



Benton Woman's Club

Our Mission Statement

The Benton Woman's Club is a women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. We are a 501c3 charitable organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.

Who We Are

The Benton Woman's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and the state chapter known as GFWC Kentucky. GFWC is the world's largest and oldest nonpartisan, nondenominational women's volunteer service organization – founded in 1890. The national headquarters office is located in Washington, DC and our state headquarters is located in Frankfort, KY.

GFWC Kentucky is comprised of seven districts. Our club is in the 1st District along with clubs from Hazel, Lone Oak, Marion, Mayfield, Murray, and Paducah. We were founded in 1910 and federated in 1914. We are over 100 years young!

Our club meets once per month on the second Thursday (usually) of the month from August to May at 6:00 pm at various locations. Refreshments are served during our meetings.

Our club dues are \$60 per year for new members and \$50 per year for returning members. A portion of the dues go to GFWC Kentucky with the balance going to GFWC.

*If you choose to join our club, please give your dues to our treasurer along with your application by August 1st or within 30 days of your invitation to join. Please mail to: Benton Woman's Club - P.O. Box 1014 – Benton, KY 42025

What We Do

There are five committees/areas of service in which GFWC specializes. These are called GFWC Community Service Programs. They are Arts & Culture, Environment, Education & Libraries, Health & Wellness, and Civic Engagement & Outreach. Each club member is asked to participate on one of these committees. Within each committee there will be different service projects working with the MC Hospital, Benton Public Library, Family Resource Center, Marcella's Kitchen, MC Exceptional Center, and others. Our clubs events/projects include Paint the Town Pink, Holiday Tour of Homes, Puttin' on the Mitz, Scholarships, and more.

The BWC Officers

President Devan Willoughby

Vice-President Mikayla Coffenberry

Secretary Donna Smith

Treasurer Darla Doss

Member Chair Cayce Griffith

How We Do It

Arts & Culture: The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program encourages members to promote and support art and cultural programs in their clubs and communities, and to expand understanding on every level, from local and regional to national and international. Our goal is to create projects that include crafts, dance, drama, food, music, and other manifestations of art and culture that develop skills, awareness, and appreciation. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make the world a more beautiful, thoughtful, and caring place.

Environment: The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world's resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, and beautify our communities and enjoy nature. Environmental degradation is cumulative, and many scientists warn that we are at a tipping point. There is no time like the present to act.

Education & Libraries: We aim to help others, while we also continue to learn. Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities. These projects promote libraries, literacy, and the love of a good book. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.

Health and Wellness: The human body, mind, and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our well-being, we must address three key components: nutrition, disease prevention, and physical and emotional care. This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas.

Civic Engagement & Outreach: The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. This Community Service Program highlights and encourages citizenship; crime prevention, safety, and disaster preparedness; the needy, hungry, and homeless; and our military personnel and veterans.

Special Projects: Both GFWC and GFWC Kentucky will have special projects chosen by their Presidents during their administration. As well as our own BWC projects.

General Federation of Women's Clubs

Since it was founded in 1890, the General Federation of Women's Clubs has been a unifying force, bringing together local women's clubs from around the country and throughout the world. Although there is considerable diversity in the ages, interests, and experiences of GFWC clubwomen, all are united by a dedication to community improvement through volunteer service.

Accomplishments during GFWC's first century include: establishing 75 percent of the country's public libraries, developing kindergartens in public schools, and working for food and drug regulation.

During its second century, the Federation has pledged to maintain its commitment to working for a better world. With **"Unity in Diversity"** as its motto and a strong umbrella of programs that clubs may adapt to suit the needs of their communities, GFWC encourages the flexibility that has enabled it to expand its reach in a rapidly changing society.

Strength in Numbers – GFWC's Accomplishments

One needs to look no further than their local woman's club to find the key to community improvement. The dedications of our more than 70,000 GFWC clubwomen have made it possible to achieve the following:

*Generously contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance to be used by the New York City Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered as the result of 9/11.

* Fulfilled a commitment to America's Promise by raising and donating over \$13.5 million in books and materials to public libraries and public school libraries through its Libraries 2000 Programs.

*Partnered with the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History in an effort to increase awareness of the important role women have played in local communities since our country was founded.

*Sponsored a nationwide discussion on the changing roles of women through "Which Way Forward for Women?" forums.

*Instituted Youth Suicide Prevention Programs and Safety for Older Americans Programs

*Founded the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center

These and many more accomplishments are the reward for the hard work and lifelong dedication of GFWC clubwomen.

GFWC Kentucky

The **General Federation of Women's Clubs Kentucky** was founded in 1894 and is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international organization dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service.

GFWC Kentucky is composed of over 1,200 members in more than 50 Clubs across the state. This diverse organization unites women of all ages and backgrounds to build better neighborhoods and improve their communities and themselves through various service programs.

GFWC Kentucky Motto is **"Living the Volunteer Spirit"**

Benton Woman's Club

The Benton Woman's Club was founded in 1910 as the Corona Literary Club but became known as the Benton Woman's Club when it became federated in 1914 and joined the State and National Federations. Our club motto is **"not what I can get, but what I can give"** and we strive to honor that as we are involved in fundraising and volunteering in our community.

Our club is dedicated to serving the people of Marshall County through volunteer service. We strive to fulfill all the areas of service as set forth by GFWC while striving to help better the community in which we live. We have had many accomplishments throughout the years, one of our club's biggest endeavors was the establishment of the Marshall County Library in 1954. In recent years, we are known for the Paint the Town Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, Holiday Tour of Homes, and Puttin' on the Mitz. All of which raises funds for charitable organizations in our neighborhoods and our scholarship Fund. We also established the PTTP Funds Grant which purchases either gas cards, cold therapy socks, or cold therapy gloves for women fighting breast cancer, and volunteers in many capacities throughout the community.

For More Information

Benton Woman's Club

P.O. Box 1014 – Benton, KY 42025

Website: bentonwomansclub.org

E-mail: bentonwomansclub@gmail.com

Facebook: [@bentonwomansclub](https://www.facebook.com/bentonwomansclub)

Instagram: [@bentonwomansclub](https://www.instagram.com/bentonwomansclub)