

AUGUST 2026



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWSLETTER



Board Meeting: Sunday, September 6th 6:30 pm
gfwcblueumbrella.org





President's Message

*BY: KATHY MAMMENG*A

As a cyber club, we may live miles apart, but we are connected by something stronger than our physical location: We share a commitment to service through love, respect, and kindness. From all corners, we each bring experience and enthusiasm to our communities. Technology allows us to exchange ideas, celebrate successes, and encourage one another without starting the car, boarding a plane, or packing an overnight bag.

Making a difference does not always require a large gathering or an entire ensemble. One member may deliver food to a neighbor, collect supplies for a local food pantry, tutor a student, or send cheerful cards to veterans. Sharing a volunteer opportunity with another member can create a wonderful ripple effect.

When I worked at a university, I regularly greeted a member of the custodial staff who visited my office several times a week. Other managers and staff members asked why I talked to her. I was always surprised by the question. To me, greeting her was natural. I greeted and talked with students, directors, deans, and the associate vice president, so why wouldn't I talk with her? After a while, I learned from her that she was a single mother from another country with a teenage son. During our conversations, I learned more about her Caribbean island and the culture. When no one was around to report to her department manager that she was lingering, she would stay longer, and we would chat. We had wonderful conversations. On the days she walked through my office door with an ear-to-ear smile, I was excited to hear her news. I was one of the first people she told that she had passed her U.S. citizenship test. Only a few of us knew she was taking it. After a few years, she was promoted to custodial manager. I then only saw her when she was shadowing staff or had to "check" something in my building. The simple act of saying, "Hi! How are you?" to the person who helped me maintain a tidy office grew into a friendship at work. Consistently sharing a few words created smiles and laughter that lasted for years. Love, respect, and kindness made a difference in two lives.

As a cyber club, we have a unique advantage. We can complete an activity in one location while other members do the same in their location, creating meaningful shared experiences. Members across the miles can thank first responders, support food pantries, or provide classrooms and students with needed supplies. Although the projects are completed locally, they are being done together, making our impact even greater.

Many of us have experienced this a couple of times this year. How many of you raised funds, traveled as a Veteran or guardian, made a banner, wrote a card, attended the Welcome Home party, or watched the Flight to Honor event on YouTube or at Spring Convention? Have you recently learned more about firefighters, had your photograph taken with one, looked up the Florida State Fire College, or made a plan for how you might help? Some of us may have done one of these things, while others may have done them all. We shared these experiences, albeit the tasks may have differed. It takes each person's participation to bring about success. The experience may have been different for each of us, but together, we reached every corner of Florida and beyond.

One thoughtful act has great value. I have witnessed firsthand how a simple gesture can brighten someone's day. It might be talking to the custodial staff, writing a letter to a Veteran, smiling at a stranger, or opening a door for a parent with little ones. No matter how much time we spend volunteering, each moment helps fulfill our club's mission. Miles may separate us, but purpose, friendship, and service unite us. Together, our acts make a big difference.





August MAKERS and MILESTONES

August had significant activities that helped shape history in various ways. Women who held firm to see their vision become reality and beloved furry friends bring a successful campaign and calmness in times of duress. August gives us plenty of reasons to celebrate the women who came before us and continue to inspire service, leadership and positive change.



AUGUST 19, 1981

Sandra Day O'Connor Began Her Supreme Court Service



The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman justice on the United States Supreme Court, breaking one of the highest glass ceilings in American government.

AUGUST 9, 1944

Smokey Bear Was Introduced to America



One of the most recognizable public safety campaigns in history began in August 1944 when Smokey Bear was introduced to help prevent wildfires. His famous message, "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires," helped generations understand the importance of protecting natural resources.

AUGUST 1933

Frances Perkins Became the First Woman U.S. Cabinet Secretary



During her first full month serving as Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins began leading major workplace reforms. She would later help create Social Security, significant programs in American history.

AUGUST 26, 1920

The Nineteenth Amendment Became Law



Women across the United States officially won the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was certified. Every August 26, we celebrate Women's Equality Day in honor of this historic achievement.

AUGUST 1904

Mary McLeod Bethune Founded Bethune-Cookman College



Preparations for Opening in Daytona Beach, Bethune started a school with just a handful of students and a few dollars. That small school grew into Bethune-Cookman University.



AUGUST 1849

Elizabeth Blackwell Receives Her Medical Degree



Although she graduated earlier in the year, August marked the beginning of her medical practice efforts after becoming the first woman in the United States to earn a medical degree. Many hospitals refused to hire her, but she persevered and opened doors for future generations of women physicians.

