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VOLUME VIII - June, 2023

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
General Federation of Women's Clubs



From Dianne's Desk:

Dear Blue Umbrella members,

I am so excited to have just returned from the GFWC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky! There were many Blue Umbrella members in attendance and because of a reach out program, we now have some new members! Patty Fisher and I both sported our Blue Umbrella t-shirts. I wore my Blue Umbrella earrings and bracelets and had many comments on how cute they were. Sallie Milner brought informational cards that she and Kathryn Gallagher designed and printed, and as we talked to people we were seated with at lunches and dinners, we shared what the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club is all about. It was a wonderful opportunity to share who we are and what we believe in and do. We have acquired a few new members but what we have absolutely done is to plant seeds! You will find a copy of the card, front and back, further along in this newsletter. I hope that several of you will want some of these informational membership cards to share with your friends and acquaintances. They include the QR code to the website for reference. We will also have the cards available at the GFWC Florida Fall Board meeting. Remember that we are not in competition with any club, GFWC or otherwise, but instead are all about helping cooperatively while showing Love, Respect, and Kindness...always and everywhere! Most of us are actively involved with our home clubs and certainly intend to continue to be so.

The GFWC Convention was excellent, full of information, great speakers, panel discussions, awards and recognitions, tours of local attractions and fun! It is always exciting to be with our GFWC sisters from other states or countries and to realize how alike we really are and how much we have in common. The next International Convention will be in June of 2024 and will be held in Chicago, Illinois. Let's start now to plan to attend if possible!

Further along in the newsletter you will find an update on the International representatives who joined us in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as a few pictures. It was an amazing privilege for me and everyone to get to meet our six international members!

The "Save the Monarchs" webinar has been so very successful that we are going to promote the replaying of the recording for anyone who missed it or has just recently heard about it. I know that because of our efforts, at least 60+ Monarchs have already been released. Thank you again to Patty Fisher and Helen Aungst, for educating and inspiring so many of us to save these beautiful, endangered butterflies!

Please read the rest of the newsletter. It will bring you up to date on the upcoming GFWC Day of Service and a couple of other new initiatives for Blue Umbrella members.

Enjoy and relax during these summer months and please continue to show your

LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS...always and everywhere!

Hugs,

Dianne

Dianne Foerster
President
GFWC Blue Umbrella Inc.
dlynnfoerster@gmail.com



Welcome!

Dear Members,

On behalf of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc., I would like to welcome Lois Fitzhugh and Marsha Gabbard into our sisterhood! Thank you for joining our Club.

I hope you all embrace our motto and I look forward to reading about how you touch your community as you spread Love, Respect and Kindness. If you find an organization that is struggling to reach their objectives, please let us know. We will try to help in some way.

We encourage all our members to send us information about the work they do in their communities. If you would like to post events or work that you have done or will do for your community, please be sure to post it on our Facebook page or send the information for the newsletter to vayermoli@hotmail.com

With Love, Respect and Kindness, always,

Dianne

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Members,

If you have not yet renewed your membership, dues they are due by September 30, 2023.

If you became a member between May and September you do not have to renew until September 2024.

If you are not yet a member, but would like to become one, you can fill out the attached registration form and follow the procedure on the form to pay your registration. You can also register with the QR Code attached.

Dues are \$35 for the 2023-2024 year. You can use the QR code here, or you may send a check, made payable to "GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc." to:

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
Kathy Mammenga, Treasurer
11214 Dr. MLK Blvd, # 195,
Seffner, FL 33584



GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
General Federation of Women's Clubs



Member Registration Information
Please send your completed registration to
Lisa M. Klatt
at: membershipblueumbrella@gmail.com

First Name _____
Last Name _____
Email Address _____
Home Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
District _____ Country _____
Areas of Interest _____

**Dues (\$35) checks should be made payable to: GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
and mail to:**

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
Kathy Mammenga - Treasurer
11214 E Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd #195
Seffner, FL 33584



AND WHAT A CONVENTION IT WAS!!

Here is a recap for those of us who did not attend. We were very well represented!



FLORIDA DELEGATION

On June 10, GFWC's Annual Convention opened with the "Processional of Flags" ceremony, which features the 50 states that comprise the Federation. Each state flag was proudly carried by a GFWC State President or member of its Board of Directors. For first-time attendees and Convention regulars, this ceremony signifies the official kickoff for the event.



GFWC Director-Elect of Junior Clubs Shannon Bailey proudly carries the GFWC flag to begin the "Processional of Flags." Attendees cheered as their state flag and representatives were announced.



Dianne carrying the Belize flag, followed by Emily Carrillo and Tricia Pelayo



Opening Session, the Flag ceremony



American Flag was presented by the Kentucky National Guard, followed by the National Anthem sung by Abby Jo Lorenz of GFWC Wisconsin and the Pledge of Allegiance led by GFWC Massachusetts President T. Jablanski.



Tricia Pelayo, President-elect of GFWC Belmopan Women's Club, Belize



Tricia Pelayo, Christa Nuckols, GFWC Florida Director of Junior Clubs and Emily Carrillo



GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski (R) and Director of Junior Clubs Katie Moydell (L) present Maria Tereza Mendes, President of GFWC Cre-Ser Woman's Club located in Brazil a certificate of "Special Recognition for International Liaison Participation."



International President Deb Strahanoski thanks GFWC International Delegates for attending this year's Convention and for their efforts to improve their communities.

Doing what we do best...Volunteering!



