

GFWC

Ideas, Information, Insight, and Inspiration

Clubwoman

FALL 2021 | Volume 99 | Issue 4

Magazine

Raise a Mighty Voice

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GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS



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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.

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From the International President



Dear Fellow Members,

The calendar indicates January is the beginning of the year but from the day I put on a new pair of shiny Mary Jane's, stepped onto a school bus for the first time, and was greeted by my kindergarten teacher, I knew that autumn was the time of year that is full of possibilities. Today, I feel the same exhilaration at the first club meeting in fall when new friends are welcomed into the fold, yearbooks are distributed, and committees are formed.

There are many things to anticipate as the club year begins. Many of those club yearbooks will include plans for education programs and opportunities to select projects. This issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* offers the same. In these pages, you will learn about cultural traditions for giving thanks, video communications, collective leadership, and sustaining new clubs. You will also discover project ideas for the Signature Program and the Juniors' Special Program.

I hope you will find each article useful. I also hope you will carefully consider your club projects for the coming year and plan one that will have a monumental impact on a child or teenager. Consider working with advocacy programs and agencies to ensure children have the best start in life, or offer a Teen Healthy Relationships Forum to provide local teens with the knowledge they need to build productive and successful futures.

At the beginning of this club year, let's make a plan to be change-makers. Clubs readily engage in projects to assist victims, but let's put more emphasis and effort behind awareness and prevention, and let's work to change what is acceptable in our society, as GFWC members always have.

Statistics show that a report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds and that one in three girls, and one in seven boys, will be sexually assaulted by the time they reach 18. We can improve these statistics by educating ourselves and others, and advocating for protections and improvements.

In "The Hill We Climb," National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman notes, "For there is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it, if only we are brave enough to be it."

We must be brave. After all, it is a new year and many little girls and boys, and teens too, will be strapping on new shoes, stepping onto a school bus, and be welcomed by a teacher who will show them a world of possibilities. As clubwomen, let's do everything possible to ensure that they can achieve the future they deserve.

Yours in ***Living the Volunteer Spirit!***

MARIAN ST. CLAIR
GFWC International President

From the Director of Junior Clubs



Dear Federation Sisters,

Fall is always a welcome change in Wisconsin. The leaves begin to turn and the days are cooler. The fall also brings one of my favorite holidays—Thanksgiving. It is a holiday full of tradition. Going around the table and sharing what we are thankful for is one of my favorite traditions. As a member of GFWC, I am thankful for the opportunity I have, ***Living the Volunteer Spirit.***

I am thankful I was able to see so many of you in Atlanta to celebrate culture and cultivate connections. Finally celebrating together was exciting and special for all that attended. I was especially honored to be a part of the Advocates for Children Challenge Project: Stick Your Neck Out Giraffe Award and celebrate all the ways GFWC members advocated for children during Advocates for Children Week in 2020.

I am thankful for the opportunity to Advocate for Children each year in October. This year GFWC Advocates for Children Week is October 24-30, 2021. I want to encourage all of our clubs to participate in this Challenge Project. Read the information from Juniors' Special Program Chairman Carrie Zimmerman, who is spearheading GFWC's Advocates for Children Week, in this magazine for more ideas on how to participate.

I am thankful to be a part of an organization that has celebrated ***Unity in Diversity*** for more than 131 years. The opportunity to work with women of all ages and from all backgrounds is inspiring. It is my hope that we can continue to put away all pretenses and meet each other face-to-face without rejection and prejudice. It is my hope that we continue to grow all levels of membership and work together in our communities, not in competition with each other.

I am thankful for our upcoming GFWC Region Conferences and the opportunity to connect and network with members from other states.

Take this time of the year to reflect on what you are thankful for as a member of GFWC. I hope you are proud of all that has been accomplished, and I look forward to watching how you continue to ***Stick Your Neck Out.*** As TD Jakes advised, you eat on the level of your vision. Giraffes and turtles have a different view. Don't let a turtle give you advice about your giraffe vision. A turtle can only report from its level.

In Federation Friendship & Love,

KRISTINA HIGBEE
Director of Junior Clubs



FALL 2021 BE A POWERFUL VOICE



Be a Powerful Voice for Those Who Are Silenced by Violence

BY TRISHA SCHAFFER, GFWC TEEN DATING VIOLENCE ADVISOR

With contributions from Jan Allen, Signature Program Committee Chairman and Violence Against Native American Women Advisor; Darlene Adams, Intimate Partner Violence Advisor; Pam Briggs, Campus Sexual Assault Advisor; Karen Kaler, Elder Abuse Advisor; Carla Pyle, Military Sexual Assault Advisor; Lucinda Martinez, Human Trafficking Advisor; and Tina Smith, Child Abuse Advisor





October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is just around the corner and now is the time to increase awareness of the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse in communities across the nation. GFWC needs your club to work with national domestic violence networks and various established programs to be a powerful advocate for those who have no voice, which is way too many.

