

VOLUME I - NOVEMBER 15, 2022

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.

General Federation of Women's Clubs



THE BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB INC. WAS WELCOMED TO THE GFWC FLORIDA FEDERATION AT THE SEPTEMBER 2022 FALL BOARD!



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES!

From the Desk of Dianne Foerster:

Welcome to the FIRST GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Newsletter! We are so excited to share this communication with everyone who would like to know more about this nontraditional club and would be interested in becoming a member.

The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club is dedicated to promoting an upbeat and positive attitude in every aspect of our lives. Our mission is to heighten acts of love, respect, kindness, and compassion. This organization is open to all races, all faiths, all political preferences, and all genders. We welcome all who are willing to come together with respect and concern for each other.

Most of our current members already have a “home” club that they are a part of and where they intend to continue their active involvement. The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club does not compete with other clubs or organizations. The projects and hours that our members participate in should be reported to the existing “home” clubs. The Blue Umbrella Club will not participate in the “reporting process.” Our goal is to help and assist other clubs in their projects.

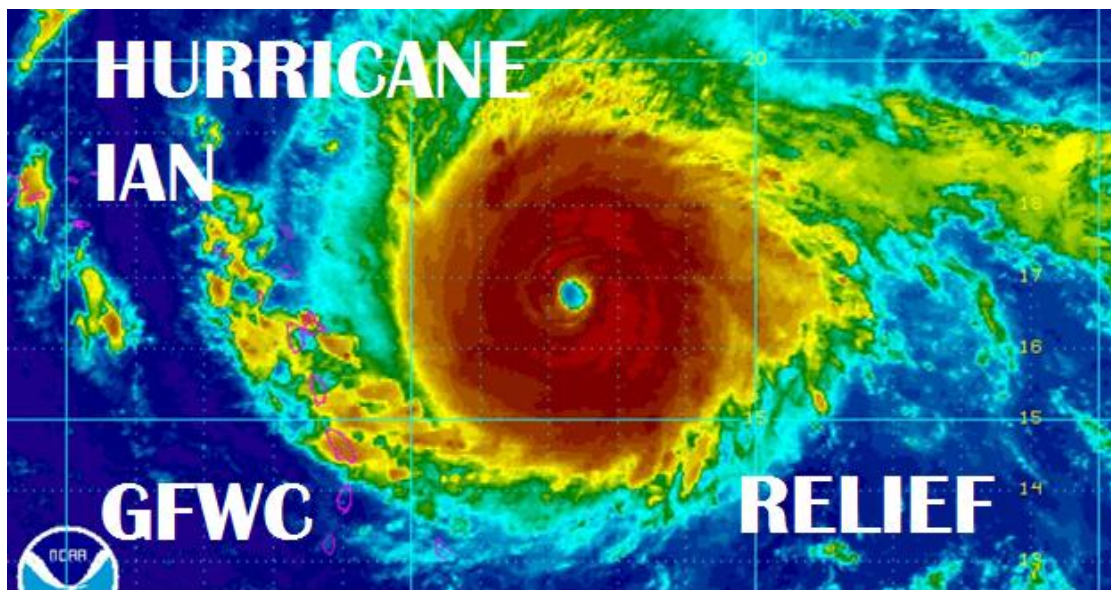
We are so fortunate to have a wide variety of leaders with different viewpoints and interests. We already have approximately seventy (70) members from different areas, not just Florida, who have joined this Club. We want to extend our reach even further. Please contact me or any of our officers or members with your suggestions and concerns. We would like to include in our upcoming newsletters the different ways in which this club has reached out to other clubs and/or organizations, as well as opening this venue to those who would like to share their news/information.

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

Dianne Foerster
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club – President 2022
dlynnfoerster@gmail.com

Important information from Dianne about our International Clubs:

The clubs in Belize are dealing with the aftereffects and problems of a hurricane (Lisa). We do not yet have an address as to where to send donations. However, we do have a Florida group scheduled to visit Belize in February. Since it is quite expensive to ship goods, we may see if that travel group would be able to take some things with them. I know our Blue Umbrella Angels will help! More information will be shared as it becomes available. Thanks!



After hurricane Ian, the outpouring of Love, Respect and Kindness shown by so many GFWC Florida Clubs, Districts, outside organizations, personal donations/help and Blue Umbrella Angels has been so massive that we must share this incredible story with all of you.

From: Kathryn S. Gallagher, President
GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club
GFWC FL District 12 Director

What can you say about the strongest hurricane to hit SW Florida in a long time, maybe ever? Help! And that is what happened in no time at all.

Many thanks for the organization and oversight from GFWC FL Leadership Chairman Diania Pimenta for the massive undertaking!

