

GFWC

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CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

Protecting and Preserving
the Future of 1734 N Street

2024 GFWC National Day of
Service Globally

GFWC Women's Club of Aruba
Celebrates 90 Years



THE FIRST 100 DAYS

INTRODUCING THE 2024-2026
ADMINISTRATION



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

fall 2024 | volume 102 | issue 4

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WELCOME THE 2024-2026 GFWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

More than 200 members of the 2024-2026 General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Board of Directors convened in Washington, DC, August 22-25, to prepare for the new Administration. Here the Board of Directors gathered for an afternoon of historic tourism in the Library of Congress.



GFWC

CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

The magazine of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, whose members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

2024-2026 GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2024-2026 GFWC administration. I am incredibly honored to serve as your 55th GFWC International President during this pivotal period, a time in which historic progress can and will be made.

As GFWC members, we stand at the crossroads of opportunity and responsibility, driven by a collective desire to effect change that resonates far beyond local communities. During the first four months in office, I gained a deeper understanding of the importance of building connections—both within our organization and beyond—and how these connections form a compelling circle of influence that creates impact on a global scale.

Under the banner “Educate, Engage, Empower,” I invite you to empower individuals from all walks of life, providing the tools and knowledge necessary to shape the future. Education launches opportunities and fosters lifelong learning. Engagement creates connections that spark a sense of belonging. Empowerment triggers others to be catalysts of change, amplifying our impact.

Among key areas, a robust emphasis will be seen in:

- 1) Membership Recruitment and Retention. Attention is given to a GFWC Membership Task Force to identify best practices, training, strategies, and models that clubs may replicate.
- 2) Strategic Corporate Partnerships will enhance volunteer efforts and secure funding for key initiatives.
- 3) GFWC Learning Academy offers a customized online training experience accessible to all members and provides practical learning as we invest in our grassroots volunteers.

Tremendous inroads have been made through connections with high-ranking national officials and leaders aligned with our goals. Meeting President Joe Biden at the White House celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Violence Against Women Act was momentous. Progress has been evidenced in our new partnership and support of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation and an influential collaboration with the National Network to End Domestic Violence, along with other key organizations.

I am enormously proud to highlight the remarkable engagement in the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service, with over 1,000 registrations. Submitting your project data ensures that we fully gain the scope of our focus on ending hunger and food insecurity. The official total impact announcement will be coming soon.

Join me on the path to unleash the unlimited potential within each of us. Let’s envision the boundless possibilities for GFWC by establishing robust connections, internally and externally, to drive meaningful and lasting change.

Yours in Living the Volunteer Spirit,



SUELLEN B. BRAZIL
GFWC International President



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

Dear Fellow GFWC Sisters,

What an honor it is to serve you as the 37th GFWC Director of Junior Clubs! I look forward to working alongside you all as we continue the impactful work for which we are known. GFWC members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service, and we are passionate, creative, and untiring advocates as we work together. I love that we also have so much fun and build wonderful relationships with each other while we work hard!

The guiding concept for the Junior Administration is “Stronger Together.” We are stronger when we work together at all three levels of GFWC membership: Women’s, Junior, and Juniorette clubs. Our multi-generational membership is truly one of the benefits of belonging, and we can accomplish so much together. We will support existing Junior clubs and charter new Junior clubs nationwide. We will empower State Directors of Junior Clubs and encourage and equip Junior clubs in states without Directors. We will utilize technology to help ALL Junior members feel connected to GFWC and to each other, including learning about the numerous resources available to all members. We will continue to promote and develop the Junior Certification Program available to all Junior and Juniorette clubs.

Advocates for Children continues to be the Juniors’ Special Program. We are celebrating Advocates for Children Week very close to when you are reading this. Thank you to the clubs who did special projects to help children in your communities for this week and year-round!

The GFWC Stronger Together Cruise is open to all members and their families and friends. We have nearly 80 people registered, including a dozen husbands, to cruise to the Bahamas in February 2025. Please see www.gfwccruise.com if you’d like to sail with us.

I am at your service, along with the entire GFWC Junior leadership, to help engage clubs at all membership levels in celebrating our rich history while looking ahead to a strong future for GFWC. As we work together, we are Stronger Together!

In Junior Love,



SHANNON BAILEY
Director of Junior Clubs



EMPOWERING CHANGE

A LOOK AT THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF 2024-2026 ADMINISTRATION

On July 1, the installation of Suellen B. Brazil as the 55th GFWC International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) in Chicago occurred, marking a historic moment as the first International President from Alabama in GFWC's 134-year legacy. With a bold vision, Brazil has set out to educate, engage, and empower GFWC members across the nation and the world. She aims to ignite purposeful conversations and equip members with the tools needed to effect real change in their communities.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Suellen Brazil, GFWC International President on her first official day at GFWC Headquarters in Washington D.C.

First 100 Days: Key Accomplishments

In her first three months, GFWC International President Brazil and her dedicated team have made impressive strides in making powerful connections that together can create meaningful and lasting change.

August Highlights

Empowered to Action: Brazil's first major event hosted the full GFWC Board of Directors in Washington for a weekend of leadership training and education. Her selection of panelists included federal officials and experts in the field of domestic and sexual violence awareness and prevention.

