



NOVEMBER 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."



Members in Action

Board Meeting: December 7, 2025, 6pm ET

Membership Meeting: December 7, 2025, 7pm ET

gfwcblueumbrella.org



FROM DIANNE'S DESK

My dear Blue Umbrella members and friends,

As we celebrate the many things for which we are grateful this month, I invite you to pause and reflect. Your commitment to the goals of Blue Umbrella has always meant so much, but today, that commitment is more vital than ever.

Our club supports a wide range of projects, both community-based and those sponsored by GFWC, and together we touch the lives of countless people and causes. But it's really all about your heart and your attitude, isn't it?

Your empathy, your ability to truly feel what others are feeling, is what makes you a Blue Umbrella person, and it is what makes you unique! Our club is a little different from the traditional GFWC club. Most of us also belong to one of those clubs, and their work is critically important! But in Blue Umbrella, it's not about how many projects you have completed. It's about how you share your upbeat, positive attitude and your smile, promoting our goals of LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS in every aspect of your lives.

I am so incredibly grateful for each of you, and for the way you embody these traits every single day. Thank you!





FROM DIANNE'S DESK

This month's International Update features a letter from GFWC International President Suellen Brazil, along with photos from her recent trip to Taiwan, where she represented GFWC at the 25th Federation of Women's Clubs Associations Convention in Taipei. President Brazil has been an enthusiastic advocate for our GFWC international affiliate clubs, and she deserves our heartfelt thanks for her dedication and leadership.

I hope you have already saved the date of December 7 at 7:00 p.m. for our final quarterly Blue Umbrella membership meeting of 2025. It will be a joyful holiday celebration, no matter which holiday you may be celebrating.

You will hear from Vice President Patty Fisher and her committee about all the fun activities they have planned. I can't wait to celebrate with you!

Congratulations to all of you who were able to attend the Annual District Meetings with members of the GFWC Florida Executive Committee. Blue Umbrella members were everywhere!

It has been a very active and very fun fall season filled with bingos, buncos teas, galas, and much more as we continue to promote causes dear to our hearts: Alzheimer's awareness, food security for all, domestic violence awareness, Heifer International, first responders, and most especially, our Veterans. Rumor has it that Elvis was even seen at a few places in Florida!

I wish each of you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving! May it be filled with love, laughter, and gratitude.

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

 Dianne

 HAPPY
THANKS
GIVING 



GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MESSAGE

BY: SUELLEN B. BRAZIL

As the GFWC International President, I proudly represented the General Federation of Women's Clubs at the 25th Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Associations (FAWA) Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, an experience I will never forget.

Over 240 delegates from 27 organizations gathered under the theme "Women in the AI Era: Breaking Barriers, Inspiring Change." Being among them reminded me of the incredible power of women's unity and leadership.

As I followed the GFWC flag, presented by Special Assistant to the President Jennifer Robertson, during the Opening Entry of Colors ceremony and later delivered my address on behalf of our Federation, I felt deeply proud of GFWC's 135-year commitment to service, education, advocacy, and global cooperation. My message celebrated unity, leadership, and our shared mission of empowering women worldwide.

The conversations I shared with women from across the Asia-Pacific region, each passionate about improving lives and leading with purpose, will stay with me forever. Across every border and culture, women are united by shared goals—we all strive to grow, to uplift others, to effect positive change, and to lead with intention.

Together, we are truly breaking barriers and inspiring change.

Suellen B. Brazil
GFWC International President



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LINDA WILLIAMS JONES



We invite you to get to know Linda Williams Jones, our featured member for November! Linda has been an active member of GFWC for 15 years. She first joined the GFWC Chattahoochee Woman's Club in 2010 and became a proud member of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club in 2025.

Linda earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work in 1969 and a Master's in English Education in 1977 from Florida

State University. After teaching high school English in South Carolina and Florida for 35 years, she retired in 2009 from Florida State University Schools in Tallahassee, having served in numerous leadership roles during her career.

Linda is the proud mother of a son and daughter and is blessed with six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who are the light of her life! In her free time, she enjoys arts and crafts, especially making holiday wreaths, and she loves to read historical fiction.

Upon retirement, Linda returned to her roots, moving to Lake Seminole in Florida's panhandle near Chattahoochee, where she grew up. She enjoys the peace and quiet of nature, far from the hustle and bustle of city life. In 2010, a relative invited her to attend a meeting at the GFWC Chattahoochee Woman's Club, where she was delighted to reconnect with childhood friends she hadn't seen in years. Welcomed by the warm spirit of sisterhood that filled the clubhouse, Linda knew she had found a group that shared her passion for volunteer service. She went on to serve two terms as Club President (2014–2016 and 2020–2022), but her favorite role remains that of mentor to new members.

When the club faced strategic challenges and withdrew from the Federation for a time, Linda's friend and Blue Umbrella member Patty Fisher invited her to join the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club. Wanting to remain part of the Federation and continue her volunteer journey, Linda gladly accepted, and we are so glad that she did! She has since encouraged several former Chattahoochee members to join her in continuing the volunteer spirit through Blue Umbrella, spreading love, respect, and kindness in all that they do.