A representative from Canine Companions with one of the three service dogs in attendance.

Participants at the Service Project making beds for dogs and pups in training

Having fun!

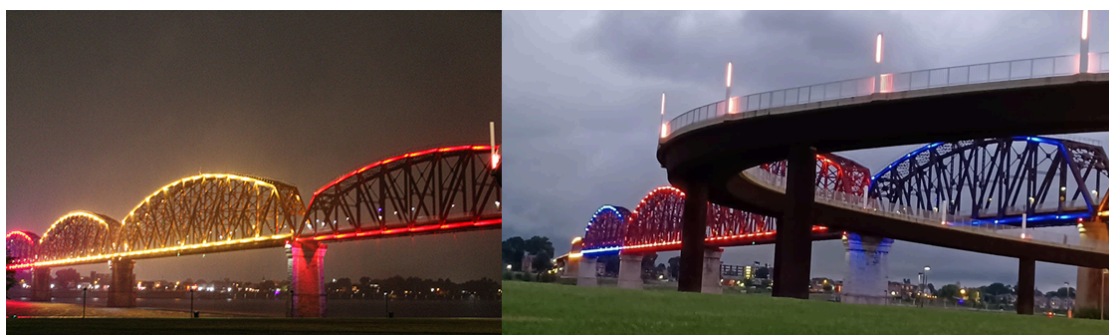


Emily Carrillo, boating with Laura and Bill Connolly



Dianne and Shannon Bailey showing off their beautiful hats!

GRAND FINALE!



The grand finale for the day arrived in style when the Big Four Bridge showcased GFWC colors. Living the Volunteer Spirit! Cheers!

At the GFWC International Convention, members of the Blue Umbrella Club promoted our club by giving out the cards below, with information about our mission. Thank you, Kathryn Gallagher and Sallie Milner, for designing and producing them!

Many had questions and wanted to receive our newsletter to learn more. We hope that they will also become members and help us continue spreading our fabulous vision of "Love Respect and Kindness!"

These are available to you, too! Spread the word! LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS!!

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
General Federation of Women's Clubs



GFWC Blue Umbrella Club is a proud member of the
General Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc
and the
GFWC Florida Federation

Visit our Website: www.gfwcblueumbrella.org and Facebook at GFWC Blue Umbrella Club

Inspire the Values of Love, Respect and Kindness throughout the World!

That's the goal of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club.

We need you to join other like-minded, caring people, committed to those virtues in all aspects of life.

Open to members of all ages in all locations across the globe, Blue Umbrella is a personal philosophy of hope, enlisting us to partner and pursue a positive approach to the multitude of today's issues. Our commitment to volunteer service as individuals is to support community improvement whether alone, as members of feet-on-the-ground GFWC Clubs or by partnering with other service organizations, all to enhance the lives of others. We share ideas, plans and accomplishments through monthly newsletters, Zoom meetings and live get-togethers at GFWC Conventions.

Visit us here:



LOVE 

RESPECT 

KINDNESS 

Blue Umbrella Club

**GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB
NEWS AND UPDATES!**



International Affiliate Update

How fantastic it was to welcome six of our International members to the GFWC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky earlier this month! There were two from Belize, one from the Philippines and three from Brazil. They took part in all aspects of the weekend, including the Parade of Flags at the Opening Session. Those of us on the International Liaisons Committee had the honor of carrying their countries flags as the international delegates processed. President Deb Strahanoski and the GFWC officers hosted a reception for these special guests in the Presidential Suite. At that time, there were exchanges of some memory gifts, and as your GFWC Blue Umbrella Club representative, I presented all six with a beautiful Honorary Membership Certificate as well as a Blue Umbrella pin. Thank you to Sallie Milner for preparing the classy looking certificates.

Several of our members had visited Belize earlier this year and met members of both the Belize City Women's Club and their Juniores, as well as the Belmopan Women's Club, so it was particularly thrilling to get a chance to welcome Emily Carrillo of the Belize Juniores and Tricia Pelayo, the incoming President of the Belmopan club. Tricia roomed with Cherie Seigler, an International Liaison Committee member and Emily stayed with Laura Connelly during the convention. Emily flew into Tampa almost a week earlier and had the opportunity to stay with Laura. She attended the GFWC Florida Juniores Annual State Meeting (JASM), where she met and interacted with young women of her age! This was her first visit to the United States and Laura made sure she had a great time! Not only did she attend JASM and the GFWC Convention, but she visited with several different club members, saw "The Little Mermaid," went boating and tried a lot of new foods and experiences. I can safely say that we all fell in love with Emily. She was smart, sweet, beautiful, and fun! Maybe she will join us again in Chicago next year. Thank you to GFWC Florida Director of Junior Clubs Christa Nuckols for inviting Emily to spend a night during convention with her and some Junior friends. I hear there were ghost stories!

What an amazing opportunity for all GFWC members to put faces to names with our International members. This is how the world gets smaller, closer, more tolerant, kinder and more loving!

Dianne

Welcome to our International Honorary Members!

At the GFWC Convention in Louisville, Ky the six members attending from GFWC International clubs received certificates welcoming them as Honorary Blue Umbrella Club Members as well as the official Blue Umbrella pins, representing the club's commitment to LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS. Those international members attending were:

Belize

Tricia Pelayo, President-elect, GFWC Belmopan Women's Club
Emily Carrillo, Past President, GFWC Belize City Juniores

Brazil

Maria Tereza Mendes, President, GFWC Cre-Ser Woman's Club, Sao Paulo
Luis Fernando Marmo
Eliane L. Felix Okamoto

Philippines

Linda Gonzalez, President, GFWC National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines

Dianne

A large red rectangular box containing the text "Red Sand Project" in white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "Red" on the top line, "Sand" on the middle line, and "Project" on the bottom line. The font is bold and clear, with the "P" in "Project" being particularly large and stylized.

