

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



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

From the Desk of Dianne Foerster:

Hello, fellow GFWC Blue Umbrella Club members, and Happy Holidays to each of you!

This is my favorite time of the year, because more people than usual are happy, loving and showing kindness. As Blue Umbrella members, that is our mission at all times; but during this particular time of the year, many people feel called to reach out and show love to those in need!

Please be ever mindful of the many people who, for various reasons, aren't feeling joy, but are sad and depressed at this time of year. You may not be able to change how they feel, but you can be there for them. Please do that. You may not see the results,

but you can be the one to make a difficult time at least a little better. It is definitely a Blue Umbrella opportunity!

This time of year also offers special occasions to gather with family and friends. December has been quite busy for many of us. I have followed all your activities via email and Facebook, and I have seen Friendsgiving gatherings where we say thank you to each other and our community of supporters. It has been wonderful for me to visit with so many club members around the state, and even around the world through zoom. I have done more traveling in the last week than since the beginning of the pandemic. It has been great. Thank you for inviting me! And for those more distant, your posts and communications have made me feel as if I was there too!

You will be receiving a few proposed Bylaws wording changes from Treasurer Kathy Mammenga that are necessitated by requirements for obtaining 501c3 status, which is our next official step. Please read them and be prepared to vote on them at our next scheduled zoom meeting on Monday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. Communications Coordinator Lisa Klatt will be sending you the zoom link. We will record the meeting for those of you traveling or otherwise unable to attend. A lot has been happening, which we will share at the meeting. Your input is very important! I'll bet you didn't know that there is a GFWC Blue Umbrella Club website, or that we have two Facebook groups/pages now functioning, or that our membership is now 73. And there is more to share! I hope to see you at the meeting!

Please continue to support any organizations and projects that need our help, and share those with Rachelle Warmouth and Virginia Yermoli. Rachelle is keeping our history and Virginia is editor of our newsletter. For any friends who want to be a part of our club, there is a fillable information form on our website. We welcome everyone.

Let me wish you all the JOY of the Season and absolutely LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS...always...and everywhere!

Hugs,
Dianne
dlynnfoerster@gmail.com



Season's Greetings, Blue Umbrella Club members!

During this season of giving, I want to share several opportunities for us to spread love, respect and kindness.

Did you know we have four sister clubs in Belize, Central America? There are women's clubs and Juniorette clubs located in both Belize City and the capital city of Belmopan. I helped form these clubs in 2018 when I was working in Belize. Just like the Blue Umbrella Club, our federated sisters in Belize are dedicated leaders with a heart for serving others. They are also dear friends and very special people. Each year, one or two of them attend GFWC International Convention, often with financial support from US clubwomen. I hope you will have a chance to meet and get to know them.

Hurricane Lisa hit Belize as a Category 1 storm on November 2, with sustained winds of 85 mph, causing significant wind and flooding damage. Because Belize City sits below sea level and the homes are not sturdy to begin with, the damage was significant as many homes were filled with flood waters. For people already living in poverty, this was devastating. Our Belizean club sisters are assisting with relief efforts. If you would like to help, we are collecting school supplies and children's books. Keep reading for details!

A group of GFWC clubwomen is heading to Belize in February. We will partner with the four GFWC clubs on a clothing & toiletries giveaway, reading books in classrooms, and other service projects. We could use your help! Each of us is taking a suitcase full of donations for our projects, as well as hurricane relief donations of school supplies and children's books. Below is a list of trip participants and items needed. Clothing can be gently worn or new; underwear needs to be new. The clubwomen love GFWC

merchandise, so if you have any pins, trinkets, or gently worn shirts, they would be grateful. If you live near any of us, or want to ship items to us, please contact us! You can reach me at secondvp@gfwcflorida.org.



Item	Name
Boys infant-4	Tina Neese, Tracy Johnston
Girls infant-4	Tina Neese
Boys 5-10	Tina Neese, Joyce Johnston, Laurence Chia
Girls 5-10	Mary Kaye Earnest, Tina Neese, Joyce Johnston, Laura Connelly
Boys teen/adult	Laurence Chia, Sandy Powell
Girls teen/adult	Mary Kaye Earnest, Tina Neese
Boys underwear	Mary Kaye Earnest, Tina Neese, Joyce Johnston, Diana Chia, Annette Belk
Girls underwear	Mary Kaye Earnest, Tina Neese, Joyce Johnston, Diana Chia, Annette Belk
Flip flops (unisex child and adult)	Tina Neese, Laura Connelly, Sandy Powell
Books (elementary aged kids)	Tina Neese, Tracy Johnston, Tammy Kesky, Megan Kesky
Toothbrush/travel toothpaste	Diana Chia, Laura Connelly, Diania Pimenta, Annette Belk
Travel size toiletries	Laura Connelly, Diania Pimenta, Annette Belk, Sandy Powell
GFWC merchandise & shirts	Laura Connelly
Bracelet craft	Mary Kaye Earnest
School supplies	All

Thanks so much for your support, and for the many ways in which you serve. I wish you a holiday season filled with love, respect and kindness!