AUGUST 1885

Annie Oakley Joins Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show



The sharpshooter and performer became one of the show's biggest stars. At a time when women were expected to remain in traditional roles, Annie amazed audiences with skills that rivaled horseback.

AUGUST 1884

Belva Lockwood Becomes a Presidential Candidate



Campaign Attorney Belva Lockwood campaigned for President of the United States, becoming the first woman to run a full national campaign. Women couldn't even vote nationally yet, but she challenged assumptions about leadership.

National DOG DAY

AUGUST 26

Firehouse dogs have been companions and mascots for firefighters for generations.



and FIREHOUSE DOGS

Dalmatians became associated with fire departments because they could run alongside horse drawn fire engines and help keep the horses calm.



A Life-Changing Partnership: My Journey to a Service Dog - Part 4

BY PAULA JUVINALL

Between the recipients, the puppy trainers, and the staff trainers there was so much crying and screaming going on. It was finally my turn. I cannot even explain the nerves I had at that moment. After my name was announced, they said "You have been trained with Genie." My friends and I all looked at each other in shock. I must have had a pretty strong surprised look on my face because when my teacher brought her over, she was laughing. She said, "We surprised you, huh?"

After we were all matched, they had us go to pre-assigned seats. Mine had a big book on it, stuffed animals, and a few other things. Then they had all the puppy trainers come in to sit and talk with us. Ava was with her mom, her dad, and her brother. We hugged, we cried. It was very emotional. Genie for sure recognized Ava because she went crazy when she saw her. We finally sat down so she could tell me everything about how Genie was raised. I got to see a picture of her at eight weeks old. Of course, she was precious. Then she gave me a couple of dog toys, telling me the broccoli toy was her favorite. Her mom gave me treats and toys for her. We then went through a book Ava created for me from the day she got Genie. She embellished every page. It really was beautiful.

Then we were off to graduation. When we got there, we had to turn our dog back over to their puppy trainer. Everyone that was at the presentation was sitting in the audience. As the head puppy trainer called our name, we each went across the stage, and our puppy trainer came out from the other side. Ava came out with Genie. A few words were said about each graduate and then they said a little bit about the puppy trainer and how many they trained. Hooray, I did it! I graduated. Now it really begins.



Did You Know?

Canine Companions is a GFWC Affiliate Organization, giving GFWC clubs another meaningful way to support greater independence for people with disabilities through expertly trained service dogs. Their mission is a wonderful reflection of GFWC's commitment to service, inclusion, and stronger communities.

<https://canine.org/>



A Simple Signal That Could Make a Difference

International Day of Service

Sometimes service means collecting donations, volunteering our time, or raising money. And sometimes, service can be as simple as sharing information that could help someone get out of an unsafe situation.

As GFWC Blue Umbrella Club prepares to participate in the GFWC International Day of Service on September 26, we are helping spread awareness about [Angel Shots](#), a discreet way someone in a bar or restaurant may be able to signal to staff that they feel unsafe or need assistance.

A person may be on a date that suddenly feels threatening, realize someone has been following them, or simply find themselves in a situation where openly asking for help could put them at greater risk. Knowing there is a discreet way to communicate with restaurant or bar staff can provide another option for getting help.

Our project will provide Angel Shot informational posters for restrooms and reference cards for bar and restaurant staff explaining the commonly used signals and what assistance may be requested. This is where our Blue Umbrella members can help!

Members will be able to print the materials and take them to local restaurants, bars, and other appropriate establishments in their own communities. Ask the business if they would be willing to display the restroom poster and provide the information to their staff.

One conversation. One poster. One informed employee. It may seem small, but to someone who needs help, it could make a big difference.