In June 2021, The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reported that 10 million people a year are physically abused by an intimate partner; 20,000 calls are placed per day to domestic violence hotlines; 300 gun fatalities involved domestic violence in the past year; and that 20% of women in the United States have been raped. If knowledge is power, the information in this article provides it.

Don't wait to create educational opportunities to help prevent domestic violence. Participating in GFWC's 2020–2022 Teen Dating Education and Awareness Challenge Project is an excellent starting point. If a certified domestic violence, rape crisis, sexual assault, or other specialist shares the danger signs of an abusive relationship in an open forum, local teens may be less likely to become a survivor or an abuser themselves.

Use the following resources to engage your community and to locate experts for your Teen Healthy Relationships Forum to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There are also resource recommendations from each of the Signature Program Committee Advisors for the seven other GFWC Signature Program focus areas: Intimate Partner Violence, Child Abuse, Campus Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse, Violence Against Native American Women, Military Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes. Finally, there is a suggested reading list of books and articles that provide important context before reaching out to experts to organize a Healthy Relationships Forum or organize a community education event.

Projects Ideas

Teen Dating Violence

- Make posters about breaking the cycle of unhealthy relationships and display them throughout your local schools. Increase awareness by including “It’s Time to Talk” and “Wear Orange” for Teen Dating Violence Month in February.
- Hold domestic violence prevention classes at your local high school and distribute prevention kits with information tailored to teens. Consider incorporating the film “Escalation” into your curriculum, which illustrates the warning signs of a dangerous relationship.
- Organize a clothesline display with each T-shirt conveying a survivor’s story. Partner with an organization that works with teens who have survived domestic or sexual violence to collect these T-shirts; they will know the best way to approach their clients about telling their stories.

Intimate Partner Violence

- Partner with your local Humane Society or shelter chapter to provide foster homes for pets of domestic violence survivors. Many surviving abuse do not want to leave their home because of their pets. To raise funds, consider asking a pet-product company to be a sponsor.
- Chalk up the streets in your community with statistics and messages to educate the community about the needs of the local domestic violence shelter.
- Distribute cards small enough to hide in a woman’s shoe with domestic violence hotline information at hair salons and other local businesses.

- Create free-standing, life-sized figures, each one bearing the name of a woman whose life ended violently at the hands of a husband, ex-husband, partner, or acquaintance. Display these silent witness figures in your community.

Child Abuse

- Host a training with guidebooks to prevent child sexual assault at a central location, such as City Hall. Notify counselors to post flyers at schools and community centers.
- Partner with your state Chapter of GFWC Affiliate Organization Prevent Child Abuse America or other local child abuse prevention advocates. Host webinars, outdoor movies, monthly readings, or create pinwheel displays at a library or local event.

Campus Sexual Assault

- Host a workshop for parents of high school graduates discussing the need to talk honestly with both their daughters and sons about healthy relationships before

they begin college. Focus on the importance of consent using age-appropriate language.

- Host a screening of “The Hunting Ground,” a documentary about the inside story of sexual assault on American college campuses. If you live near a college community, work with the school’s sororities and fraternities to host a discussion.
- Participate in a local “Take Back the Night” event, a walk to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Sponsor a proclamation signing at your local council meeting with a presentation provided by a survivor.

Elder Abuse

- Partner with Girl Scouts or another group on a community service project to raise awareness about elder abuse and how to prevent it. For World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, create a purple ribbon display.
- Hold a community yard sale at a senior center and give the proceeds to an elder abuse support group or community outreach program.

Reading List

Teen Dating Violence

A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl
By Tanya Lee Stone

Bitter End
by Jennifer Brown

Breaking Beautiful
By Jennifer Shaw Wolf

Breathing Underwater
By Alex Flinn

But I Love Him
By Amanda Grace

Crazy Love
By Leslie Morgan Steiner

*Dangerous Relationships:
How to Identify and Respond to
The Seven Warning Signs of a
Troubled Relationship*
By Noelle C. Nelson

Dreamland
By Sarah Dessen

Fault Line
By Janet Tashjian

*If I Am Missing or Dead:
A Sister's Story of Love, Murder,
and Liberation*
By Janine Latus

Inexcusable
By Chris Lynch

*In Love and In Danger:
A Teen's Guide to Breaking Free of
Abusive Relationships*
By Barrie Levy

Leslie's Journal
By Allan Stratton

Lily and Taylor
By Elise Moser

Rage: A Love Story
By Julie Anne Peters

Some Girls Are
By Courtney Summers

So Much It Hurts
By Monique Polak

Speak
By Laurie Halse Anderson

Stay
By Deb Caletti

The Breakable Vow
By Kathryn Ann Clarke

Things Change
By Patrick Jones

Until It Hurts to Stop
By Jennifer R. Hubbard

Intimate Partner Violence

Grace Will Lead Me Home
By Robin Givens

“Intimate Partner Violence Is a
Workplace Issue”
by Beth A. Livingston, Louise
Delavier, Ynaée Benaben:
<https://hbr.org/2021/02/intimate-partner-violence-is-a-workplace-issue>

*No Visible Bruises:
What We Don't Know About
Domestic Violence Will Kill Us*
By Rachel Louis Snyder

