



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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November 21, 2024

GFWC: Increasing Your Volunteer Impact



2025 GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE TO SPOTLIGHT DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE — Saturday, September 27

The 2025 General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) International Day of Service (IDS), formerly GFWC National Day of Service (NDS), will focus on *domestic and sexual violence*.

According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that between 736 million to 852 million women, aged 15 years or older, have experienced domestic and sexual violence. Within the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 16 million people are affected every year.

As GFWC collaborates with various national networks, we look forward to expanding our knowledge of the issues while engaging members and communities to unite in addressing this pervasive societal epidemic.

Community service projects for the 2025 GFWC IDS can focus on any area of domestic and sexual violence. Here are eight areas your club might consider:

- Campus Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Military Sexual Assault
- Teen Dating Violence
- Violence Against Native American Women

More information and project ideas for 2025 GFWC IDS will be available online at www.GFWC.org and posted in the Digital Library.

Happy Thanksgiving



Dear GFWC Members,

As Thanksgiving approaches, the Executive Committee and I are so grateful for you—our dedicated, compassionate members who embody the spirit of service every day. Your relentless commitment to empowering communities, supporting those in need, and fostering transformative change serves as a powerful inspiration to us all.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with joy, love, and the warmth of connection with family and friends.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Suellen B Brazil

Suellen B. Brazil
GFWC International President

Join the GFWC Walk to End Alzheimer's National Team



GFWC New Mexico raised \$2,635 during their Walk to End Alzheimer's

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. GFWC will continue its impact by forming teams and raising funds for Walks across the country. Join more than 200 GFWC club members who have already pledged to walk for the cause and together have raised \$43,000. Together, we can meet our goal of \$50,000 to support the work of the Alzheimer's Association.

Visit alz.org/GFWC to start a team, or join an existing team today!

More National Team Information

THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE NEXT GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINARS PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN.

JANUARY 27, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET – ESO Beyond the Page, Mystery with a Mission
Join Amazon best-selling and award-winning author, Amy Peele, GFWC Education and Libraries/Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman as she dives into her book "CUT" and how she brought a 35-year career in the transplantation field to the pages. Her Transplant Medical Murder Mystery series is referred to as "mystery with a mission and a side of humor" and enjoys five-star reviews on Goodreads and Amazon.
<https://bit.ly/3AkgYoc>

FEBRUARY 5, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET – Heart Health Awareness Month
During Heart Health Awareness Month, Jude Mabone, Miss District of Columbia 2023 and GFWC Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman recounts how her own heart health scare has brought her to work with the American Heart Association. She will share her life's journey and the importance of CPR/AED training.
<https://bit.ly/48Epc7g>

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET – The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand and Building Membership
Leslie Capps, Founder Wild Woman Marketing and GFWC Communications Honorary Chairman Personal Connections are the key to building membership. We will delve into how using your GFWC volunteer story as a marketing strategy will gain local recognition and increase membership numbers!
<https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs>



Join us for the Winter 2025 GFWC Learning Gateway Series

Learn from 2024-2026 GFWC Honorary Chairmen and gain insight into these varied topics:

January 27, 2025 at 7 p.m. ET - ESO Beyond the Page, Mystery with a Mission

<https://bit.ly/3AkgYoc>

February 5, 2025 at 7 p.m. ET - Heart Health Awareness Month

<https://bit.ly/48Epc7g>

February 11, 2025 at 7 p.m. ET - The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand and Building Membership

<https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs>



Compassion in Action

By: Becky Vansant, GFWC Alabama State President

The GFWC Alabama President's Project focuses on Mental Health Awareness, and our theme is Compassion in Action. As a society, we have struggled with acknowledging the issues, providing care, and treating those who suffer with dignity and compassion.

Mental health issues are on a broad spectrum ranging from seasonal depression to schizophrenia. Mental health issues are more prevalent than we realize.

Did You Know:

- One in five adults experience mental illness;
- One in six youths aged 6-17 will experience a mental health disorder;
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged 10-14;
- More than 21% of the unhoused population have a mental health condition;
- Almost 20% of veterans experience a mental illness;
- Two in five people who are incarcerated have a history of mental illness.

GFWC Alabama encourages club members to educate their communities about mental health issues, strive to end the stigma, and be advocates. Our website contains information regarding the president's project, and mental health posts can be found on our social media every Monday. Legislative alerts regarding proposed legislation will be provided, and everyone is asked to support local mental health centers. GFWC Alabama will be co-sponsoring a Mental Health Symposium with the Alabama Department of Mental Health on July 11, 2025, in our state capital.

Every forty seconds someone loses their life to suicide. The 988 Lifeline has become a crucial part of the nation's mental health infrastructure, and Alabama club members have been busy promoting this resource.

GFWC Alabama looks forward to seeing the impact we will have in our state.



Members prepared 144 Child Trauma Kits for the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education at the GFWC Alabama Leadership Workshop. Kits included a coloring book focused on processing emotions, a stuffed animal, and crayons in a drawstring bag



Don't Miss Your Golden Opportunity to Celebrate the Season of Giving with GFWC!

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, December 4, at GFWC Headquarters for a day of friendship and hors d'oeuvres among fellow members and honored guests. GFWC Executive Committee members and staff are excited to celebrate the holiday season with you.

Be sure to stop by the GFWC Marketplace for a bit of shopping while here and visit the GFWC State Federation ornaments featured in the first-floor entry of

If you are planning to drive, discounted valet parking is available for \$15 at the [Marriott Courtyard](#) across the street. Please let them know you are with GFWC upon arrival to receive the discounted rate.

Take a moment and RSVP at memberportal.gfwc.org/events if you have not already done so.

