



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

July 20, 2023



## **GFWC Applauds Senate Confirmation of Rosie Hidalgo**

GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski and Rosie Hidalgo, then Special Assistant to the President, at the White House celebration of the passage of the Bipartisan Safe Communities Act July 2022.

On July 11, the United States Senate voted to confirm Rosie Hidalgo as the Director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). In November 2022, GFWC wrote to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of her nomination. GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski stated, “Ms. Hidalgo is eminently qualified to lead the Office on Violence Against Women, is beloved by the advocacy community, and known for her leadership and vision.”

Rosie keynoted our GFWC Board of Directors’ meeting in August 2022 when serving as the Senior Advisor on Gender-Based Violence and Special Assistant to the President. At the White House, Ms. Hidalgo has helped lead the development and launch of the first-ever U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

Ms. Hidalgo first visited GFWC Headquarters during the 2016-2018 Administration to brief the Executive Committee on policy initiatives when she was Senior Director of Policy at Casa de Esperanza, now called Esperanza United.

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**Shot@Life Training –  
Be a Champion for Children**

shot  
@life

GFWC members are encouraged to join Shot@Life, a campaign of the United Nations Foundation, to speak up for childhood immunization.

During this 45-minute remote training, you will learn about Shot@Life's work and the tools and tips for advocating the message to members of Congress and local community leaders about global immunization programs.

When: September 12

Time: 7 p.m. ET

Note: Registered Attendees will receive a link to view the training if unable to attend live.

Registration link:

[https://unfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Hw1\\_PMUkRkeA35ObNYdPpA](https://unfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hw1_PMUkRkeA35ObNYdPpA)



Join Shot@Life, a campaign of the United Nations Foundation, to speak up for childhood immunization. During this 45-minute training on Tuesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. ET you will learn about Shot@Life's work, tools, and tips for advocating to your members of Congress and your communities about global immunization programs.

By the end of the training, you will be an official Shot@Life Champion, ready to use your voice for the cause. You will also be eligible to join other Champions for the one-day, virtual *Mobilize to Immunize* Fall Summit on Friday, September 29, where you can dive deeper into the issues, learn from experts, and connect with fellow Champions nationwide.

REGISTER HERE



# National Day of Service

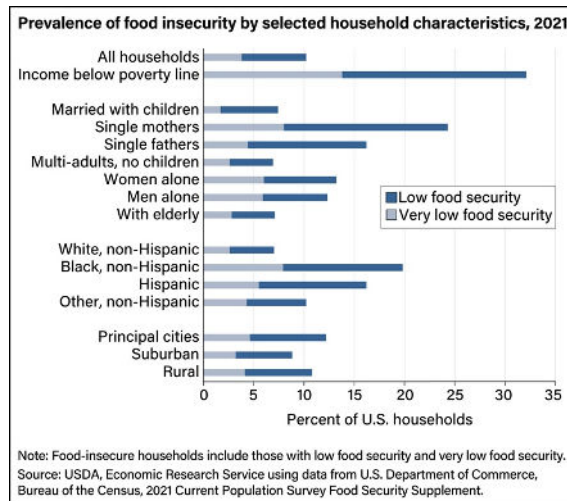
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Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

#GFWC23NDS

**Food Insecurity Disproportionately  
Affects Single-Mother Households**



Food insecurity in single mother households is higher than in any other family structure. Single mothers often have fewer resources to provide for their children, making it harder to access healthy and nutritious food. In 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported single-mother households were more than three times as likely to experience food insecurity among children than married-couple households with children.

When planning your club’s project for the GFWC National Day of Service (NDS) consider a focus on supporting single mothers and their children.

You can find helpful planning resources in the NDS Toolkit, located in the Digital Library - *My Digital Library > Resources > N > NDS Toolkit*

To participate in the inaugural NDS, please email Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, at [mgisler@gfwc.org](mailto:mgisler@gfwc.org) and cc Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, [dstrahanoski@gfwc.org](mailto:dstrahanoski@gfwc.org).



## **Pennsylvania State President's Project**

### **We've Got Their Six**

By: Heide Marie Cebrick, GFWC Pennsylvania State President

The phrase “We’ve Got Their Six” originated with World War I fighter pilots. They used directions to correspond with hours on the clock, where 12 o’clock was forward and 6 o’clock was behind. This phrase means “We’ve got your back.” It conveys loyalty, cooperation, and that you will help in any way you can.

I have tremendous respect and a special place in my heart for our veterans. While our son was deployed to Iraq in 2008, I started our local program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center. This program teaches all aspects of fly fishing to former service members. Seeing the healing process and

the special bond formed with program veterans made the decision for my President's Project extremely easy. The women veterans in my fishing program shared stories of their struggles and frustrations, and I wanted to help.

This project focuses on women veterans, active-duty military, veterans in nursing homes, and homeless veterans. I encouraged my clubwomen to host social activities and interact with our veterans. I saw first-hand how social interaction helps with their healing, especially those who have trouble integrating back into civilian life.

The project launched at the Summer Leadership Conference held in July 2022. The clubwomen were challenged to complete projects and report in six areas.

