

GFWC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

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Welcome to the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP! I am excited to serve as your chairman for the 2022-2024 administration. My goal is to provide information for you to be able to pass on in your state and assist you in this area. Please feel free to share this newsletter with clubs in your state.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

GFWC members are reminded that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for addressing issues of public concern. We advocate because there is a need, we volunteer because we are needed. Our focus is on our community and looking for better ways to make an impact.

UNDERSTANDING THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Civic Engagement and Outreach are highlighted and encouraged. Many areas are emphasized and identified, however, your projects and programs are most important in reaching out and preparing for community outreach and impact. You will make the difference.

Essential Workers

Citizenship

Crime Prevention

Safety and Disaster Preparedness

Needy, Hungry and Homeless

Military Personal

Veterans

Women Veteran Support and Outreach



www.gfwc.org



GFWC Friendsgiving “Let the Summer Warm Your Heart”

Why GFWC Friendsgiving?

Friendsgiving is the blend of the words *Friends* and *Thanksgiving*, and it refers to a large meal shared with friends either near or on Thanksgiving. But why should we make this concept of a meal with friends just for Thanksgiving time?

The **GFWC National Event: GFWC Friendsgiving** will help build the GFWC brand in your community: gather and thank leaders, individuals, and businesses who have participated in some way in club projects by their donations of items, time, gift cards, and/or sponsorship; and enlighten potential members to the vast reach of club philanthropy and grassroots volunteer dedication.

- Create a club event thanking organizations you have worked with,
- Have a GFWC Wonder Woman Day. Dress up like GFWC Wonder Woman as you deliver to your Essential Workers.
- Write a thank you letter to everyone one on your contact list.
- Get the kids involved with coloring sheets. Flags, Friends, Family.
- Decorate the community with Red, White and Blue with the GFWC Shield.
- Hand out bottles of water (with your club name “we thank you.”)
- Check with your local Veterans Hospital and see if you can deliver American Flags.
- Have a sign waving party outside the window of a VA Hospital or Care Center.
- Tell every woman you come in contact with she is AMAZING and give her a Wonder Woman quote.
- Pay it forward, buy a lunch or drink for someone while you are out.
- Work with a Woman Build Event with members wearing GFWC Wonder Woman shirts.



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- *“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.” – H. Jackson Brown Jr.*
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DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR YOUR CLUBS

Recently the 2022-2024 Board of Directors gathered in Washington D.C. to hear and share. We collaborated with our ideas and shared our thoughts together as we start our journey together to SHINE BRIGHT. We learned that our states are already working in the Community Service Program areas and many great things are already happening.

Brainstorm Ideas:

Small circle discussions with ideas on notecards. Hand out to each person. Write a one line suggestion on each card. Put them together on one big chart or board.

Collaboration Ideas:

Use of other organizations-listen to organizations. Go to their functions. How can you both do better by working together?

Accomplishment Ideas:

Write them down! What are you hoping to do in the community? In your club? In the future. Have a plan. Don't just think it Ink it!

Financial Ideas:

Start a letter writing campaign. And deliver them by hand. Face to face means a lot.

Celebrate accomplishments by telling the story

Media Ideas:

Social Media is free. Put a link on your business cards, flyers and any publications. REFRESH It! Don't have it look the same every week. Make Friday your Fix It Friday—more peoples surf the internet on the weekends.

Apple Dumpling Day September 17

It's as easy as Apple Pie (so they say!) Apple dumplings are an ancient British food, described in print from the 17th Century. They were even more popular in the American colonies and Early American period because apples grew well here, dumplings can be made from dried apples as well, and vast boiling pots were the easiest form of cooking to tend and add to in the hearth cooking days. Today, I see you can use cinnamon sugar, brown sugar, butter and refrigerated crescent rolls. Nothing says USA like Apple Pie or Apple Dumplings. Apple Dumplings were Thomas Edison's favorite food. Share a pie or dumpling with your Essential Workers. I am sure they will appreciate it and you!





What should people do to celebrate 9/11? The most common traditions that have sprung up since 9/11 include social media remembrances using the hashtag **#NeverForget**, as well as **flying flags at half-mast**. There are also flags specifically designed for 9/11 that some Americans choose to fly in remembrance of the day.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

September 6th-Labor Day

September 11th-Patriot Day/9-11 Remembrance Day

September 16th-The American Legion Day

September 17th-National Apple Dumpling Day, Citizenship Day and POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 19th- U.S. Air Force Birthday

September 21th-National Day of Peace

September 22nd-National Elephant Appreciation Day

September 26th-National Gold Star Mother's Day

September 29th-National Veterans of Foreign Wars Day

October 2nd-National Custodian Day

October 6-12-National Physician's Assistant Week

October 5th-National Be Nice Day

October 10-16-National Emergency Room Nurse Week

October 13th- U.S. Navy Birthday

October 17-23-National Pharmacy Week & Veterinary Tech Week

October 16th-World Food Day

October 22nd-Make a Difference Day

October 25th-United Nations Day

September 14, 1814

The Star Spangled Banner is penned.

Francis Scott Key

A poem is penned and turned in to a song. In 1931 it later becomes our national anthem. A huge flag was raised at the end of the War of 1812. The sight of the bright stripes and bright stars inspired Key to write the poem. A tradition started as a joyous poem was written after Key was relieved that the United States had preserved its rights against the British.

GFWC Affiliate Organization—Operation Smile

www.operationsmile.org

1. Make no sew blankets, hospital gowns, no-no bands and smile bags.

Patterns are on the website www.operationsmile.org All sizes of gowns are needed. Infants to teens. The patients are all changed in to gowns before their surgery. Blankets are in the surgery area with patients and no-no bands are placed on to keep patient from pulling IV. Every patient goes home with a SMILE bag with toothbrush, shampoo, toys, wash cloths, toothpaste and more fun stuff!

2. Host an international dinner with great, fun, interesting food.

Operation Smile is in many countries. Have a focus dinner on one country and try new things. Charge a small entry fee for the best “international dessert.” Taste something new! And dress the part, we all love to dress up.

3. Spread awareness

Operation Smile has been around since 1982. GFWC is one of the longest partners with Operation Smile. GFWC came on board in 1982! Celebrating 40 years of partnership.



DO GOOD- FEEL GOOD- do something for the people who need help. It could be anyone in your neighborhood or the streets. In every corner of the world, there are groups of people who need your help to survive. Therefore, it is the duty of every kind-hearted to help them to live a happier life.

“Charity begins at home.” So, before you start going to help the world, check your neighborhood and surroundings first. It would help if you found out who the needy people are and start making a difference by allowing them. We don’t need a special day, as we should do this everyday! But coming together for one BIG DOING GOOD DAY, what an impact we can have.

This is the main reason behind this special day. Nowadays, this has become one of the famous days to celebrate in the United States. People happily step forward together to make a difference in society. The people of the corporate houses take agendas and preparations to celebrate this day by helping the others. It can be random acts of kindness. A thank-you day, and note writing day, a phone call day or a day of “pay it forward.”

1. **Host a sock-tober.** Collect socks for a homeless shelter. Or the local school clinic. (They need underwear too!)
2. **Meet Critical Needs** - Host a “critical needs” drive for the Red Cross or a local shelter, collecting new items such as socks, underwear, diapers and toiletries.
3. **Honor the Past** - Contact your local historical society for the name of a historical marker that could use some maintenance.
4. **Give a Gift**-Make a donation to your favorite charity in honor or memory of someone you love.
5. **Pay it forward**-pay for the person behind you. Buy a coffee, breakfast, lunch or groceries.