On a beautiful Saturday morning, May 27th, members of the Brandon Junior Women's Club, along with special guests Jackie Corley, representing Selah Freedom and Sharon Mott representing Operation Light Force and three husbands, met at the entrance to the Brandon Parkway to spread red sand in the cracks of the sidewalk. Why, you might ask? To signify that we will not let victims of human trafficking "fall through the cracks" in our



community. The Red Sand Project is an international movement to bring awareness to this horrifying reality.

Brandon Juniors is partnering with Selah Freedom and Operation Light Force to help these individuals receive help, housing, and healing from a life of slavery. Both these organizations are anti-human trafficking non-profit organizations dedicated to helping

victims escape such a horrific life.

According to Red Sand Project Founder Molly Gochman, currently there are nearly 50 million people in slavery around the world. Slavery exists in all cultures and unfortunately, all industries. From labor to sex trafficking, this must be stopped. The human trafficking industry is second only to the illegal drug trade in profitability. The more awareness, the better chance we have to help end it.

Change happens when one person steps up! Brandon Juniors wants to be a part of that change and healing.

For more info:

www.gfwcbrandonjuniors.org

www.redsandproject.org

www.selahfreedom.com

www.operationlightforce.com



Blue Umbrella Angels Doing Their Magic!

GFWC Blue Umbrella “Partnership Place”



“21st Annual Christmas in July - Our mission is to provide a ray of hope to the homeless children of Broward County and their parents – to show that “someone cares” - and also provide a day of fun and frolic.”

GFWC Deerfield Beach Woman’s Club President Katy Freitag works tirelessly with Broward County Kiwanis International Divisions 23 and 24 on their annual Christmas in July program, serving the Homeless Children of Broward County, FL. On July 8th, 2023, the 21st year of the annual program, Christmas in July will take place at the Florida Live Arena. The event provides a ray of hope for children who end up in homeless facilities not due to any fault of their own, but due to unfortunate circumstances. It shows them that others do care about their plight.

In the last 20 years Christmas in July, Inc. has served more than 50,000 homeless children in Broward County. The children receive only new items. Santa and his helpers are on site to distribute gifts to the children including an individually packed backpack containing school clothes, underwear, shoes and socks, school supplies and books individually selected for the specific child. Each child is invited to visit the on-site Barber Shop set up especially for them. Games, lunch, and entertainment continue all day for the kids and their parents.

What a great example of our own GFWC Unity in Diversity and the power of local partnership with other service organizations. If you are in Broward County, or just inspired by this program, here is a link to their Wish List on Amazon. You can also contact President Katy Freitag at GFWC Deerfield Beach Woman’s Club.

[Amazon Wish List](#)

Sponsorship Levels and Response Form

DIAMOND = \$5,000 Cash or In-Kind Donation	- Link to your company on Christmas in July website. - Company logo included on print and media materials. - Company name listed as sponsor on Christmas in July website. - Post company banner on event day. - Special presentation on event day.
PLATINUM = \$3,000 Cash or In-Kind Donation	- Company logo included on print and media materials. - Company name listed as sponsor on Christmas in July website. - Post company banner on event day. - Special presentation on event day.
GOLD = \$2,000 Cash or In-Kind Donation	- Post company banner at event site. - Company logo included on print and media materials. - Sponsorship recognition on event day.
SILVER = \$1,000 Cash or In-Kind Donation	- Post company banner at event site. - Sponsorship recognition on event day.
BRONZE = \$500 Cash or In-Kind Donation	- Post company banner at event site. - Sponsorship recognition on event day.
KIWANIS ... = \$250 Cash or In-Kind Donation	Sponsorship recognition on event day.
FRIEND = \$100 Cash or In-Kind Donation	Sponsorship recognition on event day.

Company / Organization _____
 Contact Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Work Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-mail _____

Please make check payable to “**Christmas In July, Inc.**” and mail to
Christmas in July, Inc.
6208 White Oak Lane
Tamarac, FL 33319
Or

Donations can also be made online at www.christmasinjulyinc.com

Kindly return this form via
 scan to christmasinjulyinc@hotmail.com

Christmas in July, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 Corporation

Thank You for Caring for the County’s Homeless Children!

Don’t miss this opportunity to sharpen your leadership skills, sign up to
 attend this important camp!





Reach your PEAK FL
North: Aug. 11-12
South: Aug. 18-19

REGISTER FOR CAMP

LEADERSHIP SUMMER CAMP 2023

GFWC SISTERS - REGISTER FOR LEADERSHIP SUMMER CAMP 2023 AND REACH YOUR P.E.A.K. (POTENTIAL | EMPOWERMENT | ADVANCEMENT | KNOWLEDGE)

The GFWC Florida Leadership Committee designed the summer camp experience to empower our current and future leaders, while building knowledge to reach their PEAK potential and advance in GFWC.

Whether you're brand new to GFWC or are years into your journey, we invite you to join us at one of our two camp weekends.

