

OCTOBER 2025



NEWSLETTER

GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB



"When you surround yourself with women who are hard working, aren't afraid to mess up or modify things along the way, and are there to help each other, you can't help but feel empowered,"

Board Meeting: November 2, 2025, 7pm ET

Board Meeting: December 7, 2025, 6pm ET

Membership Meeting: December 7, 2025, 7pm ET

gfwcblueumbrella.org



FROM DIANNE'S DESK

Dear Blue Umbrella members,

It has certainly been a busy GFWC month, and the next one looks just as active! In Florida, we have had a very successful Fall Board meeting with excellent guest speakers and innovative, interactive workshops. We welcomed seven new clubs into membership, including four Juniorette clubs! Immediately before the Fall Board meeting, a LEADS seminar was held, and it received rave reviews from those in attendance. There were multiple club donations to the 2024-26 President's Project, and a hands-on work party to pack Comfort Cases in support of the Junior Director's Project. The International Day of Service occurred during the Fall Board Meeting, but in addition to the donations received at the meeting, individual clubs have been sponsoring a multitude of projects highlighting the Signature Project throughout the month.

The Annual District Meetings (ADMs) are also underway. During this time, state officers visit each of our 14 Florida districts, giving members who may not be able to attend a state meeting the chance to hear directly from them while district business is conducted. In addition, Region Meetings are taking place, and many of us will be attending the GFWC Southern Region Meeting this coming weekend in Huntsville, Alabama, where GFWC officers will be visiting. It's certainly a busy and exciting month for all, and I hope you will have the opportunity to attend your district and/or region meeting.

Individual clubs, including Blue Umbrella, are actively involved in a variety of projects in support of all areas of GFWC. That is also true for the GFWC International affiliate clubs. Featured in this newsletter is an example from Brazil of how the International clubs participated in the Day of Service. You will also find an article of interest to many clubs with updates and tips about grants you can apply for to supplement your club's income.

There are a plethora of informational webinar opportunities available from GFWC and GFWC Florida right now. Blue Umbrella members, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the chance to hear fresh, expert ideas without leaving the comfort of your home. Let technology be your friend!

Enjoy all that is ahead of you in your volunteer life! Remember to always keep the words of the Collect for Clubwomen ever present in your actions, and to please show LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS!

Hugs,

Dianne


Join This Historic Opportunity!

For the first time in history, a national monument dedicated to women's history will be built on the National Mall in Washington, DC. GFWC is serving as a national partner with the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation in its mission to fund and construct this long-overdue tribute to the courageous women who led the fight for voting rights. GFWC has committed to raising \$150,000 toward the project, and local clubs and members across the country are joining the effort. The monument will serve as a lasting legacy of the longest political movement in American history, and will honor the generations of women who lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested in their decades-long fight for equality.

GFWC has established a fund to raise \$150,000 for the monument. Donations may be made through this dedicated link for GFWC members:

www.donorbox.org/womensmonument-gfwc



Support the Coast Guard Museum!

GFWC proudly supports the construction of the National Coast Guard Museum in New London, CT. The U.S. Coast Guard is the only military branch that does not have a museum to honor its service members' contributions. This important effort ensures the legacy of Coast Guard heroes, both past and present, is recognized and celebrated on a national scale. The Museum will stand as a lasting tribute to their courage, commitment, and service.

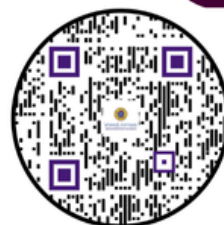
Construction is progressing rapidly, with the steel structure set to rise by year's end. Your contribution will help bring this vision to life, inspiring future generations and creating a place where service members, their families, and the public can celebrate Coast Guard heritage.

Join us in making history! Together, we can build a lasting tribute to the courage and dedication of the U.S. Coast Guard. Donations may be made through this dedicated link for GFWC members:

www.coastguardmuseum.org/gfwc



www.donorbox.org/womensmonument-gfwc



www.ncgma.ticketapp.org/portal/product/9



GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE FROM ONE OF OUR INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

International Day of Service – Women Who Inspire

In honor of the **GFWC International Day of Service**, themed “*Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention*,” the **Center for Women’s Defense and Community Living – Casa da Mulher CrêSer (CDCM)** joined forces with **SASF CrêSer** (Social Assistance Service to Families and Home-Based Basic Social Protection), with support from **GFWC International**, to host the community event:

“Women’s Leadership in Combating Domestic Violence – Women Who Inspire.”

