

# Welcome to the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)



# Our Mission:

**The General Federation of Women’s Clubs is an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.**

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GFWC clubs and clubwomen are the fabric that binds not only the Federation, but the communities in which they live and work. By *Living the Volunteer Spirit*, GFWC clubwomen transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on tangible projects that provide immediate impact. With a grassroots approach that often thinks locally but impacts globally, GFWC, its clubs and members remain committed to serving as a force for global good, as it has done since its formation 128 years ago.

With over 80,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement, and work toward world peace and understanding.

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# Our Story

Founded in 1890, GFWC’s roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman’s club—Soros. In celebration of Soros’ 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 1889, Jane Croly invited women’s clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of federation by attending a convention in New York City. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women’s Clubs by ratifying the GFWC constitution.

Since 1890, GFWC’s impact has been felt throughout communities across the United States and the globe.

# Jane Cunningham Croly



Jane Cunningham Croly, journalist, author, editor, and woman's club leader, was born in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, England. Croly was the fourth child of Jane Scott and Joseph Howes Cunningham, a Unitarian preacher. Her father's unpopular beliefs reportedly led to the stoning of their house and the impetus for the family's move to the United States in 1841.

Jane finished her childhood in Poughkeepsie and Wappinger's Falls, New York. She received her early education by reading widely in her father's library. She lived and kept house for her brother, a Congregationalist minister in Worcester, Massachusetts. She taught school there and wrote a semi-monthly newspaper for her brother's congregation.

In 1854, at age 25, Jane arrived in New York City in search of work. The *New York Tribune* accepted her first article. She then began working as a journalist for the *New York Sunday Times* and *Noah's Weekly Messenger*, where she started using the pen name Jennie June and wrote a women's column called "Parlor and Side-walk Gossip." One account describes her as "small of stature...charming in manner with attractive blue eyes and brown hair, but beneath her engaging personality dwelt an independent spirit."

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Jane's column was popular, and by 1857, she became one of the first women syndicated columnists, appearing in newspapers in New Orleans, Richmond, Baltimore, and Louisville.

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In 1856, she married a staff writer for the *Herald*, David Goodman Croly, a self-educated Irish immigrant who, as an editor, would be credited with pioneering the format of the modern Sunday newspaper. Jane's column was popular, and by 1857, she became one of the first women syndicated columnists, appearing in newspapers in New Orleans, Richmond, Baltimore, and Louisville.

The couple moved to Rockford, Illinois in 1859, home of Jane's sister Mary and her family, and Jane gave birth to her first daughter, Minnie. With the financial backing of Mary's husband, the Crolys started up the *Rockford Daily News*, but the newspaper failed a year later, and they moved back to New York. Jane ran the women's department at *New York World* (1862 – 1872), where her husband was managing editor, and became chief staff writer of *Mme. Demorest's Mirror of Fashions*, later *Demorest's Monthly Magazine* (1860 – 1887). During this period, she had four more children—a son who died in infancy, two more daughters, Viola and Alice, and a son Herbert David (1869 – 1930), the first editor of the *New Republic*.



In 1864, Croly published her first book, *Talks on Woman's Topics*, a collection of newspaper pieces. In 1866 she published *Jennie June's American Cookery Book*, a domestic manual dedicated to the young housekeepers of America. As expected from an ambitious, busy mother, she gave much advice on efficiency, preparedness, economy, and discipline.

Aware of her dual roles as mother and journalist, as well as the changing status of women—middle-class women, especially—Jane spent much of her life organizing venues for women to meet, learn, and discuss issues surrounding their roles in society. She started her first organization, the Women's Parliament, in 1856. Then, in 1869, she and other female journalists were denied tickets to hear Charles Dickens speak in New York City. This spurred her to form the famous women's club, Sorosis—a “centre of unity” that had neither a charitable nor socio-economic purpose, but sought “collective elevation and advancement.” As women's clubs began forming across the country, they

became a center of educational advocacy and a sort of college for older women who wanted to learn. “The woman has been the one isolated fact in the universe,” she wrote in her best-known book, *The History of the Woman’s Club Movement in America* (1898). “The outlook upon the world, the means of education, the opportunities for advancement, had all been denied her.”

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Croly formed the General Federation of Women’s Clubs in 1890, to support clubs throughout the nation and further their efforts at providing education, improved working conditions, health care, scholarships, and other reforms. Croly also founded the New York Women’s Press Club in 1889.

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Throughout her life, Croly would be the major provider for her family. Her husband quit his editing position in 1877 to spread the doctrine of Auguste Comte’s Positivism. Croly became the sole source of the family’s income when her husband’s health began to decline, leaving him an invalid until his death in 1889. Meanwhile, with the end of Demorest’s magazine ventures in 1887 and an unsuccessful attempt to revive *Godey’s Lady’s Book* (in which she bought a half interest) Croly turned her attention toward the founding of a magazine for her Federation, initially entitled the *Woman’s Cycle*. Croly spent her last years writing her *History of the Woman’s Club Movement*. She died in New York City in 1901, and was buried in Lakewood, N.J., beside her husband.