NORTH CAMP - LAKE SWANN, AUGUST 11-12
SOUTH CAMP - LAKE PLACID, AUGUST 18-19

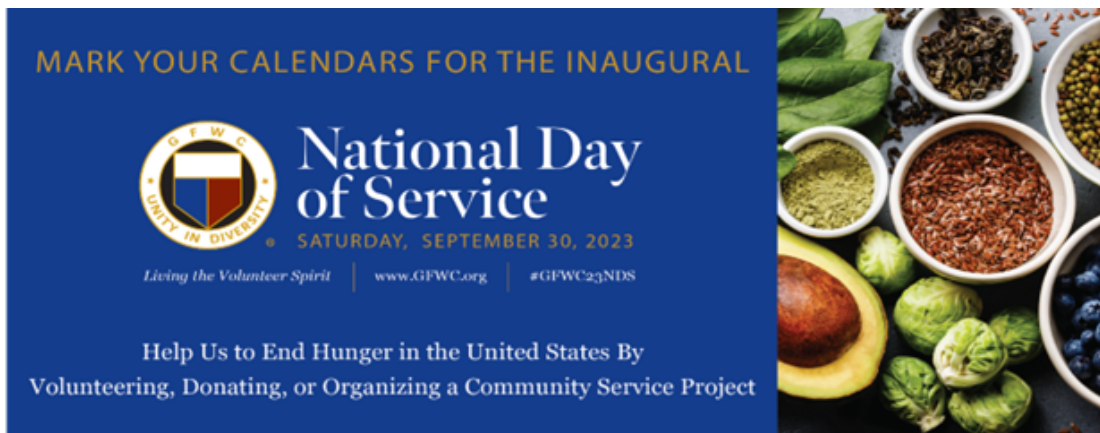
Camp Programming Includes:

- Empowerment Speaker
- Making leadership easier
- Life skills & GFWC
- Creating powerful presentations
- Stress management
- Strengthening your club's future
- Running better organized meetings
- Leadership succession planning
- ...and much more!



SIGN-UP

REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.GFWCFLCAMP.COM



Saturday, September 30th is the Inaugural National Day of Service

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is GFWC National Day of Service?

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The National Day of Service (NDS) is a day in which all GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address it, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs will participate by organizing Community Service Programs (CSP) in their communities as part of NDS. It's also a great opportunity to invite guests to participate in your NDS activities and introduce them to the benefits of GFWC.

How can you help solve food insecurity in the United States?

To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local food banks and food pantries — wherever people go for food — to find out how best to be of service. For example, a club can sponsor a food bank, pantry, or food program to organize a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends. Ask every member of your club to invite a friend who is not presently a member to participate and experience GFWC in action.

Who should you invite to participate?

Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friend(s) to join GFWC. The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Ideas for NDS Activities:

- **Volunteer at a Local Food Bank**
- **Food Drives:** Connect directly with the local food bank to determine how your club can be of service. They will welcome the support and donation of time and food.
- **Raise Awareness About Hunger:** Reach out to your local media to introduce NDS and the cause being promoted. Ask the reporter to mention NDS and how people can participate and donate. Also, use social media to discuss food insecurity with members of your community, clubs, schools, church groups, and others.
- **Advocate to End Food Insecurity:** Use GFWC's Legislative Action Center (LAC) to interact with your federal and state elected officials to advance a bill or introduce legislation that helps to end hunger by funding programs specific to

INFORMATION TO START PLANNING

Start planning today! Find a food bank or food pantry near you:

Locate your local food bank and food services at the following links:

Second Harvest - [food near me - Second Harvest \(2-harvest.org\)](https://www.secondharvest.org/).

Feeding America - [Find Your Local Food Bank | Feeding America](https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-food-bank)

Type “food banks/food pantry (your state)” into your search engine

Find a food pantry – <https://www.foodpantries.org/>

Food pantries by zip code - [https://commonsearches.net/index.php?](https://commonsearches.net/index.php?rgid=541677&sub=gclid&zbulk=Food%20Pantries%20By%20Zip%20Code&gclid=EAlaIQobChMli-HU2o-k_wlVjc7lCh14CwmMEAMYASAAEgKYOfD_BwE)

[rgid=541677&sub=gclid&zbulk=Food%20Pantries%20By%20Zip%20Code&gclid=EAlaIQobChMli-HU2o-k_wlVjc7lCh14CwmMEAMYASAAEgKYOfD_BwE](https://commonsearches.net/index.php?rgid=541677&sub=gclid&zbulk=Food%20Pantries%20By%20Zip%20Code&gclid=EAlaIQobChMli-HU2o-k_wlVjc7lCh14CwmMEAMYASAAEgKYOfD_BwE)

Find churches with food banks in your state -

https://save.lovetoknow.com/Churches_with_Food_Pantries

Find information about food insecurity at the following links:

US Department of Agriculture - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fact-sheet/usda-support-for-food-banks-emergency-food-system>

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion -

<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>

National Public Radio, Food Insecurity in the US By the Numbers -

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/27/912486921/food-insecurity-in-the-u-s-by-the-numbers>

Find information about food insecurity at the following links:

- US Department of Agriculture - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fact-sheet/usda-support-for-food-banks-emergency-food-system>
- Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion - <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>
- National Public Radio, Food Insecurity in the US By the Numbers - <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/27/912486921/food-insecurity-in-the-u-s-by-the-numbers>
- Feeding America – Definition of food insecurity – Is there food insecurity in my state by zip code <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/food-insecurity#:~:text=A%20definition%20of%20food%20insecurity,people%20can't%20afford%20food>
- US Department of Health and Human Services - <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/food-accessibility-insecurity-and-health-outcomes.html#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20and%20the%20lack,disorders%20and%20other%20chronic%20diseases%20>

To register or for more information, contact Melanie Gisler, Director of Membership Services, at MGisler@GFWC.org and copy Deb Strahanoski, International President, at DStrahanoski@GFWC.org. Please include the following in your email: Club Name, Point of Contact, Address, Phone Number, and Email. GFWC will send information, articles, and announcements directly to your club.