The initiative was organized collaboratively by CDCM professionals and participants, with the invaluable help of CrêSer volunteers—who generously dedicate around **20 hours per week** to supporting families and community projects. The event celebrated strength, empathy, and shared stories of resilience.

Highlights included:

- **“Corpos das Penhas” (Bodies of Penhas) Exhibition** – an artistic and educational installation portraying life-size wooden silhouettes representing women whose lives were lost to femicide. Each figure tells a story, serving as a poignant reminder of the urgency to end gender-based violence and transform grief into awareness and collective action. “Maria da Penha” law, is an federal law that protects women.
- **Testimonies of Courage** – women bravely shared their journeys of overcoming violence, reclaiming autonomy, and rebuilding their lives.
- **Children’s Workshop** – promoting respect, empathy, and healthy relationships through play and reflection.
- **Moments of Connection** – with coffee, conversation, and the sharing of educational materials and handmade tokens of solidarity.

Throughout the event, participants from CDCM and SASF emphasized the vital role of early support, the importance of recognizing violence, and the empowerment that comes from community networks and rebuilding self-esteem.



GFWC FLORIDA CLUBWOMAN NEWSLETTER

Are you getting the GFWC Florida Clubwoman newsletter? It comes out every Monday and features messages from members of the Executive Committee, Club News, Articles from GFWC Florida Chairmen, and a lot of other information to keep you up-to-date on GFWC Florida.

[Click Here](#) to visit the Member Center on the GFWC Florida website to sign up!

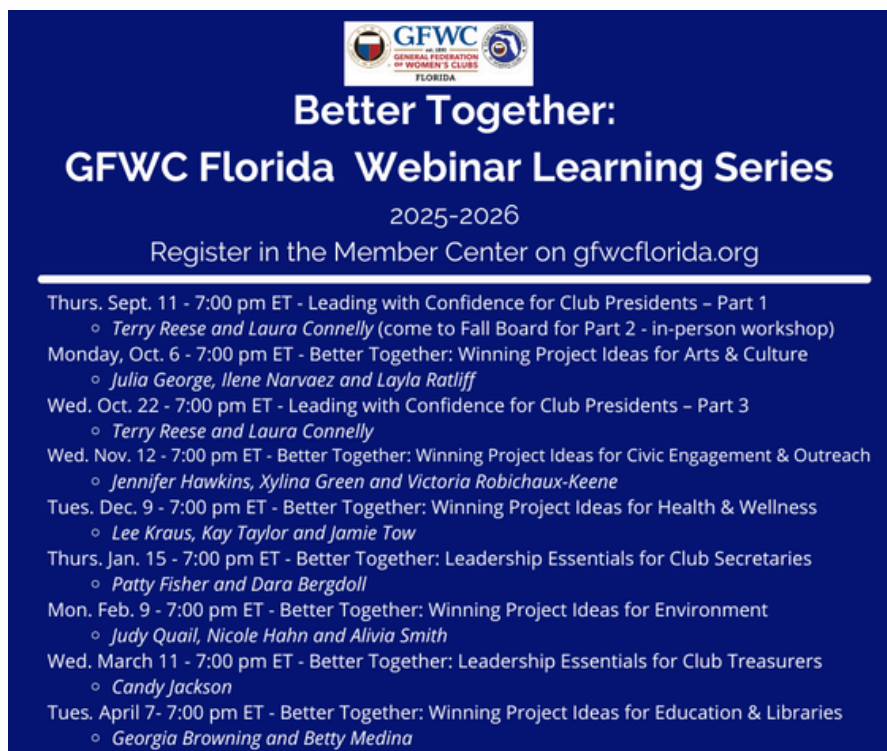
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- *You are invited!* Club Presidents and future leaders, plan to attend Session 3 of the Lead with Confidence Leadership Training Series - Lead Smart: A Club President's Toolkit. This webinar will be held on Wednesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm ET. Register here: <https://forms.gle/4rZqkVayboigW5s39>
- We have created an online Club President Toolkit with resources you can download, including an updated Club President Handbook. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dWlqcUvMykv0LXCLAmPgftGvjufzoe-8?usp=drive_link
- Are you looking for fresh, new service project ideas? We're sharing up to 36 project ideas for each reporting category. It's not too late to try one in 2025! https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ec5BtKlz6pP4Pi_AngCqOq3MTi39CnFH?usp=drive_link