*See What You Made Me Do: Power,
Control, and Domestic Abuse*
By Jess Hill

Child Abuse

“About Strengthening Families and
the Protective Factors Framework,”
Center for the Study of Social
Policy's Strengthening Families.
<https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/About-Strengthening-Families.pdf>

“Protective Factors:
Approaches in Child Welfare,”
Child Welfare Information
Gateway, Issue Briefs, March 2020.
www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/protective_factors.pdf

Spilled Milk
By K.L. Randis

Campus Sexual Assault

*After Campus Sexual Assault:
A Guide for Parents*
By Susan B. Sorenson

*Blurred Lines: Rethinking Sex,
Power, and Consent on Campus*
By Vanessa Grigoriadis

*Campus Sexual Assault:
College Women Respond*
By Lauren J. Germain

Fraternity Gang Rape
By Peggy Reeves Sanday

*Intersections of Identity and Sexual
Violence on Campus: Centering
Minoritized Students' Experiences*
by Jessica C. Harris (Editor),
Chris Linder (Editor), and
Wagatwe Wanjuki (Forward)

Elder Abuse

*Elder Care Catastrophe: Rituals of
Abuse in Nursing Homes and What
You Can Do About It*
By Jason S. Ulsperger and
J. David Knottnerus

Elder Care Made Easier
By Marion Somers

*Elderhood: Redefining Aging,
Transforming Medicine,
Reimagining Life*
By Louise Aronson



Violence Against Native American Women

- Dedicate a run to those affected by domestic and sexual violence, since four out of five Native American women will experience violence in their lifetime.
- Get involved in the #JusticeForKaysera awareness campaign and help demand justice for the family of a murdered 18-year old Native American Woman (pipestemlaw.com/kaysera-stops-pretty-places).

Military Sexual Assault

- Organize members to contact their U.S. Senators and House of Representatives about supporting legislation that reforms disposition of charges and convening of court-martial offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
- Start a book club at a military base, or local library nearby, to read about and discuss domestic violence issues.

Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

- Adopt a local rest area stop along a highway and place stickers in the bathroom to reach women who are being trafficked. Include the National Human Trafficking Hotline on the stickers.
- Host an educational event at a local community center and focus on how to spot the signs of human trafficking.

Speak Up

However your club chooses to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month—or Teen Dating Violence Month in February—it's time to speak up. Let your community know that a joke condoning sexual harassment is no laughing matter and that downplaying the impact of dating violence is one of the very acts that creates an environment in which secrecy and shame thrive. Share your project success stories with PR@GFWC.org to be considered for the GFWC Blog. It is time to disrupt the silent epidemic of domestic and sexual violence.

Violence Against Native American Women

Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference, and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
By Jessica McDiarmid

Weaving Strength, Weaving Power: Violence and Abuse Against Indigenous Women
By Venida S. Chenault

Military Sexual Assault

Camouflage Isn't Only for Combat: Gender, Sexuality, and Women in the Military
By Melissa S. Herbert

Undaunted: The Real Story of America's Servicewomen in Today's Military
By Tanya Biank

Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

Breaking Free: True Stories of Girls Who Escaped Modern Slavery
By Abby Sher

The Slave Across the Street: The True Story of How an American Teen Survived the World of Human Trafficking
By Theresa L. Flores

The Lucky One: A Chilling True Account of Child Sex Trafficking and One Survivor's Journey from Brutal Captivity to a Life of Freedom
By Jenni S. Jessen

Voices Outside the Stadium: Face to Face with Human Trafficking Outside Major Sporting Events
By Skyway Railroad

Why Johnny Can't Come Home
By Noreen N. Gosch

Witness: One Woman's Story From Human Trafficking to Freedom
By Nani Birrell



Resources

Teen Dating Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

General Organizational Resources

Domestic Violence Awareness Project:
www.dvawareness.org/free-materials

Futures Without Violence: www.futureswithoutviolence.org

National Center for Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health:
www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence: www.ncdsv.org

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <https://ncadv.org>

National Domestic Violence Hotline: www.thehotline.org

National Network to End Domestic Violence: www.nnedv.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center: <https://nsvrc.org>

New Hope: www.new-hope.org

Rural Health Information Hub:
www.ruralhealthinfo.org/project-examples/topics/abuse-and-violence

Government and Social Service Agencies

Administration for Children and Families:
www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/fv-centers

U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women:
www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence

U.S. Office on Violence Against Women:
www.justice.gov/ovw

Your State's Coalition that Provides Domestic and Sexual Violence Resources; each state has a separate website. For example, the website for Illinois' Coalition is <https://icasa.org/crisis-centers>.