Legislative Advocacy: Brazil, alongside Programs and Public Policy Specialist Kynnedi Taylor-Henry, met with Congressman Dale Strong to advocate for crucial funding increases for the Violence Against Women Act and the Kids Online Safety Act. These initiatives aim to protect minors from harmful online content and promote safe digital environments.



COLLABORATION FOR CHANGE

Stephanie Love-Patterson with GFWC International President Suellen Brazil at GFWC Headquarters in August 2024.

Collaboration for Change: At GFWC Headquarters, Brazil hosted Stephanie Love-Patterson, President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. They discussed ways to strengthen partnerships in the fight against domestic violence, underscoring GFWC's commitment to this critical issue.

Global Perspectives: Madame President attended the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit, co-hosted by GFWC's partner, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. This summit brought together diverse stakeholders to explore how technology can be leveraged to safeguard children and enhance protective policies.

Supporting Young Caregivers: Brazil participated in the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Hidden Helpers Summit, focusing on the unique challenges faced by adolescent caregivers of wounded service members. This initiative aims to enhance support services for these young caregivers and their specific needs.

continued on next page



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) 30TH ANNIVERSARY

GFWC International President Suellen Brazil with President Joseph Biden on September 12, 2024, on the South Lawn of the White House.



VAWA 30TH ANNIVERSARY

GFWC International President Suellen Brazil with Lynn Rosenthal, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs and Director of Sexual and Gender-based Violence at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Rosenthal served as the first White House Advisor on Violence Against Women during the Obama-Biden administration.

VAWA 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Brazil with Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Secretary Haaland made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary.



September Highlights

Health and Wellness Leadership: Brazil announced Amy S. Peele, a former transplant coordinator and current author, as the Honorary Chairman for Health and Wellness and Education and Libraries Community Service Programs, fostering a focus on these vital areas.

Global Immunization Advocacy: In collaboration with Shot@ Life, Brazil hosted a virtual Mobilize to Immunize Fall Summit. Participants engaged with global health experts to prepare to advocate for robust U.S. funding for childhood immunization programs.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy: Brazil and GFWC Legislative Consultant Debby Bryant celebrated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Violence Against Women Act with key national leaders, celebrating progress made and highlighting ongoing efforts to combat domestic violence.

Engaging Membership: In a uniting stance against food insecurity and hunger, GFWC registered over 1,000 groups for the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service, reinforcing the spirit of community service.

International Collaboration: Joined by President-elect Wendy Carriker, Madame President traveled to Aruba to celebrate the

90th Anniversary of the GFWC Women's Club of Aruba. During this visit, they met with Interim Governor of Aruba Agustin Vrolijk and Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes to discuss domestic and sexual violence prevention. Their collaboration with local authorities emphasized the importance of raising awareness and offering educational solutions to social challenges.



2024 GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

GFWC International President Suellen Brazil with Middle Atlantic Region representatives load a van full of donations provided by Region Conference attendees.

continued on next page

October Highlights

Humanitarian Support: GFWC continued to provide fundraising support for Ukraine, reflecting the organization's commitment to global humanitarian efforts.

Advocates for Children: Joined UNICEF USA (UUSA) advocacy team's efforts in advocating for child-centered policies.

GFWC Distinguished Partner: GFWC joins the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation as a Distinguished National Partner to raise \$150,000 over 9 years with the vision to build the first monument on the National Mall dedicated to women that will ensure that the stories about their impact on our nation's growth and progress will be recognized for generations to come. GFWC is proud to be part of this historic endeavor.

Looking Ahead

As GFWC International President Suellen Brazil continues to champion the engagement and empowerment of members, GFWC is poised for an exciting journey ahead. Upcoming initiatives include:

GFWC Learning Academy: With far-reaching potential, the GFWC Learning Academy will provide an online training experience tailored and available for GFWC members at every level.

Diversity Expansion: GFWC is working to broaden membership and partnership diversity to reflect the communities we serve.

Historic Building Restoration: Ongoing renovations aim to protect GFWC's rich history through the restoration of our iconic N Street buildings.

Continued Volunteer Service: GFWC commits to continue the collective impact GFWC members have when working together by developing the 2025 GFWC National Day of Service.

Enhanced Advocacy Efforts: Expanding advocacy initiatives and building relationships with policymakers and organizations focuses on increasing participation in the Legislative Action Center.

With a dynamic vision and a dedicated team, Madame President, Suellen Brazil, is leading GFWC into a new era of empowerment, advocacy, and service. Stay tuned for more inspiring updates as we work together to make a lasting impact!