Projects include:

- Women Veterans: "Mommy & Me" bags, glam bags, and a planned activity or event
- Veterans in Nursing Homes: handmade dignity clothing protectors, lap robes, or blankets
- Active-Duty Military Personnel: sending care packages for those deployed and supporting the USO Long Distance Reading Program
- Supporting VA food banks

Our Pennsylvania clubwomen are incredibly supportive, inventive, and creative with this project, "Operation: We've Got Their Six." Their outpouring of generosity is overwhelming.

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## How to Use Social Media to Get the RIGHT Attention

By: Becky Bolden, GFWC Communications Committee Member

Every club should have a social media presence to share their accomplishments, advocacy efforts, recruit members, and promote GFWC. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Twitter are some of the most popular social media platforms. Here are a few suggestions when posting to your social media platform:

1. Use positive wording and always be honest and fact-based.
2. Post pictures of your group activities and tag any affiliate organizations. Be sure your pictures are clear and that GFWC

- attire is worn. Children should not be photographed from the front without parent/guardian consent. Crop your photos before posting so the focus is on the activity and not the surroundings.
3. Your captions should include words such as “Volunteering,” “Serving,” “Community,” and “Diversity,” as search engines will recognize these words.
  4. Post about important community and civic events and national holidays. Be careful not to promote an individual candidate or a certain platform, as we are non-partisan.
  5. Use hashtags in your posts.
    - a. #GFWC
    - b. #GFWC\_HQ
    - c. #WeAreGFWC
    - d. #UnityInDiversity
    - e. #LivingTheVolunteerSpirit
    - f. #IamGFWC
  6. Post often to your social media platform. Include relevant hyperlinks after descriptions. Know your audience and communicate accordingly. Be professional and always spell check before posting.
  7. Create and host live events with guest speakers or volunteer activities. Involve your community and advertise your activities.
  8. Be sure to include the GFWC motto, your GFWC club email, your state GFWC website, and a link to [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).
  9. It is extremely important to keep your Social Media presence current and always have a person in charge of monitoring it.
  10. Establish controls so others cannot post without permission to maintain a good and safe environment.
  11. Please refer to the *2023 GFWC Style Guide* for further suggestions. It can be found in the Digital Library
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## **Beyond the Library Walls: Building Communities with Bookmobiles**

By: Sandy Hauenstein, GFWC Education & Libraries Chairman

Library outreach exists in many forms: programming, representing the library at community events, serving senior facilities and home-bound patrons, collaborating with schools, day-care centers, other community organizations, and last, but not least, operating outreach vehicles such as bookmobiles, passenger vans, and book bikes to reach patrons who are unable to or don't have convenient access to the library.



For over one hundred years bookmobiles have served rural, urban, suburban, and tribal areas, bringing access to information and life-long learning resources to all classes and communities. During the late 1800s, women's clubs began advocating for Bookmobiles in the state of Texas and throughout the United States.

Horse-riding librarians were the Great Depression's bookmobiles. They brought books to Kentuckians living in remote areas. The novels, "The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek," and "The Bookwoman's Daughter" talk about the challenges of travelling to deliver books in every season.

One of the earliest mobile libraries in the United States was a mule-drawn wagon carrying wooden boxes of books. It was created in 1904 by the People's Free Library of Chester County, South Carolina, and served the rural areas there.

Another early mobile library service in 1905 was developed by Mary Lemist Titcomb (1857-1932). As a librarian in Washington County, Maryland, Titcomb was concerned that the library was not reaching all the people it could.

Sharlee Glenn, who wrote "[Library on Wheels: Mary Lemist Titcomb and America's First Bookmobile](#)," calls the 1960s and '70s the "heyday" for bookmobiles.

Bookmobiles have expanded to magazines, LPs, CDs, DVDs, games, and every multimedia item that is found in a central branch. Now they are starting to provide patrons with technology itself.

In the U.S., the [American Library Association](#) sponsors National Bookmobile Day in April each year on the Wednesday of [National Library Week](#). They celebrate the nation's bookmobiles and the dedicated library professionals who provide this service to their communities.

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## **Volunteers in Action: Wake Forest Woman's Club (NC)**

The Wake Forest Woman's Club (NC) was invited to bookstore Page 158 Books, in Wake Forest, as part of an author's reading reception. The club was invited to discuss two Wake Forest Woman's Club free programs established under the Education and Libraries CSP, *Books for Laundromats* and *Rashad's Reading Corner*.

Clubwoman Salina Gary recounted how *Books in Laundromats* was started in 2010 by a club member visiting a local laundromat and noticing restless children, thus sparking her idea to supply the

laundromat with books for children to read while there. Years later, the club still supports the program.

Clubwoman Kathy Norris presented the new program *Rashad's Reading Corner* at Carol's Barber Shop in Wake Forest, which provides books geared to young boys to read while having their haircut and then taking them home, if desired.

Clubwoman Salina Gary noted, "Both projects focus on getting books into the hands of young children, to improve their reading skills, and help them learn to enjoy, love, and share the knowledge books can bring to them."

Submit photos and a short story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).



GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

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