Like many prominent women of her day, Croly’s position on women’s issues was contradictory. She recognized that the middle-class woman was losing her place of authority in the home as industrialization and servants freed her from housework, and new avenues of responsibility outside the home opened slowly if at all; she was becoming, as she wrote in 1869, “a child to be caressed, waited upon, and provided for.” Croly wrote earlier in her career that the answer to this problem lay not in political empowerment or outside employment, but in paying more attention to housekeeping and mothering. However, Croly became very involved in improving working conditions for women, supporting professional female journalists, and advising and assisting educated girls looking for employment. Through her dedication to women’s clubs, she committed to helping other women obtain the education that the society of men had failed to support. Jennie June was looking ahead, not behind.

# GFWC Headquarters

It's not just an office, it's a home.

GFWC Headquarters is a National Historic Landmark located at 1734 N Street, NW in Washington D.C. The building became GFWC's official headquarters in 1922, and its historic Victorian style has been maintained through generous contributions from members and friends. Headquarters serves as the working offices for the GFWC International President and staff, but it is so much more. It is also the home of the Women's History and Resource Center, which collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of the GFWC and women volunteers. Headquarters is the literal home to the GFWC International President during her two-year administration, with residences occupying 1734's upper floors. Headquarters serves as host to events, such as the annual Women's History Month event and Holiday Open House, and the property houses the popular Iron Gate Inn Restaurant.

Finally, as a National Historic Landmark, GFWC Headquarters is a snapshot in time. The beautifully decorated rooms, furniture, and historic collections are certainly worth a visit!

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## The Building at 1734 N Street



1734 N Street NW

In 1901, the 56<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress granted GFWC a Federal Charter, which stipulated that it maintain its headquarters in Washington, D.C. GFWC maintained temporary war service and editorial offices in the nation's capital during WWI, and in 1920 adopted a resolution to establish permanent headquarters there that would "be commensurate with the dignity, size and influence of the



organization.” In 1922, GFWC clubwomen purchased 1734 N Street NW in the fashionable Dupont Circle neighborhood, acquiring an elegant Victorian mansion complete with its former owners’ colorful stories.

Retired Rear Admiral William Radford (1808-1890) built the grand home at 1736 (now 1734) N Street NW in 1875, when the neighborhood’s central feature was known as “Pacific Circle.” It would not be identified as “Dupont Circle” until 1884 with the erection of a statue memorializing Rear Admiral Samuel Du Pont. The Radfords lived in the home for several years; in one of Washington society’s most notable events, Admiral Radford’s daughter Sophia married Russian diplomat Vladimir de Meissner in the family home in 1878.

A unique feature of 1734 N Street is the long, narrow room above the former carriageway (now the entrance to the Iron Gate Inn Restaurant), constructed in 1884 by owners Thaddeus and Augusta Markley. Having purchased a portion of the adjoining lot to create a grand driveway and admit more light into their home, the Markleys were dismayed to discover that plans for neighboring 1728 included windows overlooking their property. They constructed a wall to protect their privacy, but city building regulations limited its height; undeterred, they built an extension from the second floor, creating a space 12 ½ feet wide by 65 feet long that neighbors dubbed the “spite room.”

General Nelson A. Miles (1839-1925), who achieved military notoriety in the American Civil War and Indian Wars, was the home’s next owner. In late 1895, soon after Miles’ transfer to Washington to assume command of the U.S. Army, “The General Miles Testimonial Association” organized in New York to raise funds toward the purchase of a home for him in the capital city. *The Washington Post* later reported that about \$40,000 was collected for the purchase of 1736 N Street NW.

General Miles used the long gallery over the carriageway, which was adjacent to his library, to display the many artifacts he had collected during the Indian Wars, “a veritable museum of historical and ethnological objects” according to a February 1899 *New York Times* feature story on the home.



General Miles sold the home to New Yorkers John and Grace Hoffman White in 1908. The Whites extensively modernized both the exterior and interior of the home. The décor reflected Mr. White’s interest in exotic animals and birds, such as those depicted by noted muralist Albert Herter on the painted wall canvasses in the drawing room. Like General Miles, John White used the room above the carriageway to display artifacts and big game trophies. Grace Hoffman White, a suffragist, peace activist, and writer, decorated some of the home’s furnishings with poetic sentiments. A few of these are now in GFWC’s collections, including the music room mantel engraved with the words: “I can not warm you if your heart be cold.”

The Whites leased the home to Uruguay for its legation during World War I, and to the new nation of Czechoslovakia after the war, before selling it to GFWC in 1922. GFWC Headquarters was named a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

## Visit GFWC

It's not just an office, it's a home.

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GFWC members, political dignitaries, celebrities, notable professionals, and historians are among the thousands of visitors to have walked Headquarters' venerable hallways since 1922. If you haven't yet done so, we encourage you to visit us!

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## Tours

GFWC welcomes both individuals and groups for tours, available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Each tour lasts 1 to 2 hours depending upon the number of visitors. To schedule a visit, please email [GFWC@GFWC.org](mailto:GFWC@GFWC.org). Walk-ins are accepted; however, GFWC recommends scheduling a visit to ensure the best possible experience. GFWC also welcomes students and researcher visits to the Women's History and Resource Center.



