

Share Sheet

ANYTHING WE CAN DO, YOU MAY DO BETTER! LET'S SHARE!



Welcome to the first edition of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club's SHARE SHEET!

As members of this incredible international organization, we are united by purpose, passion, and a shared commitment to service. One of the greatest strengths of GFWC is the ability to connect with one another, to celebrate what we have in common and to share and borrow meaningful project ideas that uplift our communities. Whether your club is large or small, whether or not your efforts win awards, your service matters. Every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, and every thoughtful project has the potential to inspire others and be replicated in new ways by clubs across the state, and even across the country. Below, you'll find highlights of impactful projects submitted by sister clubs. These summaries have been carefully edited for print. To view the full versions and contact details, scan the QR code or visit our website. Thank you for your light, your leadership, and your love. Together, we spread **Love, Respect and Kindness**, the heart of the Blue Umbrella Club.

DISTRICT 2

1) GFWC Woman's Club of Panama City

The Wall That Heals - Our club donated \$500 to the Bay County Veterans Council to help bring The Wall That Heals to Panama City. As a result, a club member was invited to serve as Volunteer Chair, leading an 8-month effort that mobilized over 300 community volunteers. Twelve GFWC members and three husbands, including a 97-year-old WWII veteran, helped during the event, which welcomed more than 4,000 visitors, including hundreds of Vietnam veterans. It was truly our honor to

serve those who served. Submitted by: Joanne MacPhee, Vice President jomaccoms@gmail.com

DISTRICT 3

2) GFWC Capital City Woman's Club - Afghans for Veterans

- Our club members lovingly crochet lap-sized afghans (36" x 36") in red, white, & blue for veterans in hospice care. Each "lapghan" takes over 150 hours to complete and represents an in-kind donation value of \$225. These heartfelt gifts are regularly requested by hospice staff, who deeply appreciate the comfort and symbolism the afghans provide to veterans in their care. This ongoing project has become a treasured part of the club's community outreach, offering warmth, dignity, and gratitude to those who served.

Submitted by: Ann Kaperak, President akaperak@gmail.com

3) GFWC Woman's Club of Tallahassee

Girls, Pearls, and Purses Tea - This annual tea is a fundraiser that combines elegance, entertainment, and community support. Members decorate their own tables with personal china and centerpieces, creating a welcoming tea atmosphere. Tickets are \$25, with 21 tables seating 8 guests each. This year's entertainment featured a Chico's fashion show modeled by club members and a popular designer purse opportunity drawing, with 12 purses—each paired with bonus gifts like jewelry & gift cards. Some food was catered, while members prepared the rest. The event supports the local food bank, with 50% of proceeds donated & guests encouraged to bring nonperishable items. Submitted by: Nancy Ross, 1st Vice President pinkplanet_52@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 5

4) GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club Women Helping Women

- Women Helping Women began in 2022 with the goal of empowering developmentally disabled women in the Crystal River area to reach their full potential as valued members of the community.

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Inspired by two such women and their mothers who joined the club, and in partnership with the Key Training Center, this "club within a club" now includes 10 women paired with 11 GFWC mentors, plus 2 prospective members. The group meets weekly to learn life skills, create beautiful crafts, take educational field trips, and participate in fundraising events—both alongside the main club and through their own initiatives. What began as a small, shy group has grown into a confident, social, and effective team of clubwomen. Their affirmation: *"I am kind. I am caring. I am confident. I am one of a kind."* A shining moment came when the group hosted a Celebrity Charity Cornhole Tournament, raising \$18,900 for six local charities. They also serve organizations like the Garden Nursing and Memory Center, Ziggy's Haven Parrot Sanctuary, and Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park. Their next goal? To inspire other clubs to form their own Women Helping Women groups and expand this empowering mission. The club has also launched a scholarship fund to support women with disabilities in reaching their goals. Testimony from Katy, a group member: "We meet weekly. Our mission is to help each other become social, kind, caring, confident, strong, etc., and to provide community services. The volunteers thought they would just help the adult ladies, but surprise! They realized they've grown just as much as we have!" Submitted by: Becky Culver, President gfwccrwc2010@gmail.com

5) GFWC Gainesville Woman's Club - Festival of Trees - On November 21, 2024, our club, in partnership with the Altrusa Club, hosted its annual Festival of Trees, a festive holiday fundraising gala with heart and purpose. This ticketed event raised funds for two meaningful causes: Altrusa House of Gainesville, which provides adult day care for individuals with special needs, and scholarships for low-income students (grades 2–9) to attend Camp Crystal, the local school district's summer camp. The event welcomed 190 guests who enjoyed holiday food and drinks, live festive music, and multiple chances to win beautifully decorated holiday trees, wreaths, and themed décor. A highlight of the night was a gift card tree valued at \$1,000.

