

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

VOLUME XIV - DECEMBER, 2023

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



From Dianne's Desk:

Happy and joyful holidays, Blue Umbrella Members!

Wow! What a wonderful but busy time it has been this last month! I hope each of you have had the time to enjoy being with friends and family as we each pause and reflect according to our own beliefs. I have been to Broadway Series plays, Bunco, installations, service projects, Holiday Home Tours and an outstanding Friendsgiving celebration, to name just a few. Most have been GFWC related, but not all. I have read about what you are doing and thank you for sharing your forever commitment to spreading Love, Respect, and Kindness...always and everywhere. Please remember that there are many people who are dealing with loss and sadness in their lives which seems to intensify at this time of the year. Show your most compassionate and understanding self when dealing with everyone. The line from our Collect says it so well, "...Let us take time for all things, make us to grow calm, serene, gentle...".

I am very happy to tell you that the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club has sent in dues to GFWC Florida for 88 members, prior to the December 15 deadline. That is wonderful growth and as we continue with a group of passionate members, we look forward to our second official year. You have received a copy of the proposed bylaws changes and will be receiving a very short questionnaire in preparation for the upcoming January 21 zoom meeting for all official members. Please put that date on your calendar, as we will need a quorum in order to conduct business. The

purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the bylaws changes and to participate in a brainstorming Member Forum as we make plans for Year Two.

Further along in the newsletter you will find a reminder about the upcoming trip to Belize and a copy of a list of donations that any of us can send...even if we can't physically take the trip. I encourage you to donate. Last year, there were enough donations to help pay for our representatives from Belize (Emily and Tricia) to attend the GFWC Convention. Chicago is going to be so cool! It would be great for Blue Umbrella to be a part of making that happen again. Consider it, please!

I have also asked Pam Graves, a District 4 member and past Junior District Director to share a story about a wonderful outreach she started in Uganda, "The Sunrisa School of Culinary Arts & Bakery". I found it fascinating and although it is not a GFWC project, it absolutely does address many of the issues that GFWC promotes, including protecting and educating and training young women. I also loved that it was started by one of our own! See what you think.

You will also see some stories and pictures of our Blue Umbrella members doing what we do best, helping and cooperating with other organizations or even reaching out in the name of Blue Umbrella to meet community needs. We are growing, we are changing, and we are committed to making a positive difference in our world. I am so proud to be a part!

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 **Brandy Ramirez** 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,



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES!



GFWC BELMOPAN WOMEN'S CLUB, BELIZE
GFWC BELIZE CITY WOMEN'S CLUB, BELIZE
GFWC BELIZE CITY JUNIORETTES, BELIZE



Two GFWC groups will be traveling to Belize in February to join with the GFWC clubs there for four days of shared service projects, fellowship and fun. Between the two groups, sixteen club women and boosters will join two Belize women's clubs and a Juniorette club to visit elementary schools where they will conduct

hygiene classes. They will also hold clothing giveaways in impoverished neighborhoods, play some GFWC trivia during officer installation, and enjoy a meal together. If you would like to help with items the team is collecting to donate in

Belize, here is there wish list. Cash donations are also appreciated, and will be used to purchase items to support the Belize clubs and community. Contact Laura Connelly with questions, lauraconnelly43@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1XTAYHVLLKJ6C?ref_=wl_share



What a great way to spend a Sunday. GFWC Belmopan Woman's Club sisters visited Marla's House of Hope today to spread the Holiday joy to the children. We prepared a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings along with dessert. After lunch we worked on a craft exercise where we created our very own Christmas tree ornament with the girls. It was truly a touching experience and we were so glad to spend the afternoon with them. We wish them the very best in all that they do, and we hope to see them again soon.

Sidebar: For the privacy of the girls in the home, we were not able to take pictures with them.



**GIVE THE GIFT OF NEW SMILES
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.**

Operation  Smile

Send **free**
holiday e-cards
and create more

Smiles

Lungile

Are you ready to share hope this holiday season? You can brighten the holidays for club members, friends, and family by sending a free personalized Operation Smile holiday e-card! It's an easy way to spread smiles and good cheer during this special season of giving, and also support our GFWC Gold Affiliate Partner, Operation Smile.

Each e-card features the beautiful smile of a patient who stole the hearts of the Operation Smile team during their time together. It's easy to choose a card, add your personalized message and send a holiday greeting in minutes. It's fast, free and fun! Choose between eight different cards, including three animated e-cards. Click this button to get started, and help share hope this holiday season!

Operation Smile Holiday Card



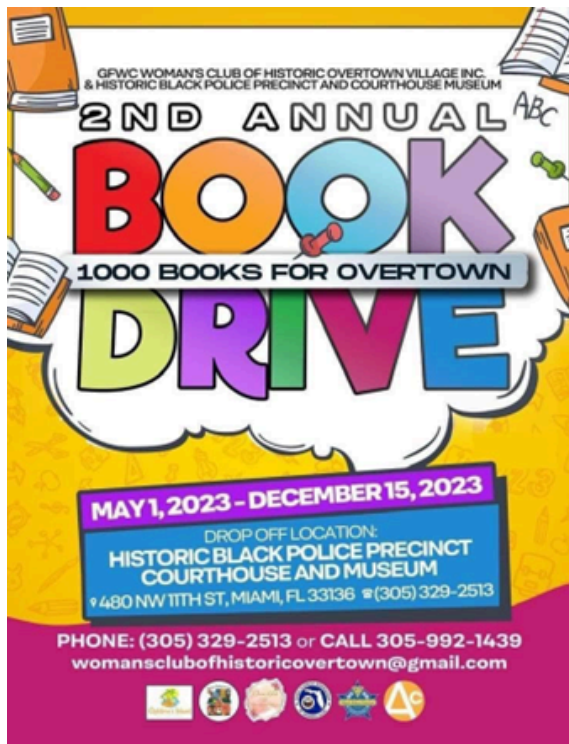
Kathryn Gallