



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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August 29, 2024

GFWC Board Discusses Signature Program Issues

Last week, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Board of Directors convened in Washington, DC. Panel presentations spotlighted the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and Advocates for Children. The GFWC Board learned from issue experts about federal resources available and pending legislation in Congress, and how to communicate these issues with elected officials.



Director Shawndell Dawson of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services noted the importance of government funding through grants to create safe spaces for survivors of domestic violence to turn to for help.

Debbie Fox of the National Network to End Domestic Violence instructed board members to be advocates in their local communities because family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. The need for safe and affordable housing is paramount for survivors.



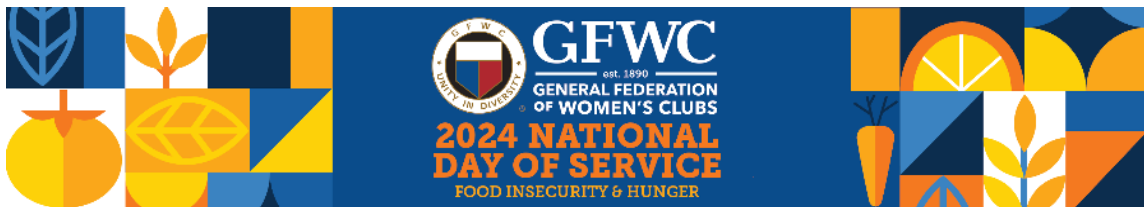
Marcel Van der Watt and Megan Griffin of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation shared mass-scale prevention strategies to crack down on pornographers and facilitators in the corporate arena. Griffin highlighted the successful impact of their annual “Dirty Dozen List,” urging corporate responsibility to protect children from online sexual exploitation.

Anne Basham of Hope for Justice addressed anti-trafficking issues. Basham noted that “effective changes in public policy begin with changes in public opinion,” and urged board members to advocate for increased funding of the Victims of Crime Act programs, the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, and the Kids Online Safety Act.



Facilitated by Debra Bryant, GFWC Legislative Consultant, panelists Lyn Schollett, Executive Director of New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NHCADSV), and Tina Smith, GFWC New England Region President and current Board Chairman of the NHCADSV, discussed the Coalition’s resources and how it provides technical and financial support to survivors.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.gfwc.org/domestic-and-sexual-violence-awareness-and-prevention/>



30 DAYS TILL GFWC NDS!

“Keep the Registrations Coming”

With 30 days left until the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service (NDS) on September 28, now is the time to rally local GFWC clubs to register. To date, there are 738 pledges for the GFWC NDS. There remain many opportunities as we chase last year’s participation count of 900, which GFWC’s goal is to surpass.

What should you be doing now?

It's time to start thinking about your club's Community Service Project (CSP) plans and encouraging other local clubs to register for GFWC NDS. As you plan your September meetings, add the GFWC NDS to your agenda to encourage club members to participate. We need to rally the troops to action in our quest to end food insecurity and hunger across the nation and around the world. GFWC NDS is a rolling registration until September 27. There is still time to join our cause.

Together we can end food insecurity and hunger!

To register, visit <https://memberportal.gfwc.org/>, and follow the prompts. Then, click on the Events page to sign up. Simply select 2024 GFWC National Day of Service and you're on your way.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

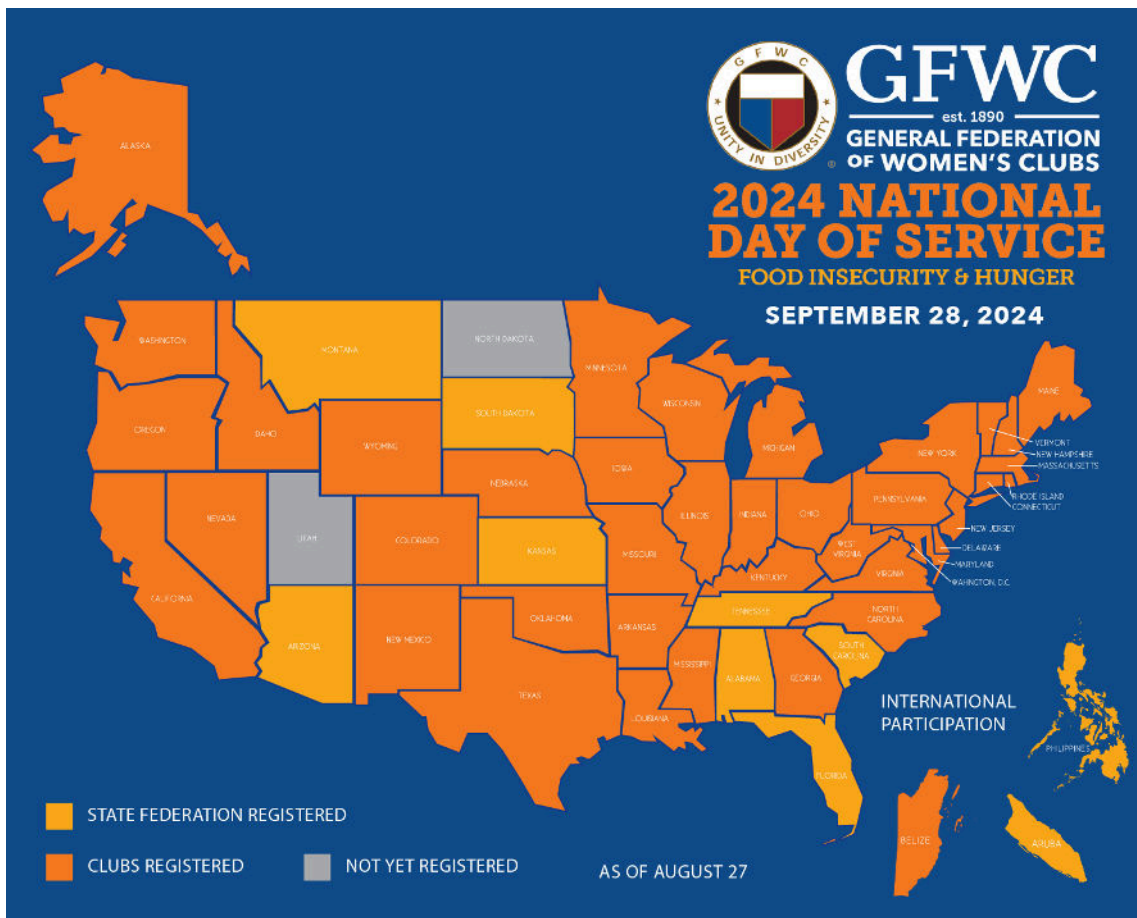
ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION OPTION: EMAIL

If you prefer to register by email, please send a message to GFWCNDS@GFWC.org to sign up for the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service.

Please include:

- Club Contact and Information
- Official Club Name
- Your State Federation
- Brief Description of the Club's Project, If Known (not required)

[View Full List of Clubs Registered](#)



*** New Registrations as of noon
Tuesday, August 27, 2024**

GFWC INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE
National Federation of Women's Clubs of the
Philippines

GFWC CLUBS BY STATE

ALABAMA
GFWC Alabama River City Woman's Club
GFWC Serenity Juniores

ARIZONA
GFWC Tempe Junior Woman's Club

CALIFORNIA
GFWC Corralitos Woman's Club
GFWC Ebell Club of Irvine
GFWC Granada Hills Woman's Club
GFWC La Verne-San Dimas Woman's Club
GFWC Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos

CONNECTICUT
Bethel Women's Club GFWC
GFWC The Manchester Women's Club

MASSACHUSETTS
GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club

MICHIGAN
GFWC Gun Lake Area, Inc.
GFWC Rochester Junior Women's Club

MISSISSIPPI
GFWC Florentine Evening Club

MONTANA
GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club

NORTH CAROLINA
GFWC Mary Steward Woman's Club

OHIO
GFWC Belpre Woman's Club

OREGON
GFWC Beaverton Woman's Club

PENNSYLVANIA
GFWC Bangor Woman's Club
GFWC Northeastern Club

SOUTH CAROLINA
GFWC Seneca Junior Women's Club

DELAWARE
GFWC IMPACT

GEORGIA
GFWC Service Guild of Covington
GFWC Sylvester Woman's Club

ILLINOIS
GFWC Princeton Junior Woman's Club
GFWC Wood River Woman's Club

KANSAS
GFWC Hutchinson Questers

MAINE
GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club
GFWC Winterport Women's Club

TEXAS
GFWC Magnolia District
GFWC Texas Decatur Woman's Club

VIRGINIA
GFWC Bedford Woman's Club
GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun
GFWC Woman's Club of Prince George

WASHINGTON
GFWC Valley Volunteers

WISCONSIN
GFWC Woman's Club of West Allis



Legislative Corner

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

Following Labor Day, Congress will return to Washington after taking a collective pause for the August recess. Several bills of importance to GFWC were passed in July, setting the stage for needed advocacy in September to push these measures across the finish line by the end of the calendar year. Look for new alerts from the GFWC Legislative Action Center to support these critically important bills. It's not too late to register for the LAC; go to <https://www.gfwc.org/get-involved/> to sign up.

Online Child Protection Bills Move Forward: In late July, the Senate approved a bill combining the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act (KOSA) and the Children and Teen's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA 2.0) by an overwhelming vote of 91-3. Many thanks to GFWC members who acted in the Legislative Action Center to support these bills. Advocates hope this tremendous momentum continues in the House of Representatives urging the Committee on Energy and Commerce to hold a markup of H.R. 7891 when they return to Capitol Hill in September. KOSA creates a legally relevant "duty to care" standard for online apps and platforms to responsibly design their products in a manner that is safe for children, designed to prevent access to harmful sites, requires social media companies to enable strong security settings for children, and empowers parents to have more control over the content their children can access. The Senate measure also would ban online companies from collecting personal information from users between 13 and 16 years old without their consent, ban companies from using children's personal information for targeted advertising, and enable parents and kids to delete personal information from company platforms.