Laura Connelly
secondvp@gfwcflorida.org



Blue Umbrella Angels Did Their Magic!

Daniella De Francesco, a new Blue Umbrella Angel, is a jeweler who believes in giving back to her community. Thanks to many of her suppliers, clients, and friends she was able to raise \$900 dollars for the Coconut Grove Food Pantry! The pantry needs 220 families each week.

Daniella, on the left, is pictured with Food Pantry Director Sandra Martin.



Toys for Tots

Six GFWC clubwomen are part of the Countryside Country Club Bunco Group, who helped collect over 75 toys this year for the local Marine Toys for Tots! Toys for Tots exists to bring Christmas hope to children in challenging situations.

Mimi Frezza



BECOME A FOSTER AND SAVE A LIFE!



Fostering dogs/cats will help save a life!

Did you know in 2021, nearly 22,616 dogs and cats were killed in animal shelters across Florida. Also, Florida is fourth in the US being responsible for the euthanizing of cats and dogs. Sad indeed! Each state only has so many shelters that house unwanted dogs and cats because of money issues, and to avoid over population the animals must be euthanized. MANY healthy, sweet animals are killed because of no space! This includes both kittens and puppies.

To help more dogs/cats to be saved we can thank Rescue Organizations across the US. Many do not have a building to keep dogs and cats, so they must rely on foster homes. In addition, many who do have a home base still rely heavily on foster homes due to the size of their rescue. They too get overcrowded, but to put them down is NOT an option.

I am happy to help dogs live to their natural death! I do this by fostering dogs with Low Rider Dachshund Rescue of Florida (LRDR). They do not have a building to house

dogs so they rely 100% on foster homes. They get dogs from owner surrenders and from shelters. The dogs range from extremely healthy and all shots up to date to awfully bad health and no records of any vet care. No matter what the situation each dog is medically taken care of 100%.

Do most rescues only take young, cute adoptable dogs? No, they take all. How about old dogs who have lived most of their life. Just put them down? NO! My previous foster was 14 years old who had a heart murmur and kidney issues that require monthly medication as well periodic blood work to monitor his meds. His name is Luke, and he was adopted into a wonderful home! Currently I have a 10-year-old who has Cushing's disease which is not treatable. He is on expensive monthly medication that will allow him to live more years. Bernie has been adopted as well and will be going to his forever home very soon! Thanks to LRDR these two boys are alive!

What joy it is for me to do what I can to help save dogs. They provide us with unconditional love and make homes brighter. All dogs and cats (other domesticated animals) do not have a say in their life, and to be dumped in a shelter to be killed is cruel. They deserve a loving home, not death! Every home that fosters save another life.

Saving One At A Time,
Helen Aungst



SHARING HOLIDAY CHEER

Sporting our club's motto, the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club had a "free cookie" table to share some Holiday Cheers for the weary residents who had lost much during hurricane Ian. What a wonderful way to promote "Love, Respect and Kindness"!



LOVE, RESPECT AND KINDNESS FOR ALL OUR VETERANS



In October, I escorted my dad on an Honor Flight from Florida to Washington, DC. It was an amazing experience. I'd like to share some information so you can get involved with an Honor Flight near you!

Honor Flight is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit network of independent Hubs working together to honor our nation's veterans with an all-expense paid trip to the memorials in Washington, DC. They are currently serving veterans who served from World War II to the Korean War through to Vietnam. They also serve catastrophically ill and injured veterans from all service eras.

Their mission is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials.

Click on the following browser for an interactive map to find a "Hub" near you!

<https://www.honorflight.org/find-a-hub/>

You can also reach them at: 1405 South Fern Street, #702, Arlington, VA 22202 (937) 521-2400 and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HonorFlightNetwork>

Here are some ways to get involved:

- Support them Financially by becoming a Donor or Sponsor
- Help a Veteran apply to participate in a trip
- Apply to become a Travel Guardian to a Veteran
- Volunteer with your local organization (Administrative, Outreach, Special Event, Trip Support (Trip pre-flight at airport, Trip post-flight at airport))

If you participate in an Honor Flight program in your area, we would love to hear about your experience and see your photos! Let's give our Veterans the honor, respect, and appreciation they deserve for their sacrifice in serving our country.

Mimi Frezza



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 Holiday Season!

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, at 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

Our club is official, and we are on Facebook!

We have two (2) 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.

How can we tell the difference between the two sites? There are a couple of ways:

“Public” PAGE:

Name: GFWC Blue Umbrella Club

Cover photo: 3 blue umbrellas with the words, “Love, Respect, Kindness” and a GFWC logo seal

What you will see once on the site under the name: “# likes and # followers”

“Private” GROUP:

Name: GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.

Cover Photo: our Charter certificate and gavel

What you will see once on the site under the name: “Private group and # of members”

Virginia Yermoli
vayermoli@hotmail.com
786.252.9272



Welcome to our newsletter!

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

If you send pictures with your articles, please send them as a jpeg 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

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.



Member Registration Information

Please send the information below 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 mailed to:**

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



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.”



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