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The GFWC Florida Webinar Series presents a **Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Civic Engagement & Outreach** webinar on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm ET. You will hear Civic Engagement & Outreach project ideas from clubs across the state who will spark your creativity as they share unique and winning project details! Our GFWC Florida Chairman, Junior Chairman and Juniorette Chairman will offer reporting tips and details on the GFWC Florida Focus Project and GFWC Community Connection Initiative. Register here: <https://forms.gle/KQhM3LLv8RvDxwVv5>



Better Together:
GFWC Florida Webinar Learning Series
2025-2026
Register in the Member Center on gfwcflorida.org

Thurs. Sept. 11 - 7:00 pm ET - Leading with Confidence for Club Presidents – Part 1
◦ *Terry Reese and Laura Connelly* (come to Fall Board for Part 2 - in-person workshop)

Monday, Oct. 6 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Arts & Culture
◦ *Julia George, Ilene Narvaez and Layla Rotliff*

Wed. Oct. 22 - 7:00 pm ET - Leading with Confidence for Club Presidents – Part 3
◦ *Terry Reese and Laura Connelly*

Wed. Nov. 12 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Civic Engagement & Outreach
◦ *Jennifer Hawkins, Xylina Green and Victoria Robichaux-Keene*

Tues. Dec. 9 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Health & Wellness
◦ *Lee Kraus, Kay Taylor and Jamie Tow*

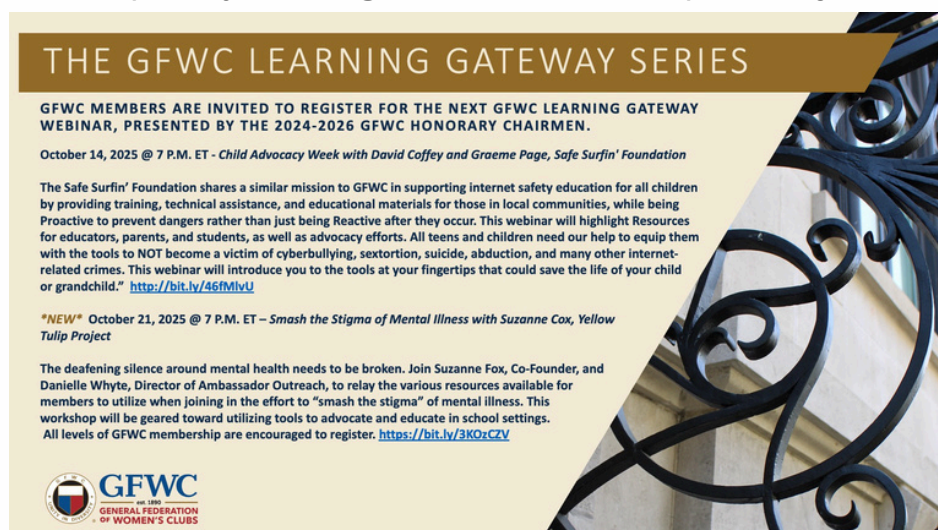
Thurs. Jan. 15 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Leadership Essentials for Club Secretaries
◦ *Patty Fisher and Dara Bergdoll*

Mon. Feb. 9 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Environment
◦ *Judy Quail, Nicole Hahn and Alivia Smith*

Wed. March 11 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Leadership Essentials for Club Treasurers
◦ *Candy Jackson*

Tues. April 7 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Education & Libraries
◦ *Georgia Browning and Betty Medina*

Registration is open for the October 21, 2025 GFWC Learning Gateway Series Training @ 7 P.M. ET – Smash the Stigma of Mental Illness with Suzanne Cox from The Yellow Tulip Project. Registration link: <http://bit.ly/46fMlvU>



THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES

GFWC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE NEXT GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINAR, PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN.