Resources *continued*

Online Influencers

Love Is Respect: www.loveisrespect.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center's I Ask for Digital Consent: www.nsvrc.org/i-ask-digital-consent

RAINN's #ConsentRULES: www.rainn.org/articles/consentrules

Child Abuse

90 by 30: <https://90by30.com>

Center for Study of Social Policy: <https://cssp.org/publications-resources/?foc=child-welfare>

Child Welfare Information Gateway: www.childwelfare.gov

Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources>

Five for Families: <https://fiveforfamilies.org>

Paces for Connection: <https://www.pacesconnection.com>

Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA): <https://preventchildabuse.org>

Campus Sexual Assault

It's on Us: www.itsonus.org/educational-tools/workshop-materials

Role of Activism: <https://erocdev.wpengine.com/action-center/role-activism>

Elder Abuse

Eldercare Locator: <https://eldercare.acl.gov/public/index.aspx>

National Center on Elder Abuse: <https://ncea.acl.gov>

National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA): www.preventelderabuse.org

Office for Victims of Crime: <https://stopelderfraud.ovc.ojp.gov>

Violence Against Native American Women

Indian Law Resource Center: www.indianlaw.org

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence's Native/Tribal Resources: www.ncdsv.org/ncd_linksnativetribal.html

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center: www.niwr.org

StrongHearts Native Helpline: www.strongheartshelpline.org

Tribal Law and Policy Institute: www.home.tlpi.org

Military Sexual Assault

DOD Safe Helpline: www.safehelpline.org

Protect Our Defenders: www.protectourdefenders.com

United States Senate Committee on Armed Services: www.armed-services.senate.gov

Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

End Slavery Now: www.endslaverynow.org/act/action-library

Global Modern Slavery Directory: <https://www.globalmodernslavery.org>

National Human Trafficking Hotline: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/training-resources/referral-directory>

Steps' Human Trafficking Resources: www.publicservicedegrees.org/be-the-change/stop-human-trafficking



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Together, we can bring an end to exploitation, abuse and neglect and build a future for all children free from violence.

To learn how you can make a difference, visit unicefusa.org/GFWC or contact Kelly Procida at kprocida@unicefusa.org


for every child



Static and Live-Streamed Video: The Benefits of Each

BY KARYN M. CHARVAT, GFWC COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Often, I am asked to explain the difference between a static video in a social media post versus a live video, and the benefits of using one or the other. First, let us break down the definitions of each of these vehicles. A static video is one that is recorded and then posted at another time. For a live video, attendees are watching the broadcast as it is happening in real time.

Both types of videos live on once viewed, so what are the main differences?

The benefit of a static video is planning and execution. Everything from the script to the lighting to the content is pre-planned and executed, as close to perfect as possible. After all, you can keep recording and re-recording until it is exactly the way you would like it to be. Even then, you can still edit, enhance, and continue to refine the footage long after the last “take” from your presenters.

The benefit of a live video is the connection to your target audience. In a live video broadcast, you can have direct interaction with the individuals you are trying to reach, whether it is through on-screen messaging or question and answer sessions. However, it also opens the door to all sorts of unknowns that could happen during the broadcast: you could freeze up and forget important pieces of your script; circumstances outside of your control could occur, such as a train passing by or police or ambulatory sirens blaring; or you could experience power failure or loss of internet/Wi-Fi connection.



So why then, would you EVER chance it? After all, we want to put our best foot forward when presenting information online, so static video is the way to go, right?

Not necessarily! While it is tempting to want to achieve perfection in a static video presentation, research shows that many people prefer the collaboration and connection that only livestreaming video can provide. Going live is an opportunity for transparency and to humanize your message, customizing what you say as real-time feedback comes in from the audience.

That is not to say that you cannot still strive for perfection! Rehearse and practice multiple times before going live. Make sure your recording environment is prepped and ready. Consider going live from an interior room in your home or office, preferably one without windows, to avoid potential interruptions.

Following these guidelines will help when preparing for your next online video presentation or post. And remember, whether you post a static video or choose to go live, ***be yourself and relax.***



Giving Thanks Around the World

BY ANGELA CUTRERA, GFWC ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Thanksgiving Day: Do you ever take the time to think about what this day really means to you? I asked my family and friends, ages 15 and up, to tell me about the meaning of Thanksgiving Day, how and why they celebrate, and why they are thankful. They shared that it is a day to give thanks and enjoy time with family, cook and enjoy good food, and have a week off of school. They celebrate to give thanks, because it is tradition and because their family does. They are thankful for family, the simple things in life, and doctors who make us well.

The first Thanksgiving Day in the United States was a celebration of the fall harvest by the English colonial pilgrims who settled in America. It was declared a national holiday by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, and in 1941 the date for the holiday was set as the fourth Thursday in November.

In current times on this holiday, we are thankful that we are able to gather together. We have the day off of work and children are out of school for the week. We take a family vacation. We travel across the country or across town to be with family and friends. Or we stay home and everyone comes to us. We spend the day cooking and eating, watching a parade and football, and making plans for a day of shopping. We give thanks for our family, for the food we have to eat, and for our many blessings.

Although other countries do not celebrate our Thanksgiving Day, many cultures around the world do observe a time of giving thanks during their harvest season with traditions unique to their culture.