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

GFWC International President Suellen Brazil with Anna Laymon, President & CEO of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation



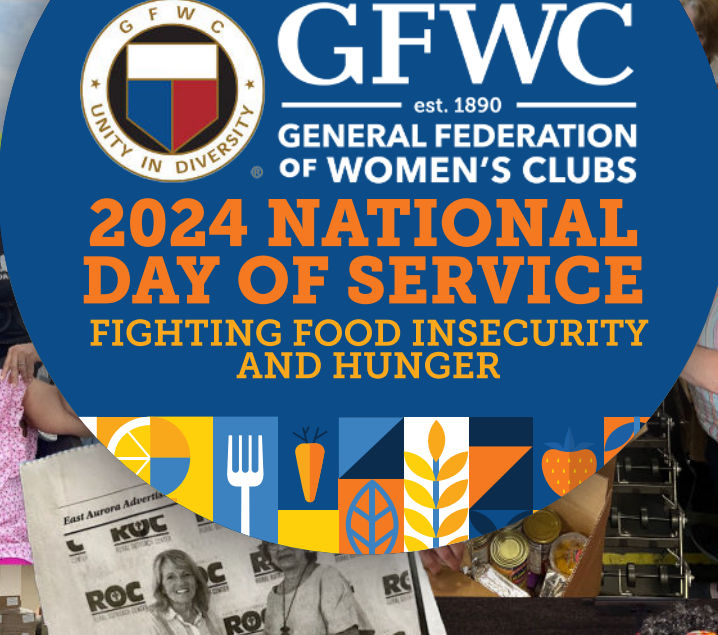


WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

When your club supports Heifer International, you support women around the world, giving them the resources, education and opportunity needed to thrive.

LEARN MORE AT [HEIFER.ORG/GFWC](https://heifer.org/gfwc) OR CALL 888.548.6437.







GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE RECORDS MORE THAN 1,100 CLUBS NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

The second annual GFWC National Day of Service (NDS) on September 28 tallied more than 1,100 clubs participating. GFWC club members nationally and internationally rallied to raise public awareness about food insecurity and hunger, collecting hundreds of thousands of pounds of nonperishable food items for their local communities. Thank you to all who turned out in force to make a difference in the lives of those in need. The day's success would not have been possible without your volunteer commitment.

Presently, impact reporting forms are being collected and compiled. GFWC plans to release those numbers via News & Notes during November. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, October 30, and all clubs that have not yet submitted reports are encouraged to do so.

In the meantime, please Save the Date for the 2025 GFWC National Day of Service on Saturday, September 27. More information on next year's event will be released shortly via the weekly newsletter, social media, and website.

To learn more, visit www.GFWC.org.



INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE

GFWC Women's Club of Aruba



In celebration of the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service, the Women's Club of Aruba supported the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC), Aruba's local food bank. Club members assisted with various tasks such as organizing food supplies, sorting donations, and packing essential food items for families in need. Through partnerships with organizations like FPNC, the club continues to exemplify the core values of GFWC by uplifting those in need and working toward a better, hunger-free future for all.



FLORIDA

GFWC Miami Springs Woman's Club

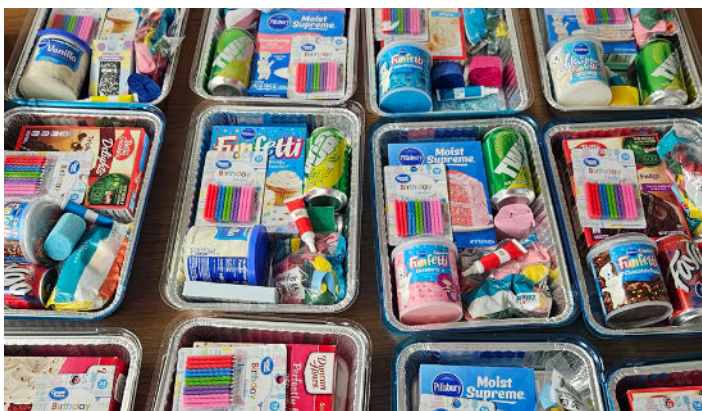


GFWC Miami Springs Woman's Club collected non-perishable food for Barry University Community Food Pantry in association with Feeding South Florida. Members held a food drive for most needed items such as rice, beans, and spaghetti sauce to contribute to the food pantry.



KENTUCKY **GFWC Bettie Carter** **Morgan Woman's Club**

The rain couldn't stop the GFWC Bettie Carter Morgan Woman's Club from helping their neighbors in need. Club members worked with Isaiah House to fill boxes of food and household supplies for distribution in their community.



OHIO **GFWC Gallipolis Junior** **Woman's Club**

The GFWC Gallipolis Junior Woman's Club spread sweetness in their community by providing birthday cake kits to Court Street Ministries. The kits contain a cake mix and soda that allows families to bake a cake without the need for eggs or oil which can sometimes be luxuries. They also provide frosting and sprinkles, candles, balloons, and icing gel to write on the cake.



NEW JERSEY **GFWC Woman's Club of Denville** **Rockway**

In New Jersey, the GFWC Woman's Club of Denville Rockway volunteered their time at Interfaith Food Pantry Network to give back to their community. The club worked to clean the aisles and restock shelves of the food pantry. While not glamorous, tasks like these are the safe and clean foundation of providing nutritious, safe food to those who need it most.



VIRGINIA **GFWC Sedley Woman's Club & GFWC Tarrara Women's Club**

Members from the GFWC Sedley Woman's Club and GFWC Tarrara Women's Club spent their morning helping at the Foodbank of South-eastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore in Franklin, Virginia.