Linda appreciates that the Blue Umbrella Club is home to a wonderful group of members, diverse in age, background, and experience. Having joined GFWC after retirement, she understands how meaningful it can be for retirees to

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - CONTINUED

LINDA WILLIAMS JONES

have a place where they can stay active, involved, and connected. Linda's GFWC membership has renewed her sense of self-worth, brought her lasting friendships, and allowed her to give back to the beloved community that gave so much to her as a child.

Linda's words of wisdom for recruiting new members include inviting them to a service project as well as a meeting and ensuring the mission of the club aligns with their goals and interests. She believes that written mentorship programs will help cultivate future leaders, and increased member engagement will lead to higher member retention.

Linda's dedication to service and her deep love of GFWC are truly inspiring. The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club is proud to welcome her to our club, and we celebrate all she brings to our Federation family!



By: Karen
Griggsby



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



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 Ratliff*
- 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*

HEALTH & WELLNESS WEBINAR

Hear from
Clubs & State
Chairmen

LEARN NEW
PROJECT
IDEAS

DEC
09



Register in the Member Center on
gfwcflorida.org

Join us for the GFWC Florida “Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Health & Wellness” webinar on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm ET. You will hear Health & Wellness 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.

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/pcYURWFUh9MQiavFA>

HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF

By: Sallie Milner

Are You Ready to Help After Hurricane Melissa?

Hurricane Melissa, a powerful Category 5 storm, struck Jamaica and other Caribbean islands on October 28, leaving behind significant devastation. According to the New York Times, at least 28 people lost their lives in Jamaica, with another thirty fatalities reported in Haiti. Many individuals remain missing, and the death toll is expected to rise.

While Florida has fortunately been spared from hurricanes in 2025, we know all too well the impact these disasters can have. Now is an opportunity to “pay it forward” and support those affected in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

There are several ways you can help:

- Donate to trusted international charities such as Heifer or UNICEF.
 - <https://www.heifer.org/give>
 - <https://www.unicefusa.org/>
- Contribute to the United Way Disaster Relief Fund: (highly rated by Charity Navigator) - <https://www.unitedway.org/>

The U.S. Department of State is working with the United Nations’ Global Emergency Fund and other organizations to deliver food, water, medical supplies, hygiene kits, temporary shelter, and search and rescue support.

The most effective way to help is by donating cash, which allows relief organizations to purchase urgently needed supplies locally, reducing delays and transportation costs. Learn more or donate at UN Crisis Relief - <https://crisisrelief.un.org/en/>



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN RETURNING TO WORK

Do you know a woman who needs assistance for her education, to gain the skills needed to return to work and become self-sufficient?

GFWC Florida has a long history of supporting education. During her 2012-2014 administration, GFWC Florida President Pat Zazzarino established a scholarship program, with two goals: to raise funds for scholarships, and to award them to women needing assistance for education to achieve their goals of becoming self-sufficient through gainful employment.

GFWC Florida will award scholarships to women returning for education to attain these stated goals. The application and reference forms are available on the home page of gfwcflorida.org.



For more information or any specific questions, contact Margaret Brugman
GFWC Florida Scholarship Chairman,
scholarships@gfwcflorida.org.

Help spread the word today! The
deadline for receipt of completed
applications is March 1, 2026.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club will be supporting Wreaths Across America to honor our fallen heroes.

You can donate a wreath for \$17 or help lay wreaths in your community on National Wreaths Across America Day on December 13.

Details are here:

<https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/>



SHOT@LIFE

A GIVING OPPORTUNITY



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

| shot@life

Giving Opportunity: Support GFWC's Measles Mission

Our Federation is celebrating a remarkable milestone—and it's thanks to the collective heart and determination of clubwomen across the country. GFWC's Measles Mission, in partnership with Shot@Life, has officially reached the halfway point to its national fundraising goal!

This achievement represents far more than dollars raised. It means over 8,000 children will now be protected from measles—one of the world's most contagious yet completely preventable diseases. Every vaccine delivered is a child given the chance to grow up safe, healthy, and full of possibility.

The momentum is real, and the impact is immediate. If you'd like to read more about how clubwomen are already making a difference and why this work is so important right now, you can learn more here:

[Shot@Life Article](#)

And if you feel moved to join in—whether by giving or sharing the mission—every single act of support counts. Together, we can continue closing the gap and help ensure that no child anywhere suffers from a disease we have the power to prevent. Make a contribution to GFWC's Measles Mission:

[Click Here to Contribute](#)

Let's keep this life-changing mission moving forward—because every child deserves a shot at life.



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

✧ November ✧

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

communications@gfwcblueumbrella.org

December

Laura Connelly - 2nd

Karen Griggsby - 4th

Paula Juvinal - 5th

Paula Rosen - 7th

Kathy Mammenga - 12th

Patty Fisher - 15th

Lisa Klatt - 18th

Jo Ann Bruno - 20th

Lee Kraus - 28th

Sallie Milner - 29th

Becky Culver - 30th