Thanksgiving Day in Canada is called Canadian Thanksgiving, or Le Jour de





A woman in India creates a floral rangoli; usually made of rice, flowers, or powder; at the entrance of a home

l'Action de Grâce, and is on the second Monday in October. Their first Thanksgiving Day was a dinner celebrating a safe journey to Baffin Island by English explorer Martin Frobisher in 1621. Similar to the United States, thanks is given for the harvest with a traditional meal of turkey, stuffing, corn, and sweet potatoes enjoyed with family and friends, vacationing, parades, and Canadian Football League games.

In Germany, the Erntedankfest is a harvest thanksgiving festival and takes place on a Sunday in September. Held mostly in rural areas, this religious holiday tradition includes carrying an Erntekrone, a harvest crown, made with flowers, grain ears, and fruit, to the church as a tribute to the harvest. There are also parades, music, and county fairs.

A ten-day harvest festival in southern India is called Onam. This Hindu festival is in August and September and commemorates the homecoming of King Mahabali. Floral decorations outside of homes, feasts on banana leaves, and fireworks send a message to King Mahabali that his people are prospering and well.

Argentina's Grape Harvest Festival or "Fiesta de la Vendimia" in Mendoza dates back to the 18th century as a celebration of the end of harvest time and the land and weather that made the production of wine possible. There was guitar

music, folklore dancing, eating, and a "Queen" of the harvest season crowned with a cluster of grapes. Today, the festival runs from late February to early March and attracts people from all over the world. The carnival celebration includes Blessing of the Fruit, a Queens Parade, a parade of carriages, a coronation of the National Queen of the Harvest, and fireworks.

Japan's harvest festival called "Kinro Kansha no Hi" dates back to 600 B.C.E. and became a modern holiday called Labor Thanksgiving Day in 1948. It is celebrated on November 23 with fireworks, food, and spending time with family and friends. Originally a traditional harvest festival to give thanks for the foods that sustained them in the colder months, it is now a holiday giving thanks and recognizing the hard work of the Japanese citizens. First responders are also honored with gifts and cards made by school children.

The London Harvest Festival takes place over two days in October. The streets are lined with fruits and vegetables from London's growers; there is harvest décor with apple treats nearby. This festival is organized by the Royal Horticulture Society with dancing and parading on Prince Edward Island.

South Korea has a harvest festival in September. Family members share food and give thanks to ancestors.

GIVING THANKS FALL 2021

The ancestors are honored with a memorial service and clearing of weeds from the graves. Their traditional meal is song pyun, a steamed rice cake, and jeon, a Korean pancake filled with seafood and vegetables.

The Homowo festival in Ghana offers thanks for the yam and commemorates the Ga people who faced famine while traveling across Africa to settle in Ghana. The festival begins in May when yam crops are planted and culminates with a celebration in September after the harvest. "Homowo" means "to hoot at hunger" in the Ga language, and there is singing, chanting, drums, marching, and dancing that represents their laughter in the face of famine. There is also face painting and food, including yam soups and stews and roasted and fried yams.

Vietnam celebrates Tet Trung Thu, the Mid-Autumn Festival or the Children's Festival in October, the eighth lunar month. In this culture, the full moon is a symbol of fullness and prosperity of life, and the festival centers around children, the worship of ancestors, and the moon. There is dancing, singing, children parading down streets with colorful lanterns, and round food such as

Dancers at Argentina's Grape Harvest Festival in Mendoza





At a London Harvest Festival

moon cakes, v (steamed buns), and bánh xèo (Vietnamese crepes).

The Barbadian harvest festival is called Crop Over and lasts all season, from June through August. It began in the 1780s when Barbados was the world's leading producer of sugar cane to celebrate the end of the sugar cane season. It now celebrates the culture of Barbados, its music, food, dance, and fishing industry with drinking contests, calypso competitions, and greasy-pole races, a popular competition, with a prize going to whoever climbs to the top of the greased pole first.

As you enjoy Thanksgiving Day this year, think about how your traditions compare to other cultures around the world. How does the food you prepare differ from other regions and cultures within the United States? In our house we usually eat ham, green bean or broccoli casserole, macaroni and cheese, rice dressing, rolls, and



Bánh bao, a food typically served during Tet Trung Thu in Vietnam

pecan pie. We all have our own unique and special traditions.

Let us appreciate being together with family and friends. Let us be grateful and give thanks. Happy Thanksgiving!

Best of Britain

Join International President Marian St.Clair for the "Best of Britain" tour on **July 20-29, 2022.**

Bring your family and friends to visit:

- Windsor Castle and treasures of the Royal Collection
- Highclere Castle, site of TV's Downton Abby
- Blenheim Castle, home of the Dukes of Marlborough
- The Jane Austen Home in Chawton
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Collaborative Leadership

BY DEB BROSSARD, GFWC LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

We hear a lot about collaboration these days. Remember the Three Musketeers? No, not the candy bar, but the three swashbuckling French heroes whose motto was *All for One and One for All*. This phrase emphasizes solidarity and support within a group; the group will support its members and its members will support the group. These heroes accomplished more together than they could alone, and their actions were probably among the earliest examples of collaborative leadership to arise out of 19th century literature.

