



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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October 24, 2024

GFWC: Connecting to Communities



General Federation of Women's Clubs Joins the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation as a Distinguished National Partner

GFWC is proud to announce its newest partnership with the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation. The mission to establish a national monument in Washington, D.C., to commemorate women's fight for the vote and honor the pioneers of women's equality is one of which GFWC is delighted to be a part.

"The General Federation of Women's Clubs has been a force for good in this country for more than a century," said **Anna Laymon, President and CEO of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation**. "GFWC's commitment to women's equality began in 1868 when journalist Jane Cunningham Croly attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Because she was a woman, Croly was denied admittance. In response, she formed a women's club that would eventually become known as the General Federation of Women's Clubs. GFWC's history is the history of women's fight for equity and inclusion, and we are honored to be one more chapter in GFWC's story."

In honor of the partnership, GFWC has established the goal to raise \$150,000 for the monument, with a \$26,000 founding gift for the fund to be contributed by Colonel Carol A. Habgood, USAF Retired, GFWC Parliamentarian.

It is a great privilege for GFWC to partner with the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation and participate in the establishment of the first monument commemorating women and their historical progress in our nation.

View the full press release [here](#).

Ways to Contribute

Make a GFWC Recognized Contribution Online

By Mail: Please include GFWC on the memo line
Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation
1201 Connecticut Ave NW Ste 531 PMB 668856
Washington, District of Columbia 20036

If you have already made a donation and would like it to count toward GFWC's goal, please email info@womensmonument.org



Circle of Service

By: Laurie O'Kelly, 2024-2026 Southern Region
President

The GFWC Southern Region Conference was held October 3-6 in Greenville, SC. Hurricane Helene did not stop club members in the Southern Region from gathering for an informative and fun weekend. We shopped at the vendor tables and along Main Street to do our part to stimulate the economy. Members from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina supported hurricane relief as members donated water, diapers, and non-perishable food, with an approximate value of \$1,500, to Samaritan House. We also donated approximately \$1,500 in clothing and new shoes to Safe Harbor, a local

domestic violence shelter, and raised \$1,650 for Camp Greenville at the Junior Fun Night.

The theme for the conference was, “The Hills are Alive” and focused on the arts. We visited the Greenville County Museum of Art, attended a cooking demonstration at the Cook’s Station, heard from Susan Boyer, a local mystery writer, and enjoyed music from Jennifer Goree and Lee Gregory.

The theme I chose for this administration is Circle of Service, with a special focus on food insecurities and Heifer International’s Flock of Chicks program. A \$20 donation provides a family with a starter flock of 10-50 chicks and training to empower them to turn the donation into a lifetime of opportunity. Southern Region members enthusiastically embraced this project and donated \$2,060 during the Region Conference. I am honored to serve as president and represent the GFWC Southern Region.



GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Focus Area: Military Sexual Assault

By: Beth Smith, GFWC Signature Program Committee Member

Do you want the good news? In 2023, active military unwanted sexual contact declined. The bad news? Military sexual assault still exists.

We are on the right track as the U.S. military is hiring thousands of psychologists with a focus on reducing and preventing sexual assault and other harmful behaviors within all ranks. Find more information [here](#).

Helping survivors begins with empathy and understanding of their personal stories. These stories affect each of us differently, so be aware of your personal feelings and provide trigger warnings to your audience before going into detail. Do not underestimate the POWER in a personal story.

Survivors have bravely shared their stories here to help spread awareness.

<https://www.protectourdefenders.com/survivors-write-in/>

Resources exist for survivors of military sexual assault, but they can only help those who know about them. Department of Defense Safe Helpline provides materials that spread the word about help for military sexual assault survivors at your local veterans' center or homeless shelter. <https://shop.safehelpline.org/>