WASHINGTON **GFWC Peninsula Keystone Club**

Eleven members from the GFWC Peninsula Keystone Club spent the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service sorting & repacking 2,800 lbs of apples for distribution to local food banks. Emergency Food Network in Lakewood, Washington, serves 2.6 million neighbors in need each year.



CALIFORNIA **GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress**

In partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, the GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress harvested zucchini and yellow squash from local farmers. The 100 squash were given to the Cypress College food bank. By providing resources to students, the food pantry aims to relieve some of the stress connected to meeting basic needs like food so students can focus on their education.

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS JOINS THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT FOUNDATION AS A DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL PARTNER



"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. 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 a fund 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, PRP.

GFWC's donation is an important step towards the Foundation's \$75 million fundraising goal. Laymon added, "We extend our deepest gratitude to GFWC International President Suellen Brazil; GFWC



Make a GFWC recognized donation through this link.

Parliamentarian Carol Habgood, PRP; and the entire GFWC leadership team for their partnership and their commitment to ensuring that the commemorative core of our Nation's Capital more fully honors women's collective impact on American democracy. This is a proud day for the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT FOUNDATION

www.womensmonument.org



THE ROLE STORYTELLING PLAYS IN ADVANCING A BRAND

by **LESLIE CAPPS**, WILD WOMAN MARKETING

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS HONORARY CHAIRMAN

In every organization, there lies a wealth of untold stories—narratives that define our values, drive our missions, and connect us with our communities. These stories form the backbone of our identity and the heartbeat of our collective efforts. Within the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), storytelling is not just a tool; it's an essential strategy that enhances community recognition and strengthens membership growth, serving as a bridge between our storied past and a promising future.

The Power of Storytelling in Organizations

Storytelling has always been a cornerstone of human connection. Throughout history, women have been the guardians of stories, whether shared through letters, recipes, healing remedies, or bedtime tales. Our lives are shaped by the stories we tell and hear, and this tradition thrives within GFWC.

Women often initiate organizations to address community needs, provide solutions, and nurture growth. While men have frequently been visible leaders, women have been the quiet architects, mending what is broken and fostering what needs to flourish. Collaboration and shared missions create change, and effective storytelling is our strongest ally.

In both business and organizational settings, the effectiveness of our missions is often measured by the stories we tell. Sharing our challenges, triumphs, and values aligns us with like-minded individuals and helps us navigate the complexities of our goals. We've all encountered situations where our values didn't align with an organization, but it's the stories of perseverance that inspire us to stay committed to our work.

For me, a simple Christmas ornament, a cherished friendship, and a beloved book connected me to GFWC. These seemingly unrelated elements converged along a shared path, united by a mission to empower and elevate women. This small interaction served as a reminder that our greatest journeys often begin with the simplest steps, and every encounter holds the potential for significant impact.

Impact on Community Recognition

When an organization tells its story effectively, it transforms into a recognizable force within the community. Through storytelling, we share our values, mission, and the impact we have on the world

around us. By weaving together these narratives, GFWC can forge stronger connections with our communities, making our work more relatable and recognized.

We take pride in our members, who in turn spread our message. My Aunt Josephine, for instance, was a fiercely committed member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Her love of history and her personal genealogy journey made her a pillar of strength and leadership in her community. Like Aunt Jo, each of us has a story that, when shared, can inspire others and elevate our organization's stature.

Building Membership Through Storytelling

Membership growth in any organization is driven by personal connections. People are drawn to organizations where they feel a sense of belonging, and stories are a powerful way to create that connection. By sharing our personal stories within GFWC, we can attract new members who resonate with our values and mission.

In my work with Wild Woman Marketing, I've witnessed how empowering others to share their stories can deepen connections with their audience. This principle holds true within our organization. When we share our stories, we not only celebrate our experiences but also invite others to join us in our mission.

Conclusion

As we move forward, let us remember that every story told within our organization contributes to our legacy and future growth. As we begin the Years of the Woman, let's choose wisely which stories define us and be the heroines of our narratives. Together, we will shine brightly—not just for ourselves, but as a beacon for all women—celebrating each achievement as a victory for women everywhere. By embracing and sharing our stories, we ensure that the torch of integrity, advocacy, and empowerment is carried forward, burning brighter with each generation.

In the spirit of storytelling, I'm looking to connect with members who are interested in sharing their story.

Reach out to me at Leslie@wildwomanmarketing to tell me a story!



90 YEARS OF GFWC ARUBA

GFWC LEADERS CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH THE GFWC WOMEN'S CLUB OF ARUBA

PRIME MINISTER OF PARADISE

Members of the Woman's Club of Aruba, Women's Steering Committee Curacao, Sentro di Dama Curacao, and GFWC Executive Committee members were honored to meet with Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes.

GFWC International President Suellen Brazil and President-elect Wendy Carriker joined the GFWC Women's Club of Aruba (WCA) to celebrate its 90th anniversary. Founded in 1934 and an International Affiliate since 1937, GFWC Aruba has been a key partner in community service.