The very definition of collaboration is the process of two or more individuals or organizations working together to achieve shared goals. Collaborative leadership is a management style that is team-centric rather than top-down and encourages all stakeholders to work across sectors or boundaries rather than in silos.

It is said that Ben Franklin was a collaborative leader, bringing a group of our founding fathers with a wide variety of personalities to the table. He convinced them to work together to write the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America: "The good we can do together exceeds what we can do individually." This is a favorite mantra of Franklin's and is inscribed above the door of many of the Philadelphia institutions he helped to establish.

Citing another example of collaborative leadership, a little closer to home, is the style that many of our own state leadership teams demonstrate. In Wisconsin, we tap into our past LEADS graduates to help plan and execute our leadership



training seminars. Guided by the collaborative approach of our state leadership chairman, what these leaders have been collectively able to offer is far greater than anything they could provide individually. And they "walk the talk" among the committees they lead in their own clubs. They are our own modern-day Musketeers!

So, what traits did Ben Franklin and many of our own GFWC members demonstrate that allowed them to gather and inspire great leadership teams? Ten collaborative leadership characteristics have been identified. Lauren Christiansen's February 19, 2021 article "10 Characteristics of a Collaborative Leadership Style"

on zipschedules.com summarizes these leadership characteristics well and as follows: Understands Different Motivations; Doesn't Micromanage; Has a Wide Range of Talents and Skills; Builds Cross-Team Relationships; Encourages Risk-Taking; Has a Greater Sense of Empathy; Values Transparency; Understands Conflict; Has a Well-Rounded Skill Set; and Builds a Strong Network.

I encourage you to research this concept further and see if you have what it takes to be a collaborative leader. I bet you do!

Make Your Next Juniors' Special Program Project "A Perfect 10"

BY CARRIE ZIMMERMAN, GFWC JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Our Collect states: "Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are at one."

Reciting these two lines regularly is a great reminder that thinking creatively allows us to make a difference in our communities and advocate for children—even during a pandemic. Despite all of the roadblocks over the last year, clubwomen persevered and accomplished remarkable successes!

In the coming months, encourage your club members to stick their necks out to undertake a service project that directly benefits children, keeping in mind that October 24-30 is Advocates for Children Week. The following 2020 Top 10 Projects for the Juniors' Special Program are full of "perfect 10" ideas that could be adapted to meet the needs of your club's community this fall. And don't forget to share your success story with PR@GFWC.org.



GFWC Junior Special Program Top Ten Projects



1 The Junior Woman's Club of Hilton Village (GFWC Virginia) helped support a local elementary school with their "Books on Bikes" program. The club donated 340 books and, along with Yates Elementary staff, rode bikes and delivered a snack, book, and safely-distanced greeting to students from their beloved teachers and helpers.

2 GFWC Point Pleasant Junior Woman's Club (GFWC West Virginia) created a Giraffe Hunt in their hometown during Advocates for Children Week. The club made signs with a giraffe on them for people to post in their yards with clues to make the hunt more challenging. Each sign had a clue to the puzzle to make the hunt more challenging. The club used Facebook to create a link to donate to "Lily's Place." If donations were made, extra clues were given to where the signs were placed. Prizes were awarded to the winners who solved the puzzle.

3 GFWC Brookline Women's Club (GFWC New Hampshire) organized a town wide Holiday Light Extravaganza. They encouraged local businesses and residents to display holiday lights for a specific night of the year. They then crated a map and guide for local residents to follow for a socially-distanced night of beautiful holiday lights from the safety of their cars. They collected monetary donations to support the after school program and socks, hats, and mittens for the shelters.

4 Tempe Junior Woman's Club (GFWC Arizona) supported the Life Book program of Children's Actions Alliance for Arizona children in foster care. Club members created scrapbooks for children in foster care to provide positive memories and a history to carry with them throughout their time in the foster care system into adulthood.

5 The Yoruba Linda Woman's Club (GFWC California) supports Threads of Love, which supplies hospitals with handmade items for their neonatal units. The women made Lovey Dolls, flannel dolls designed to help nurses prop newborns up while protecting their fragile skin. The group also made flannel, knitted, and crocheted blankets; made covers for incubation beds to protect the eyes of babies; and designed vests to protect tubes and medical devices attached to the babies while giving the appearance of infant clothing.



6 Mary Stewart Woman's Club (GFWC North Carolina) hosted a "Little Red Wagon" pool party for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the summer. The cost of admission was a donation toward the purchase of the Little Red Wagon. These Little Red Wagons can be purchased for \$100 each (also called Patient Wagons), and are used as transportation within the hospital for St. Jude's youngest patients.



7 Every year, GFWC F.J. Scott Woman's Club (GFWC Texas) supports a Christmas Party each year to honor children within the Child Protective Services organization. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, they adapted to create the "Party in a Box." The box contained gifts, and food and non-food gift cards and were distributed to the children.