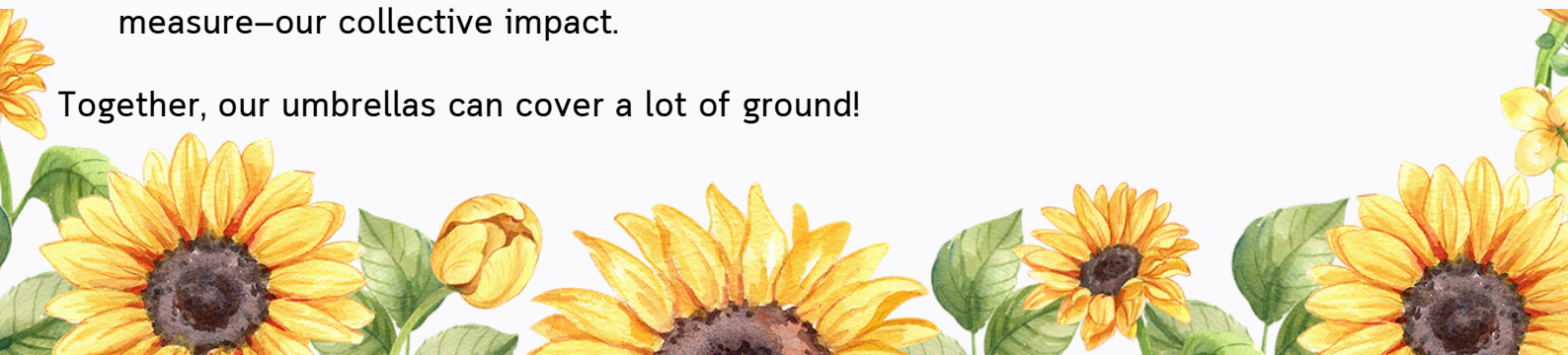
This project also gives our Blue Umbrella Club members an opportunity to expand the impact of International Day of Service far beyond one community. Wherever our members live and serve, we can help put this information into the hands of businesses and the people who may someday need it.

September 26 is GFWC International Day of Service. Let's use it as an opportunity to educate, advocate, and give people another tool to help them feel safer in their communities.

How You Can Participate

- Print the Angel Shot poster and staff information card.
- Visit a local restaurant or bar and ask management if they will participate.
- Encourage them to post the information in their restrooms and educate their staff.
- Let Blue Umbrella know where you shared the materials so we can celebrate—and measure—our collective impact.

Together, our umbrellas can cover a lot of ground!



International Day of Service

International Day of Service ANGEL SHOTS

Neat / Straight Up

You need an escort
to your car.

Discreet way to signal for help.

Posters for restrooms
and cards for bar
staff are being
created for **GFWC
Blue Umbrella Club**.

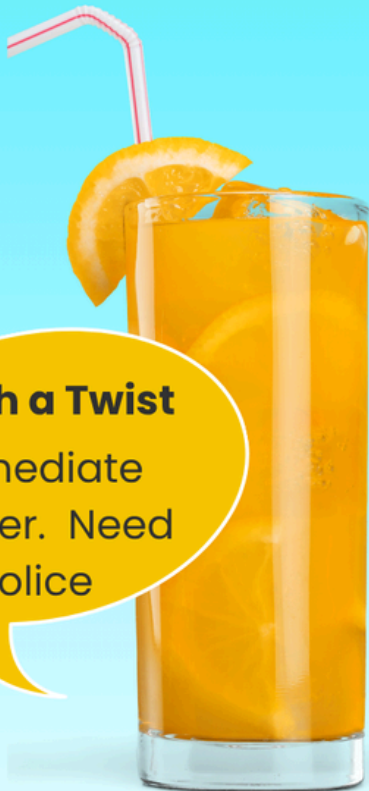
Members and others
can print the items
and ask bars and
restaurants to post
them.

With a Twist

Immediate
danger. Need
police

On Ice / On the Rocks

You need staff to
call a rideshare



SHARE YOUR TALENTS



SHARE YOUR TALENTS

STRENGTHEN OUR CLUB

A Little Help Goes a Long Way!

As we expand, we need assistance. We are looking for volunteers to join a few important committees. If you have some time, we would love your help on a committee to keep our club vibrant, connected, and growing.

Newsletter

Help write articles

Merchandise

Develop new ideas. Coordinate orders and deliveries. Track sales.

Membership

Assist the 2nd VP with membership

Here's the secret. The more people who pitch in, the lighter the load and the more fun we have!

Facebook

Post and approve posts

GFWC FLORIDA PRESIDENTS PROJECT



🔥 What is your club doing to support the GFWC Florida President's Project? 🔥

We would love to hear how your club is supporting your local firefighters! Are you providing meals, donating teddy bears for children, collecting needed supplies, or planning another special service project?

We also want to hear your fundraising ideas! How is your club raising money to support the Florida Firefighters Academy and help offset tuition and supply costs for firefighters attending the academy?

Share your projects, fundraising ideas, photos (in photocircle), and successes! Please email me at: communications@gfwcblueumbrella.org. Your idea may be exactly the spark another club needs! 🚒💖🔥



GFWC FL JUNIOR DIRECTOR PROJECT



Royally Served

NEIGHBORHOOD FRIDGE Food & Hygiene Drive

Nourishing Bodies ♡ Restoring Dignity ♡ Serving with Love

Help us stock neighborhood refrigerators and pantries with essential food and hygiene items for our neighbors in need.