On Monday evening, GFWC leaders experienced the warmth and hospitality of the Caribbean club's leadership before kicking off three days of anniversary events. Brazil and Carriker met with Mrs. Reina Geerman, President of the Women's Club of Aruba, and Past President Mrs. Omaira Silva, along with Interim Governor Mr. Agustin Vrolijk at the Governor's office. Their discussions centered on initiatives advocating for women's rights, leadership, and community development, with a significant focus on combating domestic and sexual violence. Both organizations shared their efforts to raise awareness and offer solutions through educational programs.

Later that afternoon, GFWC and the Women's Club of Aruba visited Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC), the island's only food bank, to learn about its work supporting families in need. The Women's Club of Aruba has volunteered with FPNC for their past two GFWC National Day of Service Projects.



INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

(L to R): Omaira Silva, Past President of the Women's Club of Aruba; GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker; Reina Geerman, President of the Women's Club of Aruba; Interim Governor of Aruba Mr. Agustin Vrolijk; and GFWC International President Suellen Brazil met at the Aruba Governor's office to begin their tour.



The delegation toured the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC), the only food bank in Aruba to serve the island's population of over 100,000.

The groups also met with Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes to discuss key initiatives to advance women's rights, leadership, and community development. Additional topics included domestic and sexual violence and the critical role of educational programs in combating social challenges. The delegation meeting with the Acting Governor and the Prime Minister included key leaders from the WCA, Women's Steering Committee Curacao, and representatives of the Fundashon Sentro di Dama (SEDA) Curacao.

To conclude the event, the Women's Club of Aruba launched "90 Mata pa 90 Aña" (90 Trees for 90 Years), planting the first Palo di Boonchi at the National Library of Aruba. This initiative reflects their commitment to sustainability and aims to revitalize the endangered Palo di Boonchi population, which currently numbers only 30 to 40 trees in the wild.

To preserve their legacy, the Women's Club of Aruba submitted its entire collection of historical documents dating back to its founding in 1934 for digitization and preservation at the National Library of Aruba. This ensures public access to historical records that document the impact of clubwomen in their community.

After almost a century of partnership, the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Women's Club of Aruba exemplify the strength of collaboration in making a difference. Their commitment to volunteer service ensures Aruba continues to be "One Happy Island."



A CARIBBEAN CELEBRATION

Clubwomen and community members celebrated the anniversary with a grand gala featuring local music. The history of the Women's Club of Aruba was shared by Past President Omaira Silva. GFWC International President Brazil presented the club with a special certificate and commemorative granite emblem to recognize their milestone anniversary.



GFWC International President Suellen Brazil helping plant the first of 90 endangered native trees outside the National Library of Aruba. A donation was made by Brazil on behalf of GFWC to fund two of the 90 trees to be planted.



will generate a final report, helping us to prioritize our collection care efforts.

This project ties neatly into the new Annual Giving option for the 2024-2026 Administration: the WHRC Art & Artifacts Fund. Thanks to assessments and surveys such as the CAP program, we can be assured that the money raised for this fund is directed toward conserving the works at most risk, and toward improving storage and display conditions for the better preservation of the whole collection—including our historic Headquarters itself.



Like many of our artworks, "The Inner Harbor" by Delle Miller needs periodic conservation of frame and painting.

In other WHRC news, renovations at Headquarters are continuing. Last year the Archives Room got new flooring, paint, and light fixtures; now it's the Reference Library's turn for a refresh, along with other staff offices and artifact storage rooms on the 2nd and 4th floors of 1728 N Street. Although this means that some of the reference collection is packed up while the Library gets its face lift, we will still do our best to answer inquiries. Research requests for club members, scholars, and other organizations can be handled over phone or email, or in person. For example, we've recently hosted some on-site researchers, **including an author looking into GFWC's work on state birds in the 1920s-30s**, a local college student writing her thesis on GFWC in the post-World War II era, and our own Pam Briggs, Western States Region President 2024-2026, who is researching the history of the Oregon Federation.



We're also working on adding content to the GFWC History page on the website, such as photos of all 54 International Past Presidents, some background on Headquarters, and a new WHRC "From the Archives" blog series, posted on the first Thursday of every month. Do you have

an idea for a blog topic, or a request for historical information you'd like to see on the website or in the member portal's Digital Library? Let us know at WHRC@GFWC.org

AUTUMN AT THE WHRC

by JOANNA CHURCH, WOMEN'S HISTORY & RESOURCE CENTER LIBRARIAN

This season brings exciting news to the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center, as we are proud to announce that we are one of 71 institutions across the U.S. who have been selected to participate in the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program. The CAP program, administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), provides support for a general conservation assessment of both collections and buildings. This holistic approach is especially important for organizations like GFWC, as we not only hold our archival, art, photograph, and artifact collections in historic buildings, we also regard the historic buildings as part of the collections. GFWC Headquarters and the treasures within its walls will benefit equally from this fantastic and competitive program.