8 The Aurora Women's Club (GFWC Minnesota) participated in the collection of Operation Smile Bags. Members made bags from donated materials for small toys, coloring books, crayons, small mirrors, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and a small stuffed animals. These bags were assembled and then sent to Operation Smile for the countries that are performing reconstructive cleft surgeries for children.

9 Cahawba Junior Women's Club (GFWC Alabama) printed 20 pinwheels that were hidden around town in the windows of businesses that support survivors of child abuse in their community. A Pinwheel Scavenger Hunt was created in partnership with the Child Advocacy Center. Riddles and clues lead participants to the hidden locations and those completing the Scavenger Hunt were awarded a prize.



10 Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray (GFWC South Carolina) organized a two-part remote campaign designed to educate the community in a safe, socially-distanced way on the benefits of art therapy in children. Their project included a coloring contest for children, which the club promoted on its Facebook page. In keeping with their club's theme for the year, "In a World Where You Can Be Anything, Be Kind," the theme of the coloring contest was "kindness." Winning artwork was displayed at the local Starbucks in Lexington, SC.



**Mateo
and
Maitai**

Leading with Independence

BY NANCY MURRAY, CANINE COMPANIONS
NATIONAL EVENTS MANAGER AND GFWC LIAISON

Canine Companions provides service dogs to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, and educational settings. Our dogs and all follow-up services are provided at no cost to our clients. Independence shouldn't be limited to those who look or live a certain way. Disability reaches all races, classes, and backgrounds, and Canine Companions will too. Clients come to Canine Companions because of our reputation, the quality of our dogs, the experience of our training staff, and the desire to live life with greater independence. We are committed to providing services to all qualified clients.

Meet Mateo and Maitai

Every time 9-year-old Mateo's parents saw him interact with a friend's service dog, they watched him light up. After they learned about the commands Canine Companions service dogs are trained to do and saw firsthand how much Mateo could benefit, they couldn't wait to apply.

Mateo was born with a brain malformation called agenesis of the corpus callosum and other disabilities impacting his mobility and development. Mateo was matched with Service Dog Maitai in August 2018, and the two have been inseparable ever since! Maitai helps Mateo pick up items, stay still and calm during doctors' appointments, and helps him get his torso brace on each day. She is a positive distraction during his therapies and a social bridge with other children his age.

"Maitai is Mateo's best friend and gives him unconditional love," says Mateo's mom, Monika. "And most importantly, she understands him and knows what he needs when others don't."

Tasks or outings that used to be difficult for Mateo now come easy with Maitai by his side. She encourages him to participate in morning and bedtime routines, like brushing his teeth and



eating. One of Mateo's favorite things to do is read to Maitai before bed.

Monika believes Maitai's most important quality is the sense of calmness she provides. Maitai helps Mateo regulate his emotions when he has a hard time calming down on his own. Monika shares, "She will nudge and lick him until he is calm and can always manage to get a smile and laugh out of Mateo. She has taught Mateo that everything will be okay; she will always be by his side to help."

Canine Companions placed 95 service dogs with children in 2020.

Meet Victor and Violet

Army veteran Victor Greene loves spending time with his family, playing the drums and piano, and singing in his local church choir.

In 2005, Victor served in Iraq in a transportation unit, escorting troops all around the country. On a seemingly normal day, Victor last remembers

being in a convoy. A week later, he woke up recovering in a hospital in Germany.

As a result of Victor's service, he has a traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); he is a Purple Heart recipient. When Victor was looking for a way to help reduce his PTSD symptoms, a psychiatrist at his local VA medical center suggested he apply for a service dog from Canine Companions.

In February 2020, Victor was matched with Service Dog Violet, who is trained in commands specifically designed to help mitigate the symptoms of PTSD.

Victor shares, "She's the best thing that ever happened to me. Violet is amazing and so well-trained. Since I've had her, I've been calmer and more relaxed."

Expertly trained in 45 commands, Violet wakes Victor from nightmares, interrupts his panic attacks, turns on and off lights, picks up dropped items, and provides constant companionship.

In return, Victor sings to Violet, takes her on long walks every day, and brings her to work at his job in San Francisco, where she's become quite popular. Violet has helped Victor work through PTSD flashbacks and panic attacks and allows Victor to be more comfortable in his everyday life.

Victor and Violet make an incredible pair. "She's more than a best friend," Victor shares, smiling. "She's family."

In 2020, 29 veterans received Canine Companions service dogs.



Together, We Are Independence

Canine Companions is leading the service dog industry so people with disabilities and their service dogs can live life to the fullest. Expertly trained in up to 45 commands, these dogs can turn on lights, pick up dropped items, alert to important sounds, and much more.



Established in 1975, Canine Companions has training centers across the country, including California, Florida, Ohio, New York, and Texas. Canine Companions is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. GFWC supporters invest in the future of Canine Companions and in the independence of our future clients. Canine Companions is the best-in-class service dog organization, providing a personal touch to every supporter, no matter the size of their gift. Our dogs are provided at no cost to our clients, and it is directly attributable to the financial support of our donors. Learn more about Canine Companions at canine.org.