# GFWC Leadership

## National Level

GFWC is a community service organization with many levels of leadership and membership. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors represent GFWC members on a national scale. The Board of Directors consists of Region Presidents, State Presidents, State Directors of Junior Clubs, Committee Chairmen, Committee Members, and Special Appointments. GFWC members involved with these committees are appointed by the GFWC International President at the beginning of her two-year term. During her administration, the GFWC International President lives at GFWC Headquarters in Washington D.C. All members of the GFWC Board have leadership responsibilities and are expected to attend the GFWC Annual Convention.

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## Regional Level

GFWC consists of eight Regions:

### **GFWC Great Lakes Region**

*Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin*

### **GFWC Middle Atlantic Region**

*Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania*

### **GFWC Mississippi Valley Region**

*Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota*

### **GFWC New England Region**

*Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont*

### **GFWC South Central Region**

*Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas*

### **GFWC Southeastern Region**

*District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia*

### **GFWC Southern Region**

*Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina*

## **GFWC Western States Region**

*Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming*

Each region holds an annual conference in the fall, separate from the GFWC Annual Convention.

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## **State Level**

GFWC has members in each of the 50 states. State Federations host individual conferences each spring. County and district levels are contained within the state level. These two Federation categories vary from state to state; some states choose not to have county and district levels, whereas other states contain multiple counties and districts.

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## **Local Level**

GFWC is comprised of nearly 3,000 local clubs. Each club elects officers and works independently on various projects in their community.

# GFWC Impact & Accomplishments

## Impact & Accomplishments

GFWC is distinguished from other service organizations by the breadth of our outreach. Our community service programs span all areas of the lives of our members, their families, and communities: arts, conservation, education, home life, public issues, and international outreach.

GFWC has earned a reputation as a powerful force in the fight against domestic violence. GFWC was recognized on the floor of the United States Senate as “a gem among our midst” by then-Senator Joseph Biden (Del.) for our work in bringing hope to victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse, and our early support for the Violence Against Women Act.

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## Our Story

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**1868:** GFWC’s roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly (1829-1901), a professional New York journalist who wrote under the pen name of Jennie June, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and, in response, she formed a club for women. She chose the name Sorosis, a Greek word meaning “an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits.”

**1890:** Jane Croly, founder of Sorosis, extended an invitation to women’s clubs throughout the United States to attend a ratification convention in New York City. Sixty-three clubs attended on April 23-25 and took action to form the General Federation of Women’s Clubs.

**1898:** GFWC unanimously passed a resolution against child labor. With the help of clubwoman Jane Addams (1860-1935), child labor became a major area of concern for the Federation. In 1901, Addams headed the Federation’s Child Labor Committee to work for the maintenance and improvement of child labor laws.

**1899:** GFWC’s Chicago Woman’s Club supported the juvenile court law, the first ever to be passed in the United States. This law became the model for all subsequent juvenile court laws, many of which were passed at the insistence of GFWC clubwomen. Julia Lathrop (1858-1932) led this club effort and was appointed by President William Howard Taft to head the Children’s Bureau in 1912.

**1901:** The 56<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States chartered GFWC and designated that the Federation be headquartered in Washington, DC.

**1906:** GFWC member Alice Lakey (1857-1935) spearheaded a letter and telegram writing campaign, which was essential to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act. Dr. Harvey Wiley, the first chief of the Pure Food Bureau, attributed the bill's passing to GFWC and stated, "Trust them [GFWC] to put the ball over the goal line every time."

**1910s:** GFWC supported legislation for the eight-hour workday, workplace safety and inspection, and workmen's compensation. Members also supported prison reform legislation.

**1916:** GFWC worked with the Children's Bureau to promote National Baby Week. Over 2,000 clubs participated by focusing on infant and maternal mortality, birth registration, and public health facilities. The Federation's efforts resulted in the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921), which advanced maternal education.

**1919:** Under the direction of the YMCA, GFWC created the Overseas Service Unit and sent 100 young women to Europe to assist wounded soldiers in the aftermath of World War I.

**1921:** GFWC created the Indian Welfare Committee, which worked improving both education and health facilities on reservations, as well as preserving Native American culture.

**1922:** GFWC Clubwomen purchased 1734 N Street, NW in Washington, DC to serve as the Federation's International Headquarters. In addition to staff offices and rooms for meetings and receptions, one floor was designated to serve as an apartment for the International President.

**1925:** GFWC initiated a nationwide Federation survey of the American home, which placed a spotlight on the status of technology in the home. The survey led to the inclusion of homemaker as an occupation on the 1930 United States Census

**1930s:** Having founded over 474 free public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries, women's clubs were credited by the American Library Association with establishing 75 percent of America's public libraries. Supporting local libraries continues to be a Federation priority today.

**1932:** GFWC established the Junior Department in response to an increasing number of younger women participating in volunteer community service.

**1934:** GFWC began a 10-year study to review the question of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). In 1944, GFWC adopted a resolution in support of the ERA, which the Federation continues to support today.

**1940:** GFWC celebrated its Golden Jubilee commemorating 50 years of Federation work.

**1944:** Through the GFWC Buy a Bomber campaign during World War II, state federations sold war bonds worth \$154,459,132—enough money to purchase 431 planes.

