhance a personal resume and open the door to new career or personal opportunities.
- **A varied volunteer menu.** GFWC offers many national resources to help clubs plan and create projects through our Community Service Program areas. GFWC also supports Special Programs that advance issues of Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention and encourages members to become Advocates for Children.
- **Health and happiness.** Studies show that the personal satisfaction that comes from making a positive difference helps volunteers live longer, function better, and enjoy life to the fullest.

For more information on how to retain and recruit members, be sure to download the 2024-2026 Club Manual, which in itself is a tremendous ***benefit of belonging*** to GFWC!



Volunteers in Action: GFWC Tempe Woman's Club (AZ)

The Mayor and Council at the City of Tempe, Arizona, recently declared October 20-26, 2024 as Advocates for Children Week. Standing are four members of the GFWC Tempe Woman's Club with the Council to accept the Proclamation. This is the third year the club has been awarded this Proclamation by the City of Tempe.

Tips for writing a proclamation may be found in GFWC Digital Library in the Legislative Toolkit or in the Legislation/Public Policy section of the Club Manual.

Please send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words on your project to PR@GFWC.org



GFWC Headquarters
1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036

www.GFWC.org

You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)