Contact your local Canine Companions regional training center for brochures and to request a presentation for your club, District, or State Federation. Virtual presentations possible. For contact information, visit canine.org/locations.

Chartering a New Club? Awesome! Now What?

BY BECKY WRIGHT, GFWC MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Building membership through new club formation is the best path toward GFWC's sustainability and best equips our clubwomen to serve their communities. Starting a new club not only empowers more women with the opportunities offered through GFWC membership but also increases our positive impact and energizes the sponsoring club.

The GFWC Membership Committee has eliminated the guess work about building new clubs with a three-part manual, located within the "M" Resources folder of the Member Portal's Digital Library. But how do we ensure that our clubs do not overlook something important starting out and are successful long-term?

As with any building process, one of the concrete steps to strength and sustainability is a strong foundation. A new club's success depends on how well the club is organized and how well it operates from the very beginning. Offering a new member orientation to all charter members will provide a segue to mentoring a new club from the start, but the second step is to provide access to GFWC's various resources, such as:

- Training and advising on leadership roles and club governance.
- Recruiting members in other clubs to help with initial service projects.
- Recommending speakers for club meetings.

Then, assign each new member a mentor to provide additional support and encouragement. This could be



someone from a sponsoring club, your state membership committee, or any positive member who is fully invested in GFWC!

Celebrating the charter and publicizing the new club is essential. Celebrations bring everyone together to honor the momentous event and create excitement for additional recruitment. Celebrations solidify a club's identity and strengthen the members' sense of belonging. Involve your communications and public relations committee to take charge of introducing the club to the community, recognizing its leadership, and setting the stage for recruitment of more members. Keep in mind that celebrations should reflect the club's culture. It will take some time for a new club to develop

its own culture, character, and traditions, but this initial celebration will set the stage.

And finally, often we are reluctant to lead new clubs toward the bigger picture—being cautious not to overwhelm them. However, it is important that we continue developing the new club by promoting the GFWC learning and leadership opportunities with members and officers. Continue the mentoring process by inviting new clubs to send members to District, State Federation, Region, and GFWC Annual Conventions as soon as possible. Engage all members immediately and keep them engaged! Help them to become strong, self-sufficient, and productive, realizing that GFWC is empowering the future!



Recruitment by the Numbers

GFWC Mesquite Club, Inc. - **14**
Las Vegas, NV

GFWC Coral Gables Woman's Club - **9**
Coral Gables, FL

GFWC North Myrtle Beach
Woman's Club - **8**
North Myrtle Beach, SC

GFWC Clearwater Community
Woman's Club - **7**
Clearwater, FL

GFWC Greater West Palm Beach
Women's Club - **6**
West Palm Beach, FL

GFWC Lake Placid Woman's Club - **6**
Lake Placid, FL

GFWC Sedgefield Woman's Club - **6**
Greensboro, NC

GFWC Woman's Club of
Panama City, Inc. - **6**
Panama City, FL

GFWC Madison Valley Women's Club - **5**
Ennis, MT

GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces - **5**
Las Cruces, NM

GFWC Santa Rosa Woman's Club - **5**
Gulf Breeze, FL

GFWC Viera Woman's Club, Inc. - **5**
Viera, FL

GFWC Erwin Monday Club - **4**
Erwin, TN

GFWC Fort Walton Beach
Woman's Club, Inc. - **4**
Fort Walton Beach, FL

GFWC Sebastian Woman's Club - **4**
Sebastian, FL

GFWC Brunswick Woman's Club - **3**
Brunswick, GA

GFWC Charlotte Woman's Club - **3**
Charlotte, NC

GFWC Ellington Women's Club - **3**
Ellington, CT

GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club - **3**
Ocala, FL

GFWC La Verne-San Dimas
Woman's Club - **3**
La Verne, CA

GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes
Woman's Club, Inc. - **3**
Lutz, FL

GFWC Morgan County Woman's Club - **3**
West Liberty, KY

GFWC Ossoli Club of Corbin - **3**
Corbin, KY

GFWC Port St. Lucie Woman's Club - **3**
Port St. Lucie, FL

GFWC Round Table of
Wyoming-Camden - **3**
Camden, DE

GFWC Woman's Club of
Fernandina Beach - **3**
Fernandina Beach, FL

GFWC Woman's Club of Lake Wales - **3**
Lake Wales, FL

Region Conferences

Visit www.GFWC.org/important-dates for a listing of these and other GFWC events and observances.

GFWC Mississippi Valley Region Conference, Minnesota

September 23-26

GFWC New England Region Conference, Massachusetts

September 16-19

GFWC Western States Region Conference, Colorado

September 9-12

GFWC Southeastern Region Conference, Maryland

October 28-31

GFWC Middle Atlantic Region Conference, Delaware

September 30-October 3

GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference, Illinois

October 7-10

GFWC South Central Region Conference, Louisiana

October 14-17

Southern Region Conference, Florida

October 21-24



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You are invited!

GFWC Holiday Open House

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy

GFWC Headquarters
1734 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

REGISTER: GFWC.org/MemberPortal
Bringing a group? Please contact Events@GFWC.org