Of course, the Blue Umbrella Club is already registered with GFWC HQ as a participant!



Now (today/tomorrow/this week) is the right moment for Blue Umbrella Club members to encourage our districts and clubs to register with GFWC.

Then, it's important that we participate with our home clubs in the planning of a successful, local Day of Service.

The Inaugural National Day of Service opens a brand-new channel for GFWC. Not only will it highlight our quest to solve food insecurity in every county in the country but it will also create an awareness of our service organization of 60,000 caring and dedicated General Federation of Women's Clubs members. Let's make it a priority to use this preparation time to educate others that GFWC stands for General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Locally placed, advance publicity regarding the reality of hunger, nationwide food insecurity and our plan to stamp it out will start the ball rolling toward a nationally recognized General Federation of Women's Clubs Day of Service.

As members of the Blue Umbrella Club, concentrate on spreading the good word to members and friends across the country. Contact and persuade other service organizations to rally with us on September 30th and feed the nation!

Living the Volunteer Spirit • www.GFWC.org • #GFWC23NDS

Checklist

Get Started

Register to Participate - Email: Melanie Gisler, Director of Membership Services, at MGisler@GFWC.org and copy Deb Strahanoski at dstrahanoski@gfwc.org

- Form a National Day of Service Project Planning Committee
- Brainstorm Local Charities to Support
- Share NDS Charity with Club Members
- Recruit Club Members to Participate
- Ask Each Participant to Invite a Friend (*not a current member*) to Participate
- Reach Out to Local Community Leaders to Support Club Activity. For example, Mayor, Local Businesses, Schools, Churches, etc.
- Create Weekly Updates om NDS to Generate Excitement
- Recognize Clubwomen Recruiting Non-members to Participate
- Invite Nonmembers to Attend a Club Meeting Prior to NDS on Sept. 30
- Develop Promotional Materials and Signage to Engage Local Community
- Reach Out to Community Press Outlets (*Includes creating a list and using Press Kit for campaign messages.*)

August/September

- Confirm Plans with Organization Selected to Support
- Remind club members of date and time to meet.
- Promote GFWC NDS to Local Press (*Highlight activity and explain how food insecurity impacts local community.*)
- Have Fun **Challenging** Other Clubs
- (*Contests for most volunteer hours completed, food collected, or new members recruited — be creative, nothing is off limits when its fun.*)

4–6 Weeks

- Contact Local Press to Promote Activity and Educate on Food Insecurity
- Gather Materials & Supplies Needed for Sept. 30 (*Signs, boxes, gloves, giveaways, snacks, water, etc.*)

- Remind Friends & Family About NDS

2 Weeks

- Finalize/Confirm Project Details
- Generate Excitement on Social Media

1 Week

- Email Members a reminder
- Distribute Materials & Supplies

Day of NDS – September 30, 2023

- Arrive 15-30 minutes Early
- Provide Activity Instructions

Have Fun! Post to Social Media, #GFWC23NDS



As we try to be more inclusive and welcoming, we would like to share some wonderful devotions written by members. Please feel free to use them

Devotion – Shannon Bailey

With our friends beside us and no person beneath us,
 With the bonds of GFWC between us and our worries behind us,
 With our goals before us and no task beyond us,
 With a thirst for knowledge and a dream of a better world,
 We are thankful for sisterhood, laughter, and joy.
 We are thankful for our time together and the meal we are about to share.
 Thank you, shalom, Amen.

Devotion – Karen Griggsby

In today's turbulent times we must remember to live in the reality where there is more acceptance of one another, more equality, no prejudice against anyone, more humanity, more peace, more hope, and most important of all, more love! Ladies, always remember, we are stronger and more powerful together!! United in our sisterhood!

Devotion - Karen Griggsby

As I look out at my fellow District 8 sisters, I see a common thread that binds us all together, which is a sense of service to our communities. I see faces that reflect diversity, individuality, and most importantly, inclusion as we are joined together with a common thread which is in line with what GFWC Florida proudly promotes; Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion!

Devotion - Mary Ann Cozzens, District 14 Chaplain (2022-2024)

In gratitude and grace, we ask blessings on the food we are about to enjoy and offer thanks to all who prepared it. We ask for guidance as this board moves forward in doing the work of GFWC and offer our gratitude for the opportunity. Please take a moment of silent reflection to express your personal thoughts.....
In Joy, Love, Gratitude and Respect, Amen.



Take Action: Use Our Legislative Alerts

Sign up for the [Legislative Action Center](#), a powerful tool to alert you to GFWC's public issues and advocacy efforts. Track bills, contact your local representative and [take action](#) on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions.



Online platforms have fueled the extreme and unprecedented proliferation of child sexual abuse material. Law enforcement has repeatedly warned that children are groomed, enticed, exploited, trafficked, and abused online through platforms we use every day. This has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, 31.9 million reports of child sexual abuse material were made to

the Cyber Tipline hosted by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), the nation's clearinghouse and comprehensive reporting center for all issues related to the prevention of and recovery from child victimization. Technology companies have photo DNA technology but have not been held accountable for their platforms. This legislation provides a pathway forward.