How it works: This November, a small team of professional consultants will spend two days at GFWC Headquarters, surveying the buildings and collections. Through this assessment—as well as through conversations with GFWC staff, EC members, WHRC Committee members, and our building contractors —this team

MEET THE NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

by **DEB STRAHANOSKI**, GFWC CORPORATE PARTNERS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

We are excited to introduce the Corporate Partners and Development Committee, a new addition to the 2024-2026 administration. The committee comprises three dedicated club members: Christa Nuckols from GFWC Florida, Beth Roth from GFWC New Hampshire, and Deb Strahanoski from GFWC Illinois. This committee is fully committed to securing vital corporate support for the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

We recognize the importance of building strong partnerships with businesses that share our vision. Through these partnerships, we aim to amplify our impact and continue driving positive change in communities across the nation.

Our approach to partnering with Corporate America is based on a win/win strategy. The partnership must benefit both GFWC and the potential corporate partner. Our research found that most major corporations have a philanthropic branch that aims to give back to communities. This aligns with our mission to be good neighbors and create positive change through business and marketing strategies.

With GFWC's long history and significant impact in communities, partnering with corporations presents a clear win/win opportunity that is a beneficial alliance for both GFWC and the Corporate Partner. For the Corporate Partner, it's an opportunity to engage with GFWC and support community projects while enhancing their brand and building their philanthropic reputation. For

GFWC, it's a chance to align with Corporate Partners for financial support along with growing the GFWC branding recognition; this will lead to gaining an increase in membership and program effectiveness.

Our committee is already working with two major corporations to develop a strategy that aims to increase revenue and decrease GFWC expenses. By developing corporate relationships, we aim to infuse third-party support into our operating and program promotion areas and create successful partnership opportunities.

We also want to tap into each GFWC member's network. Your unique connections and insights could open doors to potential corporate partners and donors. We value your ideas and encourage you to share them with us directly using the QR code provided. Your suggestions can help us build relationships, amplify our efforts, and enhance our community's impact.

By building meaningful relationships with corporate sponsors, we seek to secure the financial resources needed to support our initiatives and raise GFWC's visibility and influence. We can continue empowering GFWC and enriching communities, one partnership at a time.

We are always open to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or potential leads on corporate partners. Your input is essential to the committee's success.



CORPORATE PARTNERS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Deb Strahanoski, Committee Chairman
dstrahanoski@gfwc.org

Christa Nuckols, Committee Member
cnuckols@gfwc.org

Beth Roth, Committee Member
broth@gfwc.org

Win-Win is a belief in the Third Alternative. It's not your way or my way. It's a better way, a higher way.

STEPHEN COVEY

Have Recommendations?



Share your partnership contacts with us through the form above!



GFWC FACADE RESTORATION & BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE FUTURE OF 1734 N STREET

GFWC is rightfully proud of our historic Washington, DC Headquarters. These three nineteenth century rowhouses are home to our work, our history, and—literally—our leadership. The central building, 1734 N Street, has been part of GFWC for over a century; in recognition of that history, it was named a National Historic Landmark.

While we make good use of these buildings in our day-to-day work, as custodians of these historic structures it is our responsibility to care for them. Without maintenance and, where needed, preservation, our Headquarters buildings cannot withstand the test of time and support us for another hundred years. This project seeks to secure and preserve our buildings for the future.



A CLOSE UP LOOK

From the sidewalk, GFWC headquarters towers majestically, but upon closer inspection, the years of exposure to the elements are clear. In this photo you can see cracked exterior paint and mortar on the east side of the 1734 building.

Currently, the deteriorating stone work around the bricks on the front facades allows water inside, leading to structural and interior damage. The walls of GFWC headquarters contain significant works of art, most of which were gifted by GFWC State Federations during the 1920s GFWC Department of Fine Arts campaign of "Art for Everyone-and Everyone for Art." Some of the most prominent art in our collection resides in the Drawing Room on the second floor of 1734. Thirteen murals by Albert Herter decorate the long entertaining room now used for main events. The panels of these murals that reside on exterior walls face the threat of water infiltration through the damaged brick exterior.

As we work to update and repair existing damage, we also seek to prevent further damage to the working offices and historic spaces on our buildings. Water damage has caused aesthetic and structural problems in all three of our properties over the years. The evidence of this can be clearly seen in the front entrance of 1728.



A WATERFALL OF DAMAGE

Frequent undetected water damage is responsible for the crumbling appearance of this corner inside the entrance to 1728. Without proper sealing treatments on the exterior of the building and roof problems like this one will persist.

The main project will involve removing the old flaking mortar from between each brick and refilling the space with new mortar. This process increases the resistance to weather and supports the wall's structural integrity. Good repointing practices guarantee the long life of the mortar joint, the wall, and the historic structure.

We will also clean and repair the decorative limestone cornices and railings that give 1734 a distinct character. Limestone is porous, which means that water can soak into the stone and cause damage that is not visible from the outside. Over time, the water inside the stone can freeze and expand, causing cracks and endangering the structure of the limestone. With each passing year the chance of these distinctive limestone pieces detaching from our façade increases.



SET IN (LIME)STONE

Notice the distinctive water marks from water damage on this corbel supporting the railing on the third floor of 1734. As water seeps inside the porous stone it weakens the structure of the carved limestone. Cleaning and sealing techniques can help preserve the intricate details on these hand crafted works for future weather.

Preservation experts are scheduled to visit GFWC Headquarters this fall to analyze the extent of the damage and provide us with recommendations for matching historic techniques and materials to our existing structures. We look forward to updating you on their findings and, with your help, preserving our historic home for years to come.