**1945:** GFWC was one of the five women's organizations chosen to participate in the conference to form the United Nations. At the conference, GFWC representatives supported the ratification of the United Nations Charter.

**1950:** GFWC began its relationship with the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE). The organizations jointly distributed relief shipments to Korea.

**1955:** GFWC first established the Community Achievement Program, which recognized clubs that best improved the quality of life in their communities. Now called the Community Improvement Contest, it remains one of GFWC's longest running and most important efforts.

**1960:** Brighten the Night was a nationwide Federation campaign for street lighting to prevent crime and accidents.

**1961:** GFWC's Women's Crusade for Seat Belts program resulted in the installation of more than one million seat belts over the course of one year.

**1965:** GFWC was awarded a stamp by the United States Post Office in honor of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**1970s:** GFWC responded to the startling rise in crime with a citizen-based grassroots program, Hands Up, which was applauded as a "valuable public service" by President Gerald R. Ford.

**1984:** GFWC founded the Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote primary and secondary source materials and information on GFWC and women in volunteerism.

**1986:** In keeping with GFWC's commitment to conservation, the Federation instituted programs to protect and preserve endangered species.

**1990s:** GFWC actively supported the passage of the Violence Against Women Act; the Americans With Disabilities Act; the Family and Medical Leave Act; and legislation supporting handgun control.

**1990:** GFWC celebrated its centennial anniversary in New York City.

**1994:** GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.

**1997:** GFWC renewed its commitment to libraries with the Libraries 2000 project. Over a five year period, GFWC clubwomen raised and donated \$13.5 million to public libraries and public school libraries across the nation.

**2000s:** GFWC members contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance for use by the New York Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

**2011:** GFWC introduces the *Success For Survivors Scholarship*, created as part of our efforts to highlight the importance of rebuilding one's life after experiencing intimate partner violence. Each

year, GFWC awards \$2,500 scholarships to help intimate partner survivors obtain a post-secondary education that will offer them the chance to reshape their future by securing employment and gaining personal independence.

**2015:** GFWC celebrates 125 years of Federation on April 24.

## Croly Award

Call for 2019 applications now open!

The Jane Cunningham Croly Award for Excellence in Journalism Covering Issues of Concern to Women, or simply, the Croly Award, recognizes journalists who best capture the courage, vision, and spirit of Jane Cunningham Croly. Jane Cunningham Croly was a pioneering journalist who devoted her life to helping women improve their lives and expand their rights. The Croly Award winner must demonstrate a concern for the rights and the advancement of women in our society; an awareness of women's sensitivity, strength, and courage; and/or an attempt to counteract existing sexism.

Fill out the 2019 application form to apply. The deadline is April 30, 2019.

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## 2017 Croly Award Winner – Aela Callan

GFWC is pleased to honor documentary filmmaker and journalist Aela Callan with the 2017 Croly Award for her eye-opening documentary, *Good Morning Pakistan: Journalists Under Threat*, produced by Al-Jazeera's 101 East Program. The film follows the lives of journalists in Pakistan's tribal areas and effectively illustrates the incredible risks faced by female reporters in the area every day. Callan reveals how women's stories would go untold if not for the tireless work of reporters in Peshawar's Tribal News Network.

## Partnerships

GFWC is proud to partner with a number of dynamic and impactful organizations. Together, we work to improve our communities and better our world. Our partners offer unique and customized services, including: materials, speakers, kits, and/or additional information specifically designed for GFWC clubs.

Partners are grouped by focus among our Signature Program, Juniors' Special Program, and appropriate Community Service Programs. You can find a full list of GFWC Program Partners with contact information in our Partners Handout.



We are continually working to develop partnerships with organizations whose missions and scope of work are germane to GFWC. Please contact us at [programs@GFWC.org](mailto:programs@GFWC.org) or 202-347-3168 for more information about partnering with GFWC.

## Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention

### *Prevent Child Abuse America*

Prevent Child Abuse America is the leading national, not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is “to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation’s children.” Prevention is defined as the abuse or neglect never occurring. The Prevent Child Abuse America national office is located in Chicago, Illinois, and its network includes 47 statewide prevention chapters.



### **PCAA Resources**

Pinwheels for Prevention Award Application

## Education Community Service Program

### *Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY)*

Founded in 1958, HOBY’s mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. For more than five decades, HOBY has been inspiring young people to make a difference and become catalysts for positive change in their home, school, workplace, and community. HOBY also provides adults with opportunities to make a significant impact on the lives of youth by volunteering. More than 4,000 committed HOBY volunteers plan and execute the programs each year. Due to the selfless efforts of volunteers and the contributions of generous donors, nearly 10,000 students participate in HOBY programs annually.

### **HOBY Resources**

HOBY Brochure

## Home Life Community Service Program

### *Canine Companions for Independence*

Founded in 1975, Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. Headquartered in Santa Rosa, CA, CCI is the largest non-profit provider of assistance dogs, and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. The result is a life full of increased independence and loving companionship.



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## International Outreach Community Service Program

### *Heifer International*

For more than 70 years, Heifer International has provided gifts of livestock and environmentally-sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. Since 1944, Heifer has helped over 22 million families in more than 125 countries through training in livestock development and livestock gifts that multiply.