Members from both clubs contributed in countless ways—from soliciting sponsors and donating wine, food, and prizes, to decorating, serving, and cleaning up. The school district also participated in making the event a success. In total, 665 volunteer hours were logged.

Co-Chairs:

Karen Scarborough - kdscarboro@mac.com
Mary Brandenburg - memb812@gmail.com

6) GFWC Woman's Club of Inverness Carry-Out Dinner Fundraiser - After experiencing three hurricanes and floods in just over a year, our club felt called to act. While their immediate area was spared the worst, many parts of the county suffered serious damage. In response, the club hosted a carry-out dinner fundraiser, serving homemade meatloaf, potatoes, vegetables, and dessert. The event raised \$1,000, which was donated to Daystar, an organization providing comprehensive support services—including food, clothing, shelter, job interview prep, counseling, and even showers. Daystar's compassionate, all-encompassing approach made them the perfect recipient. Club members felt humbled to play even a small role in helping others rebuild after so much loss—and they are prepared to continue that support, should the need arise again. Submitted by: Sandy Boyette, Co-President SDBoyette131@gmail.com

DISTRICT 7

7) GFWC Central Florida Woman's Service League - Serving Needy Seniors

Recognizing the growing challenges faced by low-income seniors, especially those struggling to afford rising housing costs—our club launched a heartfelt outreach effort to support 14 senior citizens living in a local trailer park. Many of these individuals rely on the generosity of others just to pay their monthly lot rent, leaving little for basic necessities. In partnership with a local pastor, members have committed to providing monthly care packages filled with food, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and paper products—including hard-to-afford essentials like toilet paper. We also add "Goody Bags" filled with cookies, cereal bars, candy, crackers, and other treats to brighten their day. At Christmastime, members assembled stockings filled with useful and joyful items, and when possible, gift cards have been included as special surprises. Donations of pre-read magazines are

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delivered monthly, and gently used household items are collected in a shared box for the seniors to take as needed. This project has grown beyond our membership, with others inspired to donate funds or items. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and pray that these small acts of kindness bring dignity, comfort, and joy to our senior neighbors. Submitted by: Gwen Szelc gwendolynszelc@att.net

DISTRICT 8

8) GFWC Brandon Junior Woman’s Club - Children’s Holiday Project - For over 40 years, our club has carried out its beloved Children’s Holiday Project, bringing the joy of Christmas to children facing extreme financial hardship or heartbreaking circumstances. This year, the club supported 80 children and one mother from 14 public schools in the Brandon area, all referred by school guidance counselors. Club members personally shopped from each child’s wish list, selecting essentials like clothing, pajamas, jackets, and toys. The club also partnered with local businesses to provide shoes, socks, underwear, books, stuffed animals, school supplies, personal hygiene items, and more. The result is a joyful, unforgettable holiday experience for the children—and a tradition that continues to embody the true spirit of giving and community. Club members work year-round to raise the funds needed for each child’s shopping budget, which varies by age. In 2024, the project totaled \$9,700 in club funds and in-kind donations, with 58 members contributing over 250 volunteer hours. To further its impact, the club’s project coordinator is happy to share "how-to" guidance with other clubs and individuals interested in replicating this meaningful initiative. Submitted by: Jeanette Kjosa, President jfkjosa@msn.com

9) GFWC Brandon Service League - Very Special Arts Day - After a five-year pause due to COVID, the 30th Annual Alice Storms Very Special Arts Day was joyfully revived by the GFWC Brandon Service League at a brand-new venue. This long-standing event welcomed 142 special needs pre-K and kindergarten students from southeastern Hillsborough County for a morning filled with creativity, fun, and community support.

In collaboration with the GFWC Brandon Junior Woman’s Club, children created six specially designed crafts, enjoyed a magic show, engaged in music and bubbles, and had their faces painted. Each child also received a handmade blanket from the Tampa Bay Project Linus—a cozy keepsake they used during the event and took home afterward. Fifty high school student volunteers helped guide the children through activities. Publix generously donated \$250 toward lunch, which was provided to all children, chaperones, and volunteers. Transportation was coordinated with the Hillsborough County School District. This cherished tradition brought joy to everyone involved and highlighted the power of partnership and creativity in serving children with special needs. Submitted by: JoAnne Baxter jbaxter14@tampabay.rr.com

10) GFWC Historic Brooksville Woman’s Club - The Life Palette Exhibit - The Life Palette Exhibit was created to honor and educate the community about the powerful contributions of women who shaped the history of Brooksville in business, government, and civic life. For the inaugural exhibit, ten influential women—including a museum founder, the first Black woman to graduate from the University of Florida’s Law School, and the founder of the GFWC Historic Brooksville Woman’s Club—were selected and researched. Ten local artists were commissioned to create artistic palettes reflecting each woman’s life and accomplishments. The exhibit debuted at a free community event, where family members of honorees were invited to help celebrate their legacies. The completed palettes are currently displayed in local businesses, with plans to auction them in 2025. Proceeds will fund the next round of palettes, continuing the project’s mission of recognizing Brooksville’s historic women. Submitted by: Natalie Kahler kahlernat23@gmail.com

11) GFWC Lutz Land O’ Lakes Woman’s Club - The Walking Tourist - Launched by the club’s Health & Wellness CSP, The Walking Tourist is a creative virtual walking challenge inspired by the Blue Zones’ “Move Naturally” principle. The project encourages members to improve their health by tracking their steps each week—steps that are then

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converted into miles and charted on a virtual walk around Florida. Beginning in Land O’ Lakes, 22 participants logged a combined 3,832,802 steps, equating to 1,916 miles over seven weeks. The journey took them from Key West, up the east coast to Amelia Island, then west to Pensacola, and along the Emerald Coast to Newport in Florida’s Panhandle. Each week, participants received a Travel Guide filled with fun and educational facts about the Florida destinations they virtually “visited.” The project combined physical wellness with a love for learning and travel—all while building community among club members. Submitted by: Nancy Branham nbranham@tampabay.rr.com

12) GFWC New Tampa Woman’s Club - Special Life Lesson at Joshua House - Life lessons often come from the simplest shared experiences—like making a pizza or choosing a gift for someone you love. That’s why the GFWC New Tampa Woman’s Club organized two heartwarming events for the children of Joshua House, a safe haven for abused, abandoned, and neglected children. At a make-your-own pizza night, kids explored their creativity by crafting custom pizzas with various toppings—messy, fun, and full of self-expression. During the holidays, the children enjoyed a warm Olive Garden dinner while selecting and wrapping jewelry gifts for someone special in their lives. These joyful, hands-on experiences help build confidence, self-worth, and cherished memories. Joshua House serves 40 children and provides a nurturing environment for healing and growth. Through these initiatives, our club not only offers tangible support but also fosters belonging, love, and joy—living out the true GFWC spirit. We are also proud to share that Su Mellor, our Civic Outreach & Engagement Chair, has been nominated for the Mary Ann Taylor Child Advocacy Award for her dedication to this impactful work. Submitted by: Joyce Mathisen, President jmathisengfwc@gmail.com

13) GFWC Temple Terrace Woman’s Club - A Heartfelt Outreach After Hurricane Milton - On Sunday, October 13, 2024, our club’s board members set out to check on fellow members following Hurricane Milton. In just 5 hours, they visited 23 homes, surprising

those who were home with a rose and cookies as a gesture of love and care. The visits were warmly received—bringing smiles, hugs, and tears of appreciation. In a time of uncertainty and recovery, this simple outreach offered comfort, connection, and a reminder of the strength of our sisterhood. While the team wished they could visit every member, the goal was clear: to let each woman know she is deeply valued and loved. Acts of kindness like this reaffirm the supportive community the club has built—one rooted in compassion, care, and unity. Submitted by: Sushilla Maharaj, President sushilla.maharaj@gmail.com