References:

Preservation Brief 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings. <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-02-repointing.pdf>

**Support the GFWC Facade
Restoration & Beautification Project**



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Atlanta

2025 GFWC ANNUAL
CONVENTION

JUNE 6-9

OMNI ATLANTA
AT CENTENNIAL PARK

\$234 PER NIGHT
+ TAXES & FEES

JUNE 6

LEADS, Board of Directors
Meeting & State Night

JUNE 7-9

GFWC Convention



SHINING A LIGHT ON COURAGE

GFWC TEXAS BOARD AND STATE PRESIDENT BARBARA HARVEY TACKLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In a world where some subjects remain difficult to address, it takes immense courage to dive into the uncomfortable truths that so often go unnoticed. The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Texas Board, led by their 2024-2026 State President, Barbara Harvey, and GFWC Texas Signature Program Chairman, Beth Hemby, have done just that—shining a powerful spotlight on one of the darkest issues in our society: human trafficking.

During the GFWC Texas 128th Fall Board meeting, President Barbara Harvey took a bold step by inviting Hope For Justice, a global organization dedicated to ending human trafficking, to present to the members. Hope for Justice representatives, Amanda Jacobi and Dr. Richard Schoeberl, Lead Investigator specializing in trafficking cases, delivered a profound and eye-opening presentation. Their discussion, filled with vital statistics, illuminating facts, and key signs to recognize human trafficking, underscored the grave reality that this heinous crime is more prevalent in the United States than many realize.

Human trafficking is a topic of immense significance but one that remains shrouded in silence for far too many communities. The statistics presented by Dr. Schoeberl revealed just how pervasive and destructive this crime is, targeting vulnerable individuals across the country and impacting families and communities.

President Barbara Harvey, Chairman Beth Hemby, and the GFWC Texas Board deserve praise for their willingness to tackle such a heavy and deeply concerning issue. It would have been easier to choose a less daunting topic, but true leadership doesn't avoid uncomfortable truths—it confronts them head-on. Their decision



STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE

(L to R): GFWC Texas Signature Program Chairman Beth Hemby, Hope for Justice representative Amanda Jacobi, and GFWC Texas State President, Barbara Harvey at the Fall 2024 GFWC Texas Board Meeting.

to focus on human trafficking exemplifies the spirit of GFWC women: resolute, compassionate, and fearless.

GFWC Texas members are transforming their newly acquired knowledge on human trafficking into meaningful advocacy. On May 13th, they will hold an Advocacy Action Day at the Texas State Capitol, where they will urge legislators to take decisive steps toward protecting victims of human trafficking. Members will attend both House and Senate sessions and meet individually with legislators representing their communities, emphasizing the critical need for stronger protections and support for trafficking victims.

As GFWC Texas clubwomen return to their communities, equipped with this newfound understanding, they are ready to join the fight to protect the vulnerable, raise awareness, and stand up for justice. Because of leaders like GFWC Texas State President Barbara Harvey and Chairman Beth Hemby, the conversation has started—and it's not stopping any time soon.

To inquire how your club can get involved in the fight against trafficking, please email Amanda.Jacobi@hopeforjustice.org.



For more information about GFWC Affiliate Organizations visit www.GFWC.org/affiliate-organizations/

One Team. Two Heroes®

**GFWC Clubwomen: Help Our Nation's
Veterans Regain Independence
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- Help raise awareness at events
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- Make more matches possible - Donate now!



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MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT LIST

FOCUS ON: CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTING PERIOD: JULY-SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Clubs recognized added 3 or more members