Advocates believe that removing technology companies' immunity from civil and criminal liability for third party content on their platforms will result in a dramatic decrease in online child sexual exploitation. Advocates also support bipartisan legislation that establishes new statutory authority to hold offenders accountable, specifically the production and live streaming of the child sexual abuse materials. These bills supports victims and increases accountability and transparency for online platforms. It is time to work with technology companies and encourage them to do the right thing – Stop Online Child Sexual Exploitation!

Recently, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved bipartisan legislation to revise the legal framework used in the prevention and prosecution of online sexual abuse of children. Online platforms have fueled the extreme and unprecedented proliferation of child sexual abuse material. Law enforcement has repeatedly warned that children are groomed, enticed, exploited, trafficked, and abused online through platforms we use every day. There are tens of millions of photos and videos circulating throughout the internet, showing the most heinous acts of sexual abuse and torture of children. This has gotten worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2023 (EARN IT Act, S. 1207, H.R. 2732) removes immunity for social media and technology companies that knowingly facilitate the distribution of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) on their platforms. The bill updates existing federal statutes to use the term “child sexual abuse material” instead of “child pornography.” The term child pornography fails to describe the true nature of the images and undermines the seriousness of the abuse. Pornography implies consent, and children under the age of 18 cannot legally consent to the creation or sharing of sexually explicit images of themselves. So, these images are, by definition, evidence of a crime.

Currently, the technology industry maintains a liability protection shield for third-party content. The Communications Decency Act of 1996 contains Section 230 that offers near-total immunity to technology companies. As a result, victims have no way to force tech companies to remove content posted on their sites. This bill removes the immunity specifically regarding child sexual exploitation, by allowing for state civil and criminal lawsuits, as well as federal civil lawsuits, if companies advertise, promote, distribute, or solicit child sexual abuse material. There is precedent. In 2018, Congress removed technology companies’ liability protections for facilitating sex trafficking on online platforms. On May 18, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Gonzalez v. Google* but failed to clarify Section 230, thus leaving the issue up to Congress. It is time for Congress to act to protect children.

The EARN IT Act also establishes the National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention to develop best practices for interactive computer service providers to prevent, reduce, and respond to the online sexual exploitation of children. These best practices will enable law enforcement to obtain evidence to prioritize actionable cases and save children. The bill also would require the Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to develop and support innovative tools to combat online child exploitation.

The bill makes changes to the reporting requirements for electronic communication service providers and remote computing service providers who report apparent instances of crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The bill requires providers to report facts and circumstances sufficient to identify and locate each minor and each involved individual. The bill also increases to one year the amount of time that providers must preserve the contents of a report. These provisions strengthen the hand of law enforcement and the individuals and families that fall victim to these crimes. By removing liability protections for third-party content, Congress will certainly encourage the technology industry to take action to prevent online child sexual exploitation.

The Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment Act of 2023 (STOP CSAM Act, S. 1199) also has bipartisan support and establishes new statutory authority to hold offenders accountable, specifically the production and live streaming of the child sexual abuse materials. The bill supports victims and increases accountability and transparency for online platforms. Technology companies that fail to remove CSAM and related imagery after being notified about them would face significant fines. They also would be required to produce annual reports detailing their efforts to keep children safe from online predators, and any company that promotes or facilitates online child sexual exploitation could face new criminal and civil penalties.

In 2022, 31.9 million reports of child sexual abuse material were made to the Cyber Tipline hosted by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), the nation's clearinghouse and comprehensive reporting center for all issues related to the prevention of and recovery from child victimization. This is an 89 percent increase from pre-pandemic levels. Technology companies have photo DNA technology but have not been held accountable for their platforms. These bills provide a pathway forward to protecting our children



During our last Blue Umbrella Club Zoom meeting, one member told us about Cyber Grants. This is an outstanding opportunity for clubs to tap into this wonderful organization to help with monies for your clubs.

How Does it Work?

It all starts with the NonProfit Organization (NPO) creating a profile in FrontDoor. Once registered, CyberGrants vets the NPO by working with the IRS Business Master File and other global databases to guarantee the nonprofit meets the charitable standards of our corporate customers. Exclusive to FrontDoor, the platform also vets the individuals who claim to represent these nonprofits to ensure they are the right person(s) to make decisions on the organization's behalf. Once approved, an NPO representative can access their information via the single website and also provision additional users to help them maintain their organization within FrontDoor. The single self-administered NPO profile is shared across all CyberGrants corporate customers ensuring data accuracy and integrity for corporate disbursements.



Check out the shirts for the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club!

If you would like to get one or more of these wonderful t-shirts, you have to order them through Amazon; if you are a Prime Member, shipping will be free!

Click on the link under the style shirt you want and which logo you want, and it will take you to the order page where you make all your other selections such as size and color.

If the link below each item does not take you to the site; copy and paste the link on your browser.