### **Heifer Resources**

Brochure and GFWC Program Kit

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### ***Operation Smile***

Operation Smile is an international children’s medical charity focused on restoring children’s smiles through performing surgery on facial deformities such as cleft lip and cleft palate. They are dedicated to raising awareness of this life-threatening issue and providing lasting solutions that will allow children to be healed, regardless of financial standing, well into the future. Operation Smile’s free surgeries and medical missions are made possible by the thousands of volunteers and donors, throughout the world, who generously contribute time, talent and resources.



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### ***United Nations Foundation Shot@Life Campaign***

Shot@Life, a United Nations Foundation’s campaign, seeks to educate, connect, and empower Americans to champion vaccines in order to save children in developing countries. Every 20 seconds, a child dies of a vaccine-preventable disease like pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, and polio. You can help save a child’s life by encouraging, learning about, advocating for, and donating vaccines.



### **Shot@Life Resources**

Fundraising Grant Application

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### ***U.S. Fund For UNICEF***

For more than six decades, GFWC has supported UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, in its efforts to ensure the world’s most vulnerable children have access to health, and immunization, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency and disaster relief, and more.

### **End Trafficking Resources**

End Trafficking Overview and Donation Form  
End Trafficking Tool-Kit  
End Trafficking One-Pager

# Advocacy and GFWC

According to the GFWC Standing Rules, “Member clubs shall be responsible for carrying out the intent of the resolutions.” Clubs and clubwomen are the local advocates for GFWC’s legislative agenda. It is through the national network of grassroots advocates that the Federation gains its political influence.

When advocating on behalf of the Federation, it is critical to remember:

- When speaking on behalf of the Federation, members may not oppose the GFWC resolutions.
- GFWC is a nonpartisan, nondenominational organization. Clubwomen are allowed to advocate for policies or legislation, but NOT allowed by law to endorse candidates or engage in partisan politics. GFWC members must separate personal political activities from official club or state federation work.
- Minority opinions may be expressed as follows: A member organization (club or state federation) holding a minority opinion and wishing to support its stand further may do so provided it states that its action represents the minority vote of GFWC (GFWC Standing Rules).

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## Legislative Action Center

The Legislative Action Center is a powerful tool for GFWC’s public issues and advocacy efforts. Track bills, contact your local representative and take action on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions.



Additionally, check out “Who Represents Us,” an overview of the more than 120 women who make up the 116th Congress.

# Women's History and Resource Center

Founded in 1984, the Women's History and Resource Center collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of the GFWC and women volunteers. The WHRC documents the social and political contributions of GFWC clubwomen from 1890 to the present through the GFWC archives, related special collections, and publications.

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## WHRC Online Catalog

The WHRC online catalog currently provides access to a growing body of information and images related to GFWC's history, including archival material, photographs, publications, art, and artifacts. Tips for searching are available by clicking the *Help* button on the search screen. To avoid too many hits, leave out *GFWC* when searching for names of clubs and state federations. Watch for catalog updates as new material is added.

## Annual Report

### *2017 Program Statistics*

The GFWC Annual Report is a snapshot in time, showcasing clubwomen's commitment to the Federation's mission. 2017 was a year of excitement, energy, and enthusiasm as GFWC continued to empower members to open doors in their communities. Donations of both time and money enabled GFWC to improve the lives of countless individuals and communities. Of course, this work is not done, and GFWC clubwomen look forward to the results of 2018 and what they can accomplish together in 2019.

The below statistical totals include partner donations.

### Grand Totals

Number of Projects: 206,431  
Volunteer Hours: 7,370,038.15  
Dollars Donated: \$ 56,451,713.35  
In-Kind Donations: \$11,022,507.49

### By Focus

#### **Signature Program**

Number of Projects: 5,504

Volunteer Hours: 152,211  
Dollars Donated: \$ 1,095,777.76  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 1,160,946.14

**Juniors' Special Program**

Number of Projects: 3,390  
Volunteer Hours: 127,555  
Dollars Donated: \$ 1,449,947.93  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 425,651.11

**Arts**

Number of Projects: 12,428  
Volunteer Hours: 601,316  
Dollars Donated: \$ 1,035,913.27  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 735,204.21

**Conservation**

Number of Projects: 7,698  
Volunteer Hours: 420,029  
Dollars Donated: \$ 684,718.44  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 679,310.90

**Education**

Number of Projects: 11,248  
Volunteer Hours: 590,643  
Dollars Donated: \$ 4,758,773.97  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 1,955,366.91

**Home Life**

Number of Projects: 36,452  
Volunteer Hours: 1,342,889.85  
Dollars Donated: \$ 4,075,353.92  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 2,997,209.11

**International Outreach**

Number of Projects: 5,525  
Volunteer Hours: 142,560  
Dollars Donated: \$ 822,298.33  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 568,010.03

**Public Issues**

Number of Projects: 9,892  
Volunteer Hours: 445,913.61  
Dollars Donated: \$ 1,447,585.83  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 2,382,144.45

**Advancement Areas**

Number of Projects: 63,258



Volunteer Hours: 3,282,763.55  
Dollars Donated: \$ 40,982,304.14  
In-Kind Donations: \$ 118,864.63

## Community Service Programs and Special Programs

Our Community Service Programs and Special Programs are structured to enable clubs to harness the vast resources of our membership to address the needs of their individual communities.