14) GFWC Ruskin Woman’s Club - Angel Tree Holiday Party - Our club hosted a joyful Angel Tree Holiday Party for 20 students and their families, spreading holiday cheer to those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Children were selected by a local school social worker based on need, and families were invited to join in the celebration. The evening featured food, music, games, and festive activities, made possible by the generous contributions of club members. A highlight of the event was a visit from Santa Claus, who personally delivered \$1,527 in gifts to the children. Families also received \$350 in Walmart gift cards for essential purchases and 20 turkeys valued at \$300 to support their holiday meals. In total, the club contributed \$2,177 in in-kind donations and 80 volunteer hours to ensure every child had presents for Christmas and every family felt supported during the season. As carolers sang a heartfelt farewell, many were moved to tears by the love and joy shared that evening. The club is proud to continue this tradition of giving and looks forward to expanding its reach in the years to come. Submitted by: JoJo Woodland jowoodland53@gmail.com

DISTRICT 9
15) Woman’s Club of Winter Haven “Florida is Golden” – Fundraising Book Project - In response to a statewide challenge to support the GFWC Florida President’s Project: Flight of Honor, the Woman’s Club of Winter Haven launched a creative and lasting fundraiser—a photo book titled *Florida is Golden: Richness in Nature*.

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The project not only raises funds for a once-in-a-lifetime flight for 172 female veterans to Washington, D.C., but also serves as a timeless gift from the club’s 111-year legacy. The first 100 copies of the book are being printed thanks to a generous donation from Burr Printing Inc., allowing the club to keep expenses low. All proceeds from the initial sales will go directly to the Flight of Honor. Announced during a presentation at a Winter Haven City Commission meeting, the project received praise and support from city leaders, including Mayor Birdsong, who stated, “I am so glad you are doing this.” Community members are invited to submit photos and short inspirational captions for consideration. Chosen contributors will sign a release and be recognized at a future reception celebrating the published book. The project was made possible through donations, including the cost of an ISBN number provided by a club member. Future editions of the book will continue to serve as a fundraiser for the Woman’s Club of Winter Haven, with proceeds supporting local programs and community initiatives. Submitted by: Jane McGinnis, President jmcgin9454@gmail.com

DISTRICT 10

16) GFWC Woman’s Club of Stuart - Annual Holiday Home Tour - For the 16th consecutive year, the our club hosted its signature fundraiser, the Annual Holiday Home Tour, a beloved community event that welcomed 550 guests to tour local homes beautifully decorated for the season. The tour is supported by loyal sponsors who contribute in-kind donations and advertise in the official program, which also features descriptions of the homes. Since 2013, Stuart Audi’s Devin Carlson has generously served as the presenting sponsor, hosting a VIP party for major donors and volunteers on the eve of the event. After the tour, guests gathered at the club’s historic clubhouse for a light reception featuring holiday piano music and a silent auction with two full tables of festive baskets—enhancing the holiday cheer and fundraising success. To date, the tour has helped raise nearly \$500,000 for college scholarships supporting high school girls and women pursuing higher education in Florida-based

schools, reinforcing the club’s dedication to empowering women and investing in the future of the state. Over the past three years, a challenge grant from the Kiplinger Foundation has further expanded the tour’s impact. The club is proud of this long-standing tradition that combines elegance, community, and meaningful purpose—an event eagerly anticipated each holiday season. Submitted by: Cecilia Lewis, President president@womansclubofstuart.com

DISTRICT 11

17) GFWC Coral Gables Woman’s Club – 9th Annual Children’s Festival - Our Club proudly hosted its 9th Annual Children’s Festival, a vibrant community event filled with engaging activities, entertainment, and lasting memories for families. Highlights included presentations by three local authors: Sam Martinez (*Joaquin: Aligning Oral Apraxia with Life*), Clora Adkins (*What’s Wrong with Being Different*), and nine-year-old Maya Fouche (*You Know Who You Are*). Singer Mia Rose charmed the crowd with two Disney favorites, and a Coding 101 session introduced kids to basic tech skills. The festival’s success was made possible through strong support from partners like Baptist Health, Coral Gables Fire and Police, Vizcaya Museum, and others. This beloved event reflects the club’s commitment to community spirit, collaboration, and meaningful service. Submitted by: Ruth Martinez, First Director uthiecgwc@gmail.com