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY38GZGB>



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY39CJYK>



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY38FKWZ>



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY375BBF>



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY38GX8Z>

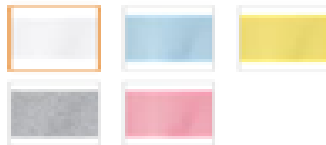


<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY34HLGM>

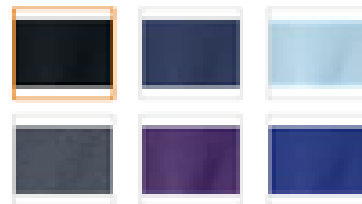
COLORS AVAILABLE:

Logo 1 – Large Umbrella Logo 2 -Love, Respect, Kindness

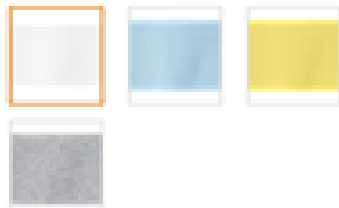
Colors for Short sleeve round neck:



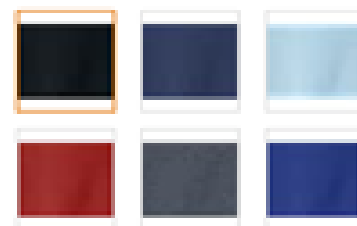
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BXQTN11M> Logo 1



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY39CJYK> Logo 1



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BXQQ1RH6>
Logo 2



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY38GZGB>
Logo 2

Colors for Long sleeve:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BXR5LNZ7> Logo 1 Gray only

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BXQP2CHY> Logo 2 Gray only



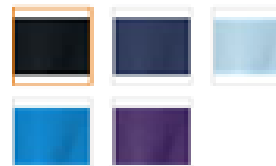
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY38GX8Z>

Logo 1



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY34HLGM>

Logo 2



V-neck

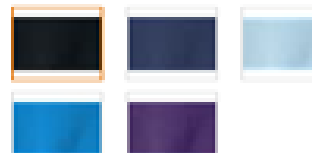
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BXQQ2L9N>

Logo 1



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY38FKWZ>

Logo 1



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BXQFKCNB>

Logo 2

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BY375BBF>

Logo 2



Our Merchandise Manager is Paula Juvinall at pjuvinall@gmail.com and you can order any bijouterie by contacting her directly. The earrings are \$10, the bracelets are \$15 apiece and the umbrella pin is \$10. If your order needs to be **shipped, there is a \$5 charge.**

You can also text your order to Paula at 727-401-1328; go to the online payment page, pay by check or use the QR. whichever payment method you choose **always be sure to copy Paula for a fast return.**

To place your order your can make a check payable to GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, list the item (s) in the memo line and send the check to:

Kathy Mammenga - Treasurer
11214 E Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd #195
Seffner, FL 33584

OR

Link to our online payment page:

<https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/gfwcblueumbrella/payments>

OR

QR Code for our online payment page:



Thank you, Kathy Mammenga!
Blue Umbrella Club Treasurer,
for making this process easy for everyone!



We have the blue umbrella pins in stock!

They are the same umbrella pin as during Dianne's administration.

\$10 each



The bracelets are elastic so no clasps to worry about. They can say Love, Respect or Kindness or have no words and just the umbrella charm hanging from it.

You can choose white letters like in the picture or silver beads with black letters.

Please let Paula know if your wrist is smaller or larger than average size.

\$15 each (unless it's a special order.)



If you aren't into pins or shirts or bracelets, how about a pair of umbrella earrings?

They are the same charm as on the bracelet and the ear wires are sterling silver.

\$10/pair

CAMP BOGGY CREEK



MISSION

To foster a spirit of joy by creating a free, safe and medically-sound camp environment that enriches the lives of children with serious illnesses and their families.

Camp Boggy Creek has been selected as GFWC Florida President O'Toole's state project for 2022-2024. Together, we as members of GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc. can work to make a difference in a child's life. My ask is that you join me in supporting this initiative.

WHAT IS CAMP BOGGY CREEK

The Camp is a safe place for children ages 7-16 with one of the following illnesses: asthma, bleeding disorders, cancer, craniofacial disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease, kidney disease, rheumatic disease, ventilator assisted disorders, sickle cell, spina bifida and transplants to spend time and forget their illnesses and have an opportunity to enjoy life as a child – without thinking about their disease. The camp was founded by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Paul Newman and is in Eustis, Florida.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

They host year-round sessions, including summer camp for the children and family retreats in the spring and fall. Activities include swimming, boating, fishing, arts & crafts, horseback riding, theater, archery, mini golf, dancing, singing and adventure activities.

WHAT IT TAKES

Roughly 3.8 million dollars is needed each year to run this ADA, state of the art medical camping facility. The one building that stands out - the Patch (where you go to get patched up) is filled with volunteer medical specialists to ensure each camper's safety. The cost to send each child to camp for one week is \$2,500. No parent is asked to pay to send their child. Camp Boggy Creek relies on non-profit organizations like GFWC to fund all expenses. Every walk down cabin row, every stage day, every smile, every new friendship... it all matters...Camp matters...and your gift matters to children with serious illnesses and their families.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB MEMBER?

The camp needs "Boggy Creek Bears" which are made from a specific pattern. I am not a seamstress, and I've been told the patterns are extremely difficult, but if you're a sewer, this is an excellent opportunity for you to get engaged! In addition, the Camp is looking for

hand crocheted afghan blankets that would be given to each child to take home after their stay. There are specific dimensions for the blankets as well. If you or your friends and family can assist in making the Boggy Creek Bears or an afghan blanket, please let me know and I will be more than happy to share the specific instructions with you.

In addition to the bears and the afghans, you can help raise \$2,500 or more, to send a camper to Camp Boggy Creek for a week. Since this is a two-year project, we have time to help raise/solicit these funds. Opening our hearts to these children and their families is one way we can show our support to make memories in the life of a child.