October 14, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET - *Child Advocacy Week with David Coffey and Graeme Page, Safe Surfin' Foundation*

The Safe Surfin' Foundation shares a similar mission to GFWC in supporting internet safety education for all children by providing training, technical assistance, and educational materials for those in local communities, while being Proactive to prevent dangers rather than just being Reactive after they occur. This webinar will highlight Resources for educators, parents, and students, as well as advocacy efforts. All teens and children need our help to equip them with the tools to NOT become a victim of cyberbullying, sextortion, suicide, abduction, and many other internet-related crimes. This webinar will introduce you to the tools at your fingertips that could save the life of your child or grandchild." <http://bit.ly/46fMlvU>

NEW October 21, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET – *Smash the Stigma of Mental Illness with Suzanne Cox, Yellow Tulip Project*

The deafening silence around mental health needs to be broken. Join Suzanne Cox, Co-Founder, and Danielle Whyte, Director of Ambassador Outreach, to relay the various resources available for members to utilize when joining in the effort to "smash the stigma" of mental illness. This workshop will be geared toward utilizing tools to advocate and educate in school settings. All levels of GFWC membership are encouraged to register. <https://bit.ly/3K0zCZv>

 **GFWC**
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

THUMBS UP GFWC

The following tips are from the GFWC Thumbs Up Thursday series. I have said many times that the Blue Umbrella Club is composed of leaders. That is why it is such a pleasure to be a part of our organization. You are already motivated and committed! But even the most seasoned leaders need to constantly be reassessing their presentation style. We never stop learning!

- Dianne



1. HOOK NOT BIO

- No polite warm-up, bio, or "Excited to be here"
- Start with a relevant question, bold claim, or short story

2. START STILL

- Walk out, plant your feet, pause for two seconds, then speak
- Let the room settle before you begin

3. GROUP IN THREES

- Break points into 3s - easy to follow and remember
- "Three things you'll learn today..." is magic

4. SHORT STORIES

- Keep stories under 90 seconds
- Use: Setting, conflict, payoff - and then cut the rest

5. EDIT ACTIVELY

- Replace passive voice and vague verbs (AI can help!)
- "it was launched" "We launched it"

6. SPEAK TO 1 PERSON

- Hold eye contact with 1 person per thought
- Then shift to another in a different area don't scan constantly



7. MARK YOUR PAUSES

- Add slashes (/) in your script where you want to pause.
- Don't just fill the space - silence can emphasize



8. PUT AUDIENCE FIRST

- Cut "I want to talk about..."
- Replace with "You'll walk away with..."

9. MOVE ON TRANSITIONS

- Step or gesture when changing topics not mid-point
- Stillness = power, movement = shift

10. REHEARSE ALOUD

- Practice standing, with voice at full volume
- Record yourself and watch for filler words, pacing, and fidgeting

11. MEMORIZE BOOKENDS

- Know your first and last 3 lines cold
- Everything else can be spoken from notes

12. CIRCLE BACK

- Echo your opening idea or line at the end
- It gives the audience closure and recall

FROM VISION TO VICTORY: FINDING GRANTS THAT FIT

Elayne Bassinger, GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club
and a proud member of GFWC Blue Umbrella Club

Thank you to Blue Umbrella member Elayne Bassinger for sharing these updates and tips for finding and applying for grants for any organization. You might want to add this to any other information you have accumulated on this subject. The Blue Umbrella Club encourages articles of interest and various projects to be shared in the monthly newsletter. Please contact any board member with ideas.

Finding Grants for Your Club

Listed below are some simple tips and resources to get you started.

Where to Look for Grants

- Local businesses like Publix, Walmart, Target, and credit unions
- Online tools like Zeffy, Grant Finder, and FundsforNGOs
- Government sites like [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and your county's website
- Corporate foundations that use outside platforms to manage grants

Here are a few examples of big companies and how they handle grant applications:

- Walmart - Uses CyberGrants to manage applications. Focus: hunger relief, disaster aid
- Target - Offers funding through the Target Foundation. Focus: equity, education
- Bank of America - Uses its Charitable Foundation. Focus: housing, workforce development
- Coca-Cola - Grants managed by the Coca-Cola Foundation. Focus: community, environment
- Starbucks - Uses the Starbucks Foundation. Focus: youth empowerment, service
- CVS Health - Grants through the CVS Health Foundation. Focus: health and wellness

Quick Checklist for Applying

- Make sure your project fits the grant
- Read all instructions carefully
- Write a short project summary with goals
- Create a budget
- Include club info and letters of support
- Tell your story clearly (see tips below)
- Proofread and submit on time
- Save a copy and follow up if needed

How to Tell Your Story

- Start with a real example or need
- Use simple, clear language
- Show who benefits and how
- Include numbers or past results
- Explain what happens after the grant ends
- Match your project to the funder's goals
- Write with confidence and heart

Sample Project Story

“We’re expanding our community garden to help families in need. Last year, we grew over 300 pounds of fresh produce for 25 households. With this grant, we’ll add raised beds, host workshops, and involve youth volunteers—creating a lasting food source and learning space.”