GFWC Gunter Ladies For Tomorrow - 27

Gunter, TX

GFWC Gainesville Woman's Club - 15

Gainesville, FL

GFWC Woman's Club of Vista - 15

Vista, CA

GFWC Tampa Bay Woman's Club - 14

San Antonio, FL

GFWC Tucson Woman's Club - 13

Tucson, AZ

GFWC Salem Area Women's Club - 12

Salem, NH

GFWC Fallbrook Woman's Club - 11

Fallbrook, CA

GFWC Homer Glen Junior Women's Club - 11

Homer Glen, IL

GFWC Murray Woman's Club - 11

Murray, KY

GFWC Dallas Woman's Club - 10

Dallas, GA

GFWC Garner Woman's Club - 10

Garner, NC

GFWC Outer Banks Woman's Club - 10

Kill Devil Hills, NC

GFWC Plainfield Junior Woman's Club - 10

Plainfield, IL

GFWC Woman's Club of Charleston - 10

Charleston, WV

GFWC Woman's Club of Greene County - 10

Stanardsville, VA

GFWC Woman's Club of Ocala - 10

Ocala, FL

GFWC Charlotte Woman's Club - 8

Charlotte, NC

GFWC Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club - 8

Fuquay-Varina, NC

GFWC Lexington Woman's Club - 8

Lexington, KY

GFWC Lombard Junior Women's Club - 8

Lombard, IL

GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club - 8

North Myrtle Beach, SC

GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces - 8

Las Cruces, NM

GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman's Club - 8

St. Petersburg, FL

GFWC St. Petersburg Woman's Club, Inc. - 8

St. Petersburg, FL

GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill - 8

Rock Hill, SC

GFWC Woman's Club of Rutherford - 8

Rutherford, NJ

GFWC Melville Woman's Club - 7

Melville, LA

GFWC Glendale Woman's Club - 6

Glendale, AZ

GFWC Lake Placid Women's Club - 6

Lake Placid, FL

GFWC Palm Beach Gardens Woman's Club - 6

Palm Beach Gardens, FL

GFWC Portsmouth City Women's Club - 6

Portsmouth, NH

GFWC The Lake Shore Woman's Club, Inc. - 6

Jacksonville, FL

Lakeland Area GFWC - 6

Harshaw, Hazelhurst, Minocqua, Woodruff, Arbor Vitae, LDF, WI

GFWC Berea Woman's Club, Inc. - 5

Berea, KY

GFWC Bitterroot Woman's Club - 5

Bitterroot Valley, MT

GFWC Boston Parliamentary Law Club - 5

Sudbury, MA

GFWC Bradenton Woman's Club - 5

Bradenton, FL

GFWC Cartersville Woman's Club - 5

Cartersville, GA

GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club - 5

Ocala, FL

GFWC Gun Lake Area Inc. - 5

Shelbyville, MI

GFWC Hollis Woman's Club - 5

Hollis, NH

GFWC Roosevelt Neighborhood Women's Club - 5

Phoenix, AZ

GFWC Sisters of Service Woman's Club, Inc.- 5

Tallahassee, FL

GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce - 5

Cayce, SC

GFWC Clermont Woman's Club - 4

Clermont, FL

GFWC Girls on Fire - 4

Williston, FL

GFWC Lake Murraroy-Irmo Woman's Club - 4

Irmo, SC

GFWC Madison Valley Women's Club - 4

Ennis, MT

GFWC Ossoli Circle - 4
Knoxville, TN

**GFWC Pikeville
Woman's Club - 4**
Pikeville, KY

**GFWC Somersworth Area
Women's Club - 4**
Somersworth, NH

**GFWC The Atlanta
Woman's Club - 4**
Atlanta, GA

**GFWC Woman's Club
of Laurel - 4**
Laurel, MD

**GFWC Woman's Club of
New Tampa - 4**
Tampa, FL

**GFWC Woman's Club of
Playa del Rey - 4**
Playa del Rey, CA

**GFWC Woman's Club of
Ste. Genevieve - 4**
Ste. Genevieve, MO

GFWC Zwaanendael Club - 4
Lewes, DE

GFWC ESO 5th Wheels - 3
Tucson, AZ

**GFWC Fort Benton Woman's
Club Inc. - 3**
Fort Benton, MT

**GFWC High Springs New
Century Woman's Club - 3**
High Springs, FL

**GFWC Hudson
Women's Club - 3**
Hudson, NH

**GFWC Junior Civic League of
Fort Smith - 3**
Fort Smith, AR

**GFWC Kentucky Barbourville
Junior Woman's
Study Club - 3**
Barbourville, KY

**GFWC Luzerne
Woman's Club - 3**
Livermore, KY

**GFWC North Pinellas
Woman's Club - 3**
Clearwater, FL

**GFWC Okalona
Woman's Club - 3**
Okalona, KY

**GFWC St. Andrews
Woman's Club - 3**
Irmo, SC

**GFWC Woman's Club of the
Lowcountry - 3**
Bluffton, SC

**GFWC Woman's Club of
Macclenny - 3**
Macclenny, FL

**GFWC Woman's Club
of Sarasota - 3**
Sarasota, FL

**GFWC Woman's Club of
The Villages - 3**
The Villages, FL

**GFWC Yankton's
Women's Club - 3**
Yankton, SD

**GFWC-NH "Just a
Membership" Club - 3**
Manchester, NH

St. Jude patient
Misheel,
pictured with
her mom



Your gift to St. Jude could **last
a lifetime** for kids like Misheel.

Misheel was diagnosed in July 2023 after experiencing several months of insatiable thirst and repeated visits to the bathroom, her mother said. "She wasn't sleeping well during the night; she was so tired during the day," she recalled. A doctor's visit and tests revealed tumors in her brain. Undrakh, who was born in Mongolia, said she couldn't believe it. "In my country, people die from cancer," she said. "Cancer was a really hard word to hear." Misheel was referred to St. Jude, where she has received treatment, which included chemotherapy and radiation therapy. "St. Jude means a lot to us; it has become a loving family," said Undrakh, who said she was a St. Jude monthly donor prior to her daughter's diagnosis. Since she became a patient at St. Jude, Misheel not only learned to master balloon twisting, but she is also now learning, with the help of YouTube, to be a ventriloquist. Misheel, though, aspires to be a doctor or a nurse, just like those at St. Jude.



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General Federation of Women's Clubs
invites you to the

Holiday Open House
Season of Giving

DECEMBER 4, 2024
10:30AM – 12:30PM OR 1:30PM – 3:30PM

GFWC Headquarters
1734 N ST NW
Washington, DC 20036

Please RSVP at memberportal.gfwc.org/events