GFWC Community Service Programs and Special Programs focus on major issues that affect our communities daily—supporting women’s health, preserving natural resources, promoting literacy and equality, citizen advocacy, and encouraging volunteer service—and fall into the following areas of focus:

## About Membership Services

GFWC is a membership-based organization and as such, Membership Services is the primary goal of our staff. It is our intention to provide the most accurate information to all members in a timely manner. We work with members and leaders at all levels to make powerful connections and provide support for the many projects you are doing across the country and around the globe. We work collaboratively with Communications and Public Relations to promote the excellent work and stories of success you share with us. Everything from printed materials to anniversary recognition, from membership pins to community road signs – Membership Services is truly here to serve you.

To discover more of what Membership Services has to offer our members, explore the pages listed on the left. To access or download forms and documents related to Membership Services, visit the [GFWC Resources](#) page.

## Recognition Pins

GFWC members know what it means to make a lasting commitment, and the Federation is proud to honor our loyal members as they celebrate their many years as clubwomen.

**GFWC Gold and Jubilee Pins** are available to honor clubwomen who have brought GFWC’s mission of volunteer service to their communities for 50 (Gold) or 75 (Jubilee) years. These pins are available free of charge. Club presidents can order the pin directly from GFWC Headquarters by completing the Gold Pin order form.

**GFWC 25-Year Silver Pins**, along with our 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, and 40-year Member Pins, are part of our member loyalty recognition program, which honors our members who have served as community volunteers for five years and beyond. Order these pins directly from the GFWC Marketplace.

For more information or to place your order, contact GFWC at [GFWC@GFWC.org](mailto:GFWC@GFWC.org) or 1-800-443-GFWC (4392).

## Awards, Contests, and Grants

GFWC clubs and members are eligible to compete for awards, participate in contests, and apply for grants that GFWC offers exclusively for its State Federations, clubs, Regions, districts, and individual members. Complete details regarding all of GFWC awards and contests are in the *GFWC Club Manual* in the Awards, Contest, and Grants sections, where you can find contest rules, tips for winning entries, and judging criteria.

You can also download the Creative Arts Waiver Form for use in the GFWC Photography Contests and GFWC Writing Contests.

### Awards:

GFWC gives awards for outstanding achievements on an annual or biennial basis at our Annual Convention. Awards are given to clubs and State Federations to recognize their efforts in the program and partnership areas within each GFWC Community Service Program and Special Program. In addition to the GFWC Community Service Program and Special Program awards, GFWC provides awards to recognize individual member accomplishments, club activities, and community improvement efforts.

State Federation awards are based on membership category, which is determined by the number of individual dues-paying members in each state. [Click here to view the 2016-2018 GFWC Awards Categories](#)

## Awards Cover Sheets

[2017 State Award Entry Cover Sheet](#)

[2017 Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet](#)

Our longest standing project, the Community Improvement Program Award is the heart and soul of GFWC and aims to meet the needs of individual communities. The Community Improvement Program Award provides a vision for the future of the relationships between clubs and their communities. [Click here to download the Community Improvement Program Award Entry Form.](#)

The [GFWC Jennie Award](#) honors one clubwoman from each GFWC Region for outstanding commitment to club, community, and family. They are chosen by their clubs to compete at state,

region, and national levels for their outstanding personal commitment to club, community, and family.

The GFWC Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym, "Jennie June." The award highlights those extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage, and persistence in purpose through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, elsewhere in the community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. In fact, it is the highest honor bestowed by GFWC.

The Jane Cunningham Croly Award for Excellence in Journalism Covering Issues of Concern to Women recognizes journalists who best capture the courage, vision, and spirit of Jane Cunningham Croly. Jane Cunningham Croly was a pioneering journalist who devoted her life to helping women improve their lives and expand their rights. The Croly Award winner must demonstrate a concern for the rights and the advancement of women in our society; an awareness of women's sensitivity, strength, and courage; and/or an attempt to counteract existing sexism.

The Croly Award is a biannual competition. The next award will be granted at the 2019 Annual Convention.

The Charlotte Emerson Brown Award for Excellence in State Leadership will recognize the exemplary service of State Presidents to their State Federations and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. GFWC will celebrate the 2016-2018 honorees during the GFWC Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri in June of 2018. If multiple nominees meet the criteria, multiple awards will be presented. The purpose of the award is to recognize GFWC State Presidents who have demonstrated leadership and commitment that goes above and beyond basic expectations. Click here to download the nomination form for the 2016-18 Administration.

Special Program, Community Service Program, and Advancement Area Awards

There will be an Awards Program for states based upon membership categories established at the beginning of each administration to recognize their efforts in supporting GFWC Special Programs, Community Service Programs, and Advancement Areas.

# Contests

GFWC sponsors a number of contests for individual members, clubs, and State Federations and individuals who may not be GFWC members. Below you will find a description of each of these contests. Read each contest's section in the *GFWC Club Manual* for more information, including contact information for the National Chairmen, recommended contest ideas, rules, deadlines, and instructions on how to enter.

The GFWC Writing Contests seek to provide an avenue for GFWC members and community members of all ages to freely express themselves, as well as draw upon their experiences through writing. These submissions illustrate the talent of GFWC members and are a reflection of our communities. There are four categories for entries:

- GFWC Member Short Story Writing Contest
- GFWC Member Poetry Writing Contest
- Youth Short Story Writing Contest
- Youth Poetry Writing Contest

The GFWC Photography Contests encourage our members' artistic expression, and recognize and support members' achievements in photography. GFWC offers three opportunities to participate in the GFWC Photography Contests:

- The World in Pictures
  - Living Things
  - Scenes
  - Still Life
- GFWC Volunteers in Action
- A Year in Pictures (also known as the GFWC Calendar Contest)

## Newsletters

Newsletters are one of the most effective and efficient methods of informing GFWC members about current, ongoing, and new initiatives. A newsletter should be informative and convey knowledge, generate enthusiasm, and contribute to your public relations outreach; membership recruiting and retention; program development and reporting; and operational planning. The GFWC Newsletter Contest encourages clubs and State Federations to establish a strong newsletter program aimed at increasing awareness about ongoing projects, programs, events, and issues that affect GFWC members, clubs, and communities.

## Website Contest

Clear-cut, well-organized, and frequently-updated websites convey credibility, enthusiasm, and effectiveness. They can be a key component in your club's public relations outreach; membership recruiting and retention; program development and reporting; and operational planning. The GFWC Website Contest aims to challenge clubs and states to employ their websites as membership tools with organized and updated content that presents a professional and credible source of information.

# Grants

Grants and other funding resources are available from GFWC and some of our partners for specific programs and projects. Grants vary in amount and in their recommended use. Grant winners are required to submit a short evaluation form describing how they used the funds. The best part is that the application forms are quick and easy to complete!

## Membership Grants

Funding is available to help underwrite membership recruiting and rebuilding in your community. GFWC is offering \$50 grants for club member recruitment programs four times annually and \$100 grants for district and State Federation new club building programs on a rolling basis.

- Club Grant Application Form
- New and Refederating Club Grant Application Form

## Focus On Literacy Club Grants

Literacy club grants of up to \$200 are available to GFWC clubs. Funds may be used for purchasing books for tutors to use, providing books to kids, and a variety of other literacy needs. Funding is provided by Proctor & Gamble Company. See the application for a number of other suggestions for grant funds.

- Focus On Literacy Club Grant Application
- Focus on Literacy Club Grant Evaluation Form

## Shot@Life Advocacy and Fundraising Events

Advocacy and Fundraising grants of up to \$100 are available to GFWC clubs. Funds may be used to plan local advocacy events and fundraisers for the Shot@Life Campaign to help put a stop to preventable childhood diseases. Funding is provided by Shot@Life.

- Shot@Life Advocacy and Fundraising Event Grant Application

## GFWC Library Replenishment Fund Grant

In order to assist GFWC communities affected by man-made and natural disasters, GFWC established the GFWC Library Replenishment Fund. GFWC clubs have a long history of founding, maintaining, and promoting libraries. Grants will be provided to GFWC clubs to help replenish affected libraries in their communities.

- GFWC Library Replenishment Fund Application

# Fundraising Advancement Guide

The GFWC Fundraising Advancement Guide from the GFWC Club Manual is designed to provide your club with details on how to create a successful fundraising program that can help generate revenue to support your club projects and initiatives. This guide also includes contact information for the national Fundraising Committee as well as information about fundraising awards.

## GFWC Endorsed Fundraisers

GFWC endorses select companies that have programs designed to assist clubs in their fundraising efforts. The club earns a commission based on the amount of product sold. Awards may be presented for outstanding achievement by clubs and individuals.

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Flower Power Fundraising offers only the finest bulbs and plants available from growers in Holland and the United States with an unconditional 100% money-back guarantee. **Flower Power Resources**

- 5 Steps to a Successful Flower Power Fundraiser



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Terri Lynn has over 75 years of family tradition offering healthy and delicious gourmet products. Earn profits for you and your club selling premium nuts, chocolate confections, and scrumptious dried fruit selections. For more information, visit Terri Lynn at [www.terrilynnfundraising.com](http://www.terrilynnfundraising.com) or call toll free **800-323-0775** and ask for department GFWC15.



# GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS)

The GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grass-roots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their club. Participation in LEADS can help these members gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction. The LEADS program is held annually the day before the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. It is a full day of activities, and includes breakfast and lunch.

## Application and Selection Process

Each state federation selects one LEADS attendee annually. GFWC provides state federations with guidelines and forms to help them in selecting LEADS candidates, and using LEADS graduates to enhance state leadership. See LEADS Information for State Federations.

## LEADS Application Form LEADS Participant Profile

## LEADS Content and Presentations LEADS may include the following:

- Presentations on conflict resolution, public speaking skills, and time management
- Explanation of GFWC resources, materials, and assistance
- Discussions on GFWC policies, procedures, and parliamentary law
- Tips and techniques for pursuing leadership opportunities

## Materials from 2016 LEADS

- LEADS PowerPoint on Conflict
- LEADS PowerPoint on Listening Skills

## Criteria for LEADS Participation

It is highly recommended that each State Federation LEADS candidate meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrates leadership capabilities at the club level as an active club president, club officer, or club project or committee chairman
- Exhibits a commitment to the Federation
- Exhibits an understanding of the GFWC mission of community service, illustrated by programs and projects in which she is or has been involved
- Demonstrates leadership skills, including, but not limited to, organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm, and flexibility
- Exhibits an interest in and willingness to pursue higher leadership positions in GFWC
- Agrees to share information gained from participation in LEADS with others in the state federation
- Understands and accepts potential expenses involved in participation

- Has not held elected positions at or beyond the state level (this criterion is recommended in order to encourage potential leaders at the club level to apply)
- Has not attended a previous LEADS program. Members are eligible to attend only once

#### Expenses

GFWC will cover a portion of the attendees' expenses, including:

- Stipend of \$250 for travel
- Lodging allowance of half of the double room rate for two nights at the Convention hotel
- Breakfast and lunch during the LEADS program
- Checks will be distributed to candidates upon attendance and completion of the seminar.

State Federations may consider underwriting a portion of attendee's expenses. LEADS attendees are expected to be responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment. LEADS participants are responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements.

## Incoming Leaders Training Seminar (ILTS)

Leaders and potential leaders receive training from GFWC at many levels of the Federation. A firm foundation of skills and knowledge enables competent and committed leaders to move GFWC purposefully into the future.

ILTS is focused on introducing incoming Region Presidents, State Presidents, and State Directors of Junior Clubs to the resources available to them from GFWC. The seminar includes introductory information about GFWC programs, partners, and materials; Board of Directors calendar and responsibilities; departmental resources and areas of staff expertise; helpful information on subjects useful to planning and organizing an administration at the region and state level; and the opportunity to meet and interact with others assuming the same role in the next administration.

# Mediators Program

Do you work well with others? Are you calm in the face of emotionally charged issues? If you answered ‘yes’ to either of these questions, we’re looking for you to be a GFWC Mediator! Every few years, current Mediators step down and allow new members to join the team and receive training at Convention to help you hone your skills in conflict resolution.

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## What is the GFWC Mediators Program?

Through our Mediators Program, formerly the Facilitators Program, GFWC offers specialized, confidential assistance to all levels of the Federation in dealing with membership issues, including recruitment, retention, and new club development. Since 2002, when GFWC introduced its first class of “Mentors,” individual GFWC members, clubs, districts, and State Federations have had the benefit of a specially selected and trained team of experienced and passionate GFWC members to assist them with a variety of issues. The work of this team complements, supports, and reinforces that of GFWC officers, committees, and staff.

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## How can the GFWC Mediators help our club, district, or State Federation?

GFWC encourages its members to take advantage of the many resources it provides for building and sustaining successful clubs, including the expertise of district, state, and national officers and committee chairmen. Informative publications, such as *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, the *GFWC Club Manual*, *News & Notes*, and a variety of lectures, workshops, and conferences are available to assist clubwomen. However, issues may arise at any level of the Federation that require a more specialized approach. For these cases, the GFWC Mediators are “on call” to provide impartial advice, counsel, and assistance in developing successful recruitment and retention programs, building new clubs, using parliamentary procedure effectively, and resolving personality and organizational conflicts. All interaction with a GFWC Mediator will be kept confidential.

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## How do I/we request a GFWC Mediator?

Requests for assistance or intervention by a GFWC Mediator should be directed to Membership Services and Programs Director Melanie Gisler at 202-347-3168, [MGisler@GFWC.org](mailto:MGisler@GFWC.org), or by postal mail to GFWC Headquarters. Based on a brief description of the project, problem, or conflict for

which a Mediator's assistance is requested, a GFWC Mediator will be assigned to the case. A GFWC Mediator will not be assigned a case solely on the basis of her place of residence, although, depending upon the inquiry, the ease and cost of a Mediator's transportation to a case site may be a factor in making assignments. The GFWC Mediators will prepare reports for each case they are assigned, which will be maintained in a permanent, confidential case file at GFWC Headquarters.

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## Who are the GFWC Mediators?

GFWC Mediators serve a three-year term and are selected from a pool of applicants on the basis of their experience not only in GFWC but also in the areas of education, law, counseling, and conflict management. GFWC Mediators may not serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the period they serve as mediators.

J. Lynn Cline  
Miriam Costilow  
Katie McGuigan  
Kelly Paul

Judith Shepp  
Phyllis Skubic

# Logos, Emblems, Icons

As a member of the Federation, your club and State Federation are granted permission to use GFWC logos, icons, and emblems within the guidelines outlined in the *GFWC Stylebook*. A graphic designer or printer needs no additional approval from GFWC for Emblem use. If you have any questions about GFWC emblems, logos, or icon usage, please contact the Communications and Public Relations Department at [PR@GFWC.org](mailto:PR@GFWC.org).

## History of the GFWC Emblem



⦿ GFWC’s emblem depicts a circular band signifying eternity. In the center of the circular band, the crusader’s shield emerges from a darkened world (represented by the field of darkness), which represents enlightenment. The enameled colors—red, white, and blue—are the colors of the United States of America. The red implies courage, the white equals purity, and the blue stands for constancy.

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