Understanding Matching Requirements

Some grants—especially larger or government-funded ones—require your club to contribute part of the project cost. This is called a match, and it’s often 50% of the total budget. For example: If a grant offers \$5,000 and requires a 50% match, your club must contribute \$5,000—bringing the total project budget to \$10,000.

What counts as a match?

- Cash from your club or sponsors
- Donated supplies or services
- Volunteer hours (yes, time can count!)
- Past investments in the project

Tips:

- Look for grants with lower match percentages (some are 10-25%)
- Keep good records of in-kind donations and volunteer time
- Partner with local groups to share costs
- Use completed work as part of your match if allowed

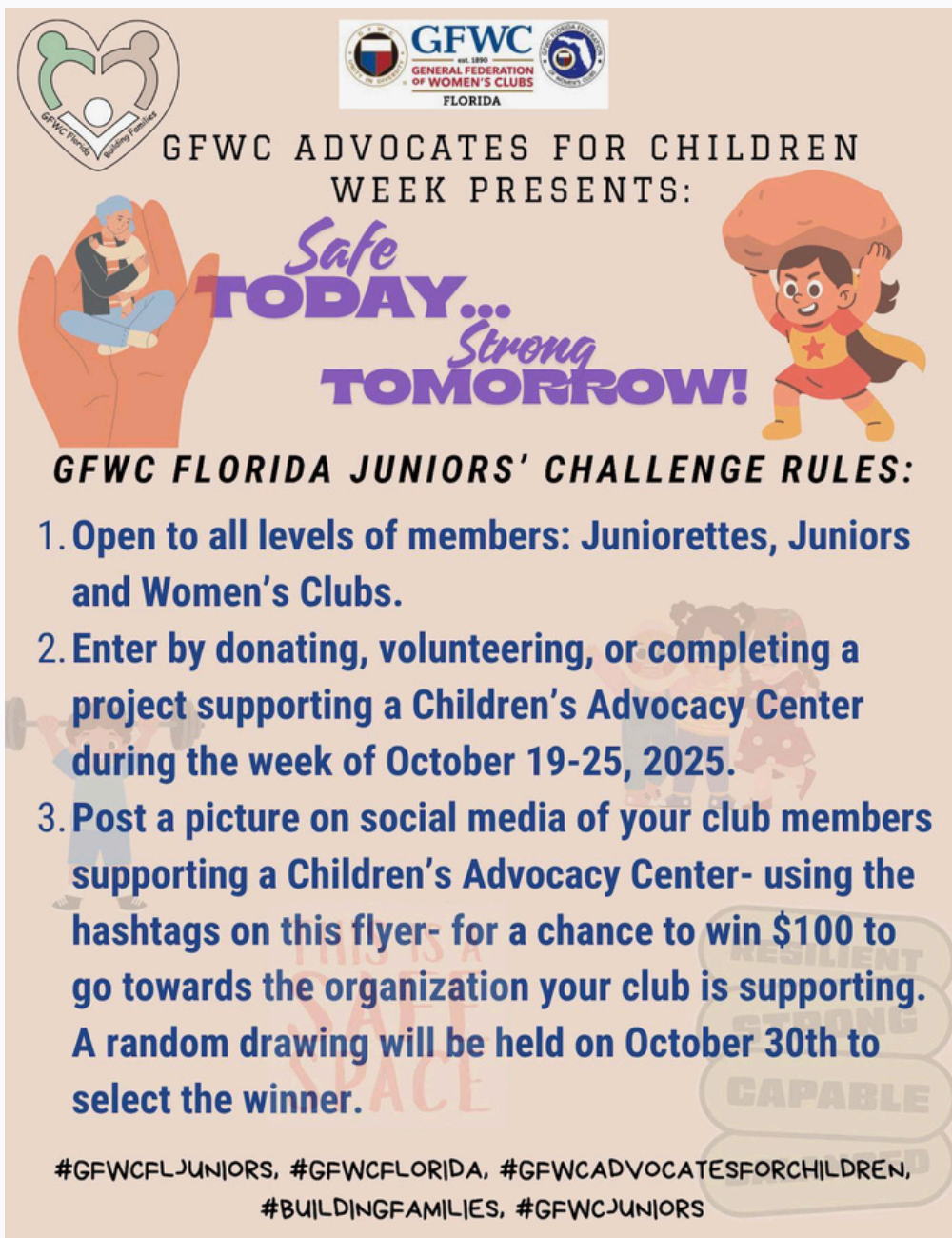


GFWC FLORIDA JUNIORS

Advocates for Children Week

RACQUEL STURGIS

Wonderful clubwomen! Will you join us and participate in our challenge for GFWC Advocates for Children Week? We are working with Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs). A CAC is a child-focused, community-based facility that provides a safe and supportive environment for children who are victims of abuse or neglect. CACs bring together professionals to coordinate investigations, treatment, and prosecution while ensuring children and their families receive the care and services they need with as little trauma as possible. Take a moment to look up ones in your area and support the work they are doing! In the meantime...