In mid-July, the Senate passed the SHIELD Act (S. 412, H.R. 3686) which will establish a criminal offense to knowingly distribute, or threaten to distribute, sexually explicit content of an individual without their consent, establish a criminal offense for distributing a visual depiction of a nude minor with the intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade the minor, or to arouse any person, and subjects a violator to a fine, prison term of five years, or both. Current state laws offer incomplete and inconsistent protection for victims of non-consensual image exploitation and abuse, which disproportionately target women and children.

The Senate also passed the DEFIANCE Act (S. 3696, H.R. 7569) which would create a federal civil remedy for victims of deepfake sexual abuse. It would allow victims of nonconsensual sexually explicit deepfake images of themselves to sue people who create, share, and receive them.

In May, the REPORT Act sponsored by Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Jon Ossoff (D-GA) became law and will require websites and social media platforms to report crimes involving federal trafficking and enticement of children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Over the past three years, NCMEC has seen a 300 percent increase in reports of online enticement, including sextortion, to the CyberTipline. In January, the Preventing Child Sex Abuse Act was signed into law to strengthen federal protections against the sexual abuse of children, including online exploitation.



Holiday Open House Room Bookings

Courtyard Washington, DC Dupont Circle

Book accommodations for the GFWC Holiday Open House on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024.**

Last Day to Book: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Dates available: December 2-6, 2024

Courtyard Washington, DC Dupont Circle for \$174 per night

[Book your group rate for the General Federation of Women's Clubs](#)

GFWC Arts & Culture Shines Bright – Outside

By: Billie Williams, GFWC Arts & Culture Chairman



Art should be allowed to roam free it can brighten anyone's day. In order to accomplish that, the emphasis for this administration in the Arts & Culture CSP is to develop "bright" ideas and "focus" on the **Community Connection Initiative**, "Outdoor Art Murals."

Art can shine brightly in neighborhoods and communities when it is freed from the confines of a museum or an indoor venue; brought outside and put on a building, a fence, or any other public space.

Outdoor Art can highlight the history and culture of a neighborhood, district, or the entire city. It is the art that can be enjoyed by all. Some might call this "Fast Food Art" because it is easily accessed from behind the wheel of a car.

However you look at it, outdoor art can be enjoyable, informative, and fun. Outdoor art can be funny, educational, and whimsical. It can be educational, revealing, and enlightening, and can illustrate the values of the surrounding neighborhood. One can get a feel for the culture of the people who live there just by driving by.

When developing club outlines this term under Arts & Culture the “Light Bulb Moment” begins with thinking outside the box... **“REALLY”** outside. This administration let’s work together to combine “*Our Little Lights*” and “*Let Them Shine, Let Them Shine.... Let Them Shine Thru GFWC Arts & Culture CSP.*”



On Friday, September 27, Shot@Life advocates from across the U.S., including many GFWC members, will gather virtually for the *Mobilize to Immunize* Fall Summit. The event - with a theme of “*Innovate to Vaccinate: How Technology is Changing the Immunization Landscape*” - will highlight how technology can drive progress in global immunization with specific examples and stories of success. Participants will learn from global health experts and connect with other advocates from across the country during breakout sessions. All sessions will help participants prepare to advocate for robust U.S. funding for global childhood immunization programs during Mobilize to Immunize on October 1 – November 12. All are welcome to apply [here](#).

Gold Pins

Celebrating 50 years of GFWC Membership

Fran Mask

GFWC Gunter Ladies of Tomorrow Club (TX)

Mary Phillips-Cauffiel

GFWC Grafton Woman's Club (WV)

Marilyn Hatley

GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club (SC)

Marie Drake

GFWC Dunwoody Woman's Club (GA)

Marianne Husk

GFWC of the Villages (FL)

Club Anniversaries

25

GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club (VA)

75

GFWC Quest Club of Wadley (AL)

90

GFWC Woman's Club of Aruba (Aruba)

110

GFWC Benton Woman's Club (KY)

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Millville Woman's Club (NJ)



SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

GFWC Millville Woman's Club (MWC) is a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and this administration's State Special Project benefits the New Jersey Children's Alliance (NJCA). This organization focuses on children who are victims of child abuse. The first leg of the State Special Project is a collection of backpacks and school supplies. Members of MWC gave monetary support and donated 36 backpacks filled with school supplies to NJCA. Carol Calareso, MWC Trustee Chair, Bette Rieck, Trustee, Barbara Westog, MWC Special State Project Chair, and Myra Wightman, Trustee, are shown holding some of the backpacks donated.

We want to feature YOUR club! Send us a short story and 1-2 photos of your club in action for an opportunity to be featured in News & Notes. Please send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words on your project to PR@GFWC.org



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