On Friday, October 14th, a 26 ft. U-Haul Rental Truck, paid for by GFWC FL driven by Tampa Woman's Club President Michele Small and navigated by GFWC 2nd Vice President Jolie Frankfurth, headed for the Englewood Lions Club International to unload nonperishable food, water, baby diapers/wipes, pet food, cleaning supplies, clothing, and household necessities. District 8 Director Annette Bellinger and Lutz Land O Lakes President Elayne Bassinger were right behind that truck in Annette's giant van, loaded with new essentials for daily living destroyed by Hurricane Ian. Gift cards for immediate assistance were included and so appreciated by the many Districts 12 members, who lost their homes!

Clubs and members of District 8 donated the items and packed the truck. Jolie and Michele unpacked the truck with help from Englewood Lions and members of District 12. Port Charlotte WC loaded seven vans directly from the truck, went back to their Ian damaged clubhouse, sorted, and packed one hundred outreach bags and distributed them in Port Charlotte the very next day.

Members of Rotonda West WC sorted the remaining items, filled a pickup truck for the St. David's Jubilee Center, a huge van for the Bonita Estero WC outreach into Ft. Myers, and nine more trucks and vans for the St. Francis Outreach Mission and Englewood Helping Hand.

The outreach has been amazing. We are still receiving additional donations. District 8 had a collection for Hurricane Relief at their ADM on Oct. 29th. I drove up to Annette Bellinger's

home the following Tuesday and picked up a carload of nonperishable food...and gift cards...

There is still a huge amount of soft goods to be picked up...as well as an additional six pallets of food that Diania Pimenta and I are trying to arrange truck time and delivery to St. Matthew's House warehouse in Naples. The St. Pete Juniors are going to send us gift cards as well.

That is who we are as members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Sisters who daily live the Volunteer Spirit in our own communities, but when our own community of Sisters is in need...we are a closely knit, singular body of Love, Respect and Kindness for All.

I cannot say enough times how grateful I am to the Englewood Lions Club, President David Goll and members Bob Baran and Gary Nieskes. Gary has been our biggest supporter he is the one on-site and the coordinator for every single visit we make. He is the one who is most delighted that our two international organizations are working so well together on this outreach program.

I have let them know how much we appreciate all their help and told them that they are OUR Blue Umbrella! One of the International Lions Governors was at the Englewood Lions Club visiting, he helped pack the cars...he and his wife are visiting from England, so I had the chance to tell them about GFWC and the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club.



At the Englewood Lions Club sorting items to distribute.

We want to sincerely thank the Englewood Lions Club for the incredible help they gave us.



“Anytime a club needs a helping hand, The Blue Umbrella Club, has you covered”! Sharon Grace

Blue Umbrella Angels working their magic!



Laura Connelly (in the middle) delivers a donation check of \$2,500 to GFWC Woman's Club of Port Charlotte, from First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin, for some of their ladies who lost everything during Hurricane Ian.

The clubhouse also needs a new roof: however, their first priority was for those members who have lost their homes.

Laura was proud to represent her church as well as GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, whose mission is to connect other clubs and community organizations, with those who need a helping hand.

This club and the community continue to need our prayers, as so many do.

When member, Sharon Grace, received a message from Danielle Carr of the GFWC Pasco Junior Woman's Club, asking for 100 baseball caps to be added to their Blessing Bags for the homeless, she immediately went into action!

Sharon posted a Facebook message on her community's (Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club) board. Within a week she had 260 caps on her front porch! The Pasco Juniors were so appreciative and when Danielle thanked the club, Sharon replied:

"Anytime a club needs a helping hand, The Blue Umbrella Club, has you covered"!

Thank you, Sharon, for giving us the perfect phrase!



Sharon Grace, member of The Blue Umbrella Club, with community baseball cap donations.



Members of the GFWC Pasco Junior Woman's Club completing 100 Blessing Bags to be distributed to homeless persons.



HONOR FLIGHT

STORIES

LOVE, RESPECT AND KINDNESS FOR ALL OUR VETERANS



GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club member Mimi Frezza accompanied her father, Wallace Voelker, on the West Central Florida Honor Flight 44 on Oct. 18th. Her father served in the US Navy from 1966-1971, stationed on the USS Forrestal and later in NJ working on an updated catapult. While on the ship he was the console operator responsible for getting the catapult loaded and ready to launch the aircraft. Traveling to Washington, DC was "a trip of a lifetime!" They toured all the major military monuments, and he was able to share stories with other Veterans. Mimi shared that one special moment was "mail call" on the flight home. Her dad received more than 40 letters and cards from family and friends thanking him for his service and sharing personal notes.

The grand finale was arriving back at St. Pete Airport where they were welcomed home by more than 100 people. The members of GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club made special signs with Wally's name and welcomed him home! Wally said he was touched by all the young school children and glad they were being raised with respect. He shook hands with a few men who had been on the same ship too. He went on to say that some Veterans were spit on and treated badly when they returned from service, so to see this Welcome Home was more than he could ever have dreamed.



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!



Facebook!

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

Our club is official, and we are on

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 first edition of the 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.

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.

General Federation of Women's Clubs



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 mail to:

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



A Collect for 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 gracious. Let us take time for all things and 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