The flyer features a heart logo with two figures inside, the GFWC Florida logo, and illustrations of a child being held and a superhero. The text is centered and easy to read.

GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK PRESENTS:

Safe
TODAY...
Strong
TOMORROW!

GFWC FLORIDA JUNIORS' CHALLENGE RULES:

- 1. Open to all levels of members: Junioresettes, Juniors and Women's Clubs.**
- 2. Enter by donating, volunteering, or completing a project supporting a Children's Advocacy Center during the week of October 19-25, 2025.**
- 3. Post a picture on social media of your club members supporting a Children's Advocacy Center- using the hashtags on this flyer- for a chance to win \$100 to go towards the organization your club is supporting. A random drawing will be held on October 30th to select the winner.**

**#GFWCFLJUNIORS, #GFWCFLORIDA, #GFWCADVOCATESFORCHILDREN,
#BUILDINGFAMILIES, #GFWCJUNIORS**



BLUE UMBRELLA MERCHANDISE

Do you need a Blue Umbrella Club T-shirt? These fitted tees come in a stunning turquoise blue and are available in sizes Small through 4XL. Please order at least one size up—these shirts are fitted and may shrink slightly in the wash.

T-Shirt Pricing (tax included):

👕 Small-XL: \$27

👕 2XL-4XL: \$29

📦 Add \$5 shipping per order

💎 Jewelry Collection:

🌟 Bracelets: \$15

(more pictures on the website)

🌟 Earrings: \$10

🌟 Pins: \$10

📦 Shipping additional

🛍️ NEW! Blue Umbrella Totes \$5
Perfect for meetings, errands, or
gifting—grab one (or more)!

NEW!! Blue Umbrella Lanyard \$5

To Order:

Email Paula Juvinall at"

merchblueumbrella@gmail.com

with your order and shipping info.

Payment Options:

✓ Use any of the payment links on our website

✓ Or mail a check



Use the QR code for online payment, or mail a check to the address listed below.

QR Code - put a checkmark in the box labeled "Other". Note t-shirt size or jewelry details in the box below that

Check - in memo line, write t-shirt size or jewelry details

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
PO Box 371
Mango, FL 33550-0371

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Email
President	Dianne Foerster	president@gfwcblueumbrella.org
1st Vice President	Sallie Milner	firstvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
2nd Vice President	Patty Fisher	secondvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Recording Secretary	Karen Griggsby	recordingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Treasurer	Kathy Mammenga	treasurer@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa Klatt	correspondingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Communications Chairman	Amber Treat	communications@gfwcblueumbrella.org
History Chairman	Rachelle Warmouth	historian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Merchandise Chairman	Paula Juvinal	merchandise@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Technology Chairman	Lisa Klatt	technology@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Parliamentarian	Nancy Crawford	parliamentarian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Social Media Chairman	Sharon Grace	socialmedia@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Julie Babcock	advisorbabcock@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Laura Connelly	advisorconnelly@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Karen Morris	advisormorris@gfwcblueumbrella.org



Mission Statement

This Club is organized to encourage an ongoing, positive opportunity for volunteerism based on incorporating the attributes of love, respect, and kindness through all aspects of life. The mission will encompass support for existing clubs and projects at local levels.

A COLLECT FOR CLUBWOMEN

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding
And leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense
And meet each other face to face,
Without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgement
And always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better
impulses,
Straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is
The little things that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
The great, common human heart of us all.
And, oh Lord God, let us forget not
To be kind!

Mary Stewart, 1904

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.

Happy Birthday

OCTOBER

Cathye Cerchio 4th

Karen Morris 4th

Rachele Adler 22nd

Julie Babcock 31st

November

Do you have a November birthday?
If so, please email me so we can update
the roster!

communications@gfwcblueumbrella.org