DISTRICT 12

18) GFWC LaBelle Woman’s Club – Alzheimer’s Awareness Event As a club we are planning a community-wide Alzheimer’s Awareness event this fall, aimed at educating and supporting families affected by the disease. This will be a significant outreach effort for our small town, made possible through collaboration with our local Alzheimer’s group, first responders, and the LaBelle police and fire departments. Together, we hope to raise awareness, share resources, and strengthen support networks for those impacted by Alzheimer’s in our community. Submitted by: Lisa Trocki, President lisamtrocki@gmail.com

19) GFWC Port Charlotte Woman’s Club BUNCO Extravaganza Fundraiser - Our Club hosted its first BUNCO Extravaganza, inviting members and community residents to join in the fun. Cash prizes were awarded, and best of all, the event brought in several enthusiastic new members. Many jumped in to help with future events, including a quarter auction, which raised funds for the local Boys & Girls Club. Submitted by: Gloria Hartke, President
gloria.hartke@outlook.com

20) GFWC Rotonda West Woman’s Club - Caring for Those Who Need Special Care - Our club regularly visits local assisted living and memory care facilities to share joy, music, and companionship. Our singing group, the Tonettes, performs sing-alongs, often joined by members of the Arts & Culture and Civic Engagement & Outreach CSPs. In addition to music, we bring handcrafted gifts made by our Sew-N-Sews and Knit & Chat groups, including lap blankets, fidget sleeves, and shirt protectors. These visits often spark smiles, songs, and even dancing—bringing comfort and connection to residents who need it most. Submitted by: President Gloria Rogoski
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DISTRICT 13

21) GFWC Coral Springs Woman’s Club - Holiday Give-Away - Each year, our club hosts a Holiday Give-Away at Hunt Elementary, a Title One school with nearly 500 students. Members collect used jewelry, gift bags, wrapping paper, & small gift items throughout the year to help children pick out something special for their moms or or significant loved ones. In 2024, every student took home a piece of jewelry or gift bag. About 35 Christmas stockings were also filled with small toys for kids in need of an extra gift. Supplies ran low near the end, until a lucky dumpster find by the club’s president turned up brand-new gift bags, bows, & wrap just in time. A child’s smile makes every effort worth it. Submitted by: Carol Johnson
SkippyJ69@outlook.com

DISTRICT 14
22) Bradenton Woman’s Club - Children’s Books for Trick-or-Treaters - In collaboration with the Village of the Arts, our club promoted literacy & healthy living by providing children’s books instead of candy to Halloween trick-or-treaters. Club members donated new and gently used books at the October meeting, which were then distributed during the event. The initiative encouraged reading while offering a fun, health-conscious alternative to traditional Halloween treats. This simple yet impactful project was a meaningful reminder that small actions can inspire big change in a child’s life. Submitted by: Tammy Kesky, President
tkesky23@yahoo.com

23) The GFWC Woman’s Club of Sarasota Donations to Homeless Shelter - partnered with Resurrection House to provide soaps, shampoos, socks, underwear, & clothing for local homeless individuals. Members raised \$138 through an auction and collected enough clothing to fill a car. One client smiled and asked, “You don’t happen to have a wallet in there?” The club is proud to support this vital local resource. Submitted by: Carol Fink – carolf623@bellsouth.net

24) GFWC North Pinellas Woman’s Club - The Magic Yarn Project - The Magic Yarn Project creates soft, whimsical wigs for children facing medical hair loss due to chemotherapy, alopecia, burns, and other conditions. These character-inspired wigs help bring imagination, comfort, and confidence to children during challenging times. Since 2015, more than 66,000 wigs have been donated to kids in all 50 states and 53 countries. Each wig is handcrafted by volunteers using hypoallergenic yarn and playful designs that children can choose from—over 50 character styles are available. The GFWC North Pinellas Woman’s Club is proud to support this inspiring global effort, proving that even small acts of service can create magical moments of joy and healing. Submitted by: Trish Conrad – health-wellness@gfwcnpwc.org