Please send me an email at membershipblueumbrella@gmail.com if you would like the pattern for the bear, instructions for the afghan blanket or have an idea for raising funds to send a child or two to Camp Boggy Creek.

Wishing each of you and yours a healthy, happy New Year!

Yours in Service,

Lisa Klatt
Communications and PR Chair
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
727-543-7461
membershipblueumbrella@gmail.com

We would like to keep records of our club's history. To this end, it will be important for those volunteering for activities on behalf of this Club, to copy the information to Rachelle Warmouth, rachelle3364@gmail.com, as well as Dianne and the Communications Team.



Thank you!



Find us on:
facebook®

Sharon Grace
sharon_grace@aol.com
352-668-8088

We have two Facebook sites. One is a "Public" PAGE and the other a "Private" GROUP. Dues paying members are encouraged to join BOTH. These are the differences between "page" and "group":

"Public" PAGE: It can be seen by anyone on Facebook. It is used to recruit new members and introduce people to our vision and purpose. This PAGE collects "likes" and "followers." Once you like and follow this PAGE, you can "invite" your friends to like and follow it. Anyone can like/follow and keep up with our activities. Since I am one of the

PAGE administrators, I have placed restrictions on posting by just anyone. I must "approve" posts first. This is to control spammers to a degree.

"Private" GROUP: You must be a "dues paying" member to join. You must "request" and be "approved" in order to view and post on it. This GROUP will be used for announcements, zoom meeting links, member discussions and the like. Members use this GROUP to communicate with one another, access files and other member information that we do not want to share with non-members. I am also one of the administrators of this GROUP.

For more information please contact Sharon.

Virginia Yermoli
vayermoli@hotmail.com
786.252.9272



Welcome to our newsletter!

Please send me any articles you would like to be included in the newsletter.

If you send pictures with your articles, please send them as a .jpg or .png attachment with a short explanation of who is in the picture, what is it about and any other relevant information that may be needed to explain the action in the picture.

Thank you!



If you would like to become a member of this wonderful Club, please fill out the application below and send it with your \$35 check made out to GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc, and mail to:

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
Kathy Mammenga - Treasurer
11214 E Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd #195
Seffner, FL 33584

If you would like an application emailed to you, please send your request to Virginia Yermoli at vayermoli@hotmail.com

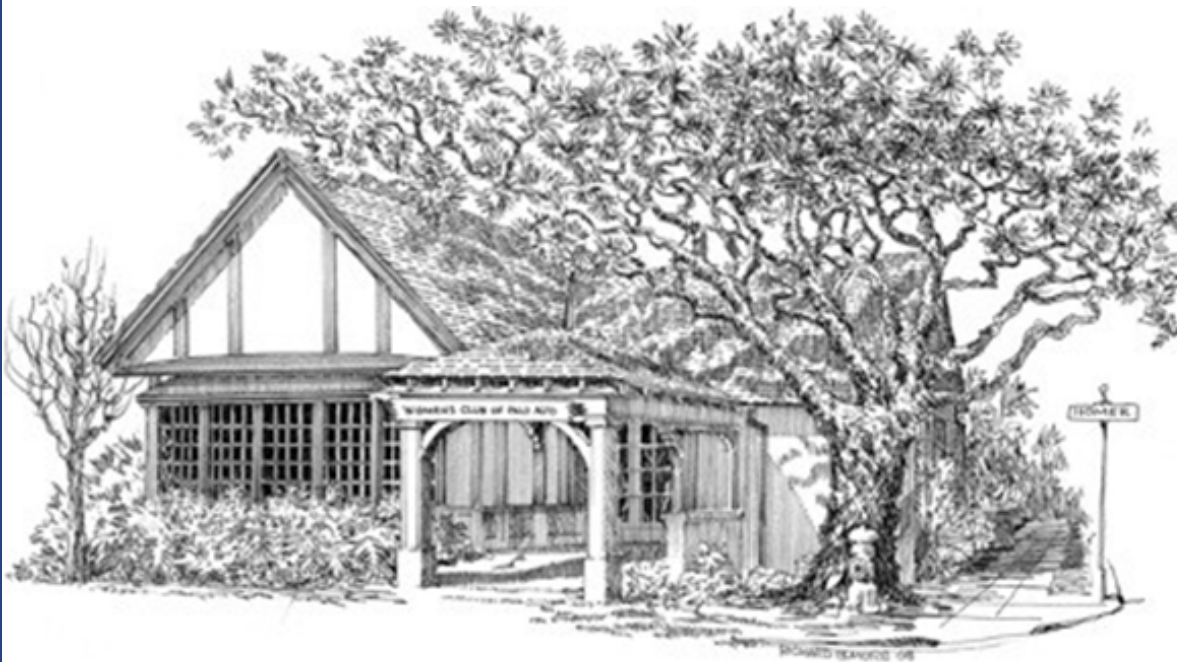
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.

General Federation of Women's Clubs



Our Mission Statement

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



A Collect for Club Women

Mary Stewart

Keep us oh God from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, and 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 judgment 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 not forget to be kind!

In 1904, Mary Stewart (1876 – 1943), wrote a “Collect for Club Women” which our club recites at meetings, as do club women throughout the world. Stewart stated that the Collect was written “...as a prayer for the day. I called it a Collect for Club Women because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps, they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own.”



gfwc.org gfwcflorida.org



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7862529272

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Sent by vayermoli@hotmail.com