If you are planning to bring a group, please contact GFWC Events Manager Nishu Raina at NRaina@gfwc.org

Let Us Forget Not to be Kind

By: Jan Hanson, GFWC Membership Committee Member

The Collect for Clubwomen ends with the words, “Let us forget not to be kind.” Too bad it does not say nice instead of kind. Nice is easy. We say thank you, hold a door, and listen. These are small gestures of a civilized society and are important. Nice is pleasant but does not require much effort or sacrifice. So how is being kind different? Being kind requires you to be proactive and care-oriented. It requires sacrifice.

Let’s **educate** our members on the benefits of being kind. Besides helping someone else, those who are kind are improving their own mental health and boosting confidence, all while increasing their connection to others.

Engage members in service projects taking kindness to the next step. Do not just donate a can of food, organize a food drive. Set up a committee to help members in need. Cards are nice, but casseroles or visits might be better. Survey your members to find out their interests, incorporating their ideas into your programs, service, and fundraisers.

Being kind can also **empower** your members. Making acts of kindness a priority in your club will instill in your members the confidence to reach their potential. Giving members the opportunity to show kindness increases their investment in your club. Acknowledging members who show kindness might be a catalyst for other members to do the same. Wouldn’t that be a great club to belong to?

So, when you say kind in the Collect, please think of ways to show people you care about them, beyond being nice.



Legislative Corner

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

Congress returned to Washington the week of November 11, after a six-week election break. This lame-duck session will blend lingering issues with the anticipation of the incoming 119th Congress (2025-2026). Any legislation which fails to pass before the end of the year must be reintroduced. In the 2024 elections, Republicans won control of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the White House so new leadership has been chosen and they will heavily influence which legislation gets finalized by December 2024, and which issues will be dealt with in the new 119th Congress.

GFWC Legislative Action Center: There's still time to utilize the [GFWC Legislative Action Center](#)! If you have not contacted your member of Congress or you want to send another message, please act NOW! If you are not yet a member, join now and advocate!

Caregivers: November is National Family Caregivers Month, so let's work with our affiliate, the Alzheimer's Association, to seek final passage of the BOLD Infrastructure Act (H.R. 7218) to strengthen the public health response to dementia. This bill passed the House of Representatives on September 17 and is pending in the Senate.

GFWC also supports our veterans and their families by advocating for the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act. On Monday, November 18, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8371, the Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, with overwhelming bipartisan support. This comprehensive bill includes the Home Care Act supported by GFWC through the Legislative Action Center.

Breast Cancer: GFWC supports the Find It Early Act.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA): GFWC supports legislation to alter the formula for the Crime Victims Fund, providing more funds for domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers.

Kids Online Safety: GFWC supports the Kids Online Safety Act approved by the Senate and under consideration in the House of Representatives. GFWC International President Suellen Brazil thanked Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA) for her leadership as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and for getting the bill reported out of committee and ready for action by the full House of Representatives ([Read Letter](#)). GFWC of

Washington is also showing their appreciation to Rep. McMorris Rodgers who is retiring in December.

Human Trafficking: GFWC [cosigned a letter](#) supporting the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This bill passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

Women's Suffrage National Monument: GFWC supports the passage of H.R. 1318 to locate the monument on the National Mall. The bill has passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

FY 2025 Federal Appropriations: GFWC has advocated for funding for programs and services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and international vaccine programs. The current Continuing Resolution expires on December 20, and it is still unclear if Congress will complete the FY 2025 appropriations bills or pass another Continuing Resolution into the new year.



Join Shot@Life's Spring Summit in Washington, D.C. February 24–26 to learn from global health experts and sharpen your advocacy skills! Participants will also attend congressional meetings on Capitol Hill to advocate for strong U.S. investment in lifesaving global immunization programs. There are spots/travel scholarships reserved for GFWC members, so be sure to **apply before Thursday, December 5 at 11:59 pm EST, to be considered.** Learn more and apply [HERE](#) today.



Wicked and Gladiator II Open November 22 in Theaters! Get Discounted Movie Tickets Through Tickets at Work!

Save on your movie tickets today and get ready to experience the magic like never before in the new "Wicked" movie, opening tomorrow. "Gladiator II" fraught with deadly fights, bold threats, and clandestine meetings, is also opening tomorrow, just in time for Thanksgiving weekends. Head to the theater for this bountiful selection of films and save money on tickets for the whole family!

[Buy Tickets Now](#)

Gold Pins

Celebrating 50 years of GFWC Membership

Carol Hill

GFWC Vignette Club of Columbiana (Alabama)

Club Anniversaries

70

GFWC Clairemont Woman's Club (California)

75

GFWC King's Fork Woman's Club (Virginia)

GFWC Woman's Club of Saraland (Alabama)

120

GFWC Outlook Club (Maine)



Volunteers in Action: GFWC Paradise Valley Junior Woman's Club (AZ)

The GFWC Paradise Valley Junior Woman's Club formed a team for the 2024 Arizona Alzheimer's Walk in Phoenix, AZ, on November 2, 2024. The club donated \$250 for the walk, and club members raised an additional \$1,245 from personal gifts and donations from friends, family, and neighbors. Eight members and one Booster husband were among the several thousand supporters who participated in the 2.58-mile walk. Several members have a family member with Alzheimer's, and the club was pleased to support GFWC's newest affiliate organization for the second year in a row. After the walk, six of the team enjoyed a celebratory lunch at a local eatery.

**Want your club project to be featured in an upcoming issue of
News & Notes?**

Simply send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words describing your club's favorite project to PR@GFWC.org.
Make sure to add a great action shot or two that brings your project to life!

GFWC News & Notes will not be published on Thursday, November 28 due to Thanksgiving and will resume on December 5. We wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.



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