MOST NEEDED ITEMS



PANTRY STAPLES

- ♡ Rice
- ♡ Beans
- ♡ Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- ♡ Canned Vegetables
- ♡ Canned Fruit
- ♡ Canned Tuna & Chicken
- ♡ Peanut Butter
- ♡ Oatmeal
- ♡ Cereal
- ♡ Shelf-Stable Milk
- ♡ Cooking Oil
- ♡ Low-Sodium Soups
- ♡ Shelf-Stable Protein Shakes
- ♡ Individually Packaged Snacks



HYGIENE ESSENTIALS

- ♡ Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- ♡ Soap
- ♡ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ♡ Deodorant
- ♡ Menstrual Products
- ♡ Diapers & Baby Wipes
- ♡ Toilet Paper
- ♡ Tissues
- ♡ Laundry Detergent
- ♡ Incontinence Products



ESPECIALLY HELPFUL FOR OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS

- ♡ Ready-to-Eat Meals
- ♡ Protein Bars
- ♡ Trail Mix
- ♡ Crackers
- ♡ Fruit Cups
- ♡ Applesauce Pouches
- ♡ Electrolyte Packets
- ♡ Bottled Water
- ♡ New Socks
- ♡ Sunscreen
- ♡ Travel-Size Hygiene Items



DROP-OFF LOCATION:
Junior Fundraising Table

Donations benefit:
**NEIGHBORHOOD
FRIDGE**
neighborhoodfridge.org

♡ Thank you! ♡
for your generosity
and support!

EVERY DONATION HELPS PROVIDE NOURISHMENT,
DIGNITY, AND HOPE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

SAVE THE DATE



**Join GFWC Florida
at the 2026
Fall Board of Directors Meeting**



as we participate in the
**GFWC International Day of Service Project
United to End Domestic and Sexual Violence**

- ♥ **Friday evening** after the Board of Directors Meeting, we will assemble cosmetic bags filled with encouraging and uplifting items.
- ♥ Districts will take completed bags home for distribution to clubs.
- ♥ Clubs will deliver the bags to local domestic violence shelters and safe houses.



Support Survivors • Inspire Confidence • Share Compassion

♥ Please bring one new lipstick or lip gloss to include in a cosmetic bag.

Additional donations are greatly appreciated.
Any color is welcome.



Join us for the GFWC Southern Region Conference in Jacksonville, FL, on Oct. 23-25! Come experience the unique Jacksonville culture, reconnect with friends, participate in meaningful service, and discover fresh inspiration. The Call and all of the details will be out in late August!



Save the Date!

JOIN US IN
**JACKSONVILLE,
Florida!**

OCT. 23-25, 2026

Join us for the GFWC Southern Region Conference in Jacksonville, FL, on Oct. 23-25! Come experience the unique Jacksonville culture, reconnect with friends, participate in meaningful service, and discover fresh inspiration.

- Experience the unique Jacksonville culture
- Reconnect with friends old and new
- Participate in meaningful service
- Discover fresh inspiration and new ideas

We can't wait to see you there!

THE CALL AND ALL OF THE DETAILS WILL BE out in late August!

Save the Date

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Check out the GFWC Learning Academy today:

The General Federation of Women's Clubs continues its mission of supporting women through education, leadership, and community impact. The GFWC Learning Academy offers free online training in leadership, membership, technology, and more—helping members grow and succeed in their club journey.

<https://memberportal.gfwc.org/pages/learning-academy>

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

Please download the PhotoCircle App and begin uploading your BUC photos directly to the Blue Umbrella Club PhotoCircle (scan the QR code below to join).

It makes creating the newsletter and gathering historical memories so much easier!



 2026 Blue Umbrella Club
Join my circle by scanning
the QR Code above

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

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kathy Mammenga	president@gfwcblueumbrella.org
1st Vice President	Dana Monteneri	firstvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
2nd Vice President	Harriet Hankerson	secondvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Recording Secretary	Nancy Crawford	recordingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Treasurer	Margie Harper	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		merchandise@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Technology Chairman	Lisa Klatt	technology@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Parliamentarian	Sallie Milner	parliamentarian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Social Media Chairman	Sharon Grace	socialmedia@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Julie Babcock	advisorbabcock@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Dianne Foerster	advisorfoerester@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Laura Connelly	advisorconnelly@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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August

Sheila Zuhlke 4th

Bradlee Swanson 7th

Jodi Ratica 9th

Janette Sweeney 10th

Patricia Wolff 10th

Dianne Foerster 15th

Harriet Hankerson 19th

Jasdeep Cook 20th

Linda Mitchell 20th

Beverly Hendrickson 21st

Beth Rhodes 23rd

September

Madeline Markowitz – 12th

Dana Montenieri – 18th

Joanne Schiefer – 18th