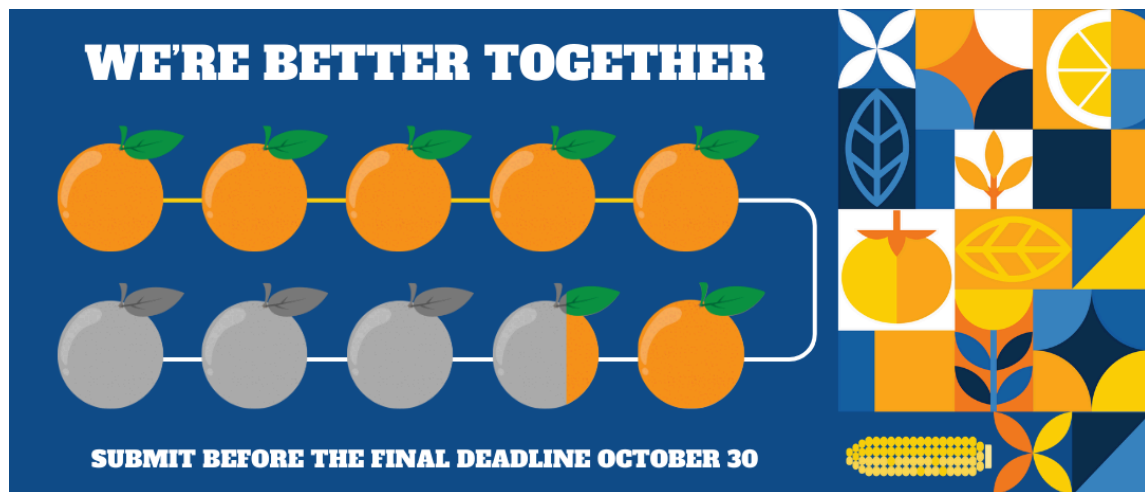
As the holiday season approaches, you are invited to join the GFWC Executive Committee and attend the 2024 GFWC Holiday Open House on Wednesday,

December 4, 2024. The celebration is inspired by the theme “Season of Giving.” The selfless gift of your time in supporting the needs of others is so valued.

Make plans now and 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



Thank you for Completing the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service Impact Report

If you missed the preliminary reporting deadline, please submit your Impact Report by Wednesday, October 30, 2024, to have your data included in our annual report. We need your data to show the full impact made on your communities on GFWC’s National Day of Service.

[Submit Form](#)



Legislative Corner

To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the White House, and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.

Congress is in recess until after the election. They will return mid-November to complete the work of the 118th Congress (2023-2024). Any legislation not enacted by the end of the year will need to be reintroduced next year. Let's take time to reflect on our successes. GFWC has long been advocating for program services and resources for survivors and their families, as well as education and prevention of domestic and sexual violence through our signature program. Over the past four decades, federal legislation has brought relief to survivors of gender-based violence and made great strides toward prevention.

Violence Against Women Act Celebrates 30th Anniversary: GFWC

International President Suellen Brazil celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act on September 12 by attending an inspiring event at the White House hosted by President Joe Biden, joined by members of Congress, Cabinet officials, and leaders from national organizations. On September 13, President Brazil attended a day-long summit at the Department of Justice focused on strengthening and improving survivor-centered and trauma-informed approaches in the civil and criminal justice systems. Speakers emphasized the need for a coordinated community response by integrating a wide array of services to respond to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Brazil explored ways GFWC clubs, working with local domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers, can participate in local integrated community plans. State Federations can host speakers to learn more about new funding which has been provided to U.S. Attorneys' Offices to partner with local stakeholders to reduce intimate partner firearm violence and to prioritize prosecutions of domestic violence offenders

prohibited from possessing firearms. New guidelines for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations were released. There is a new grant program to train law enforcement personnel and victim service providers to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence that also includes sex trafficking. Under the current administration, a new federal interagency initiative including the Departments of Justice, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs is working to increase VAWA housing protections for survivors while local public officials and state coalitions against domestic and sexual violence are increasingly concerned about safe and affordable housing. Explore ways GFWC can support survivors and their families in your local area.



Volunteers in Action: GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces (NM)

GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces in New Mexico chose to dedicate Advocacy for Children to educating and inspiring students with an opportunity to experience a performance from a live quartet group.

Progress Club of Las Cruces chose Central Elementary School, a low-income school of 192 elementary school students. Their goal was to expose these young minds to a new experience in each 30-minute session. The lead of the quartet did a small education demonstration on three different instruments and showed them the sounds that each instrument played.

The quartet performed several songs, starting with “Allegro,” composed by Mozart. A little girl said, “I know this song. It’s a ballerina song”. Of course, their favorite song in both sessions was “Cruel Summer” by Taylor Swift. The crowd of students quietly sang along with the quartet and tried to stay in their seats dancing.

At the end of the concert the teachers were smiling, the kids were happy, the musicians were excited and club members who watched this magic unfold were filled with joy. Several students did express, "I want to do that."

The principal thought it would be a great idea to bring something like this to the other low-income and inner-city schools in Las Cruces. Was this project successful? Yes. Education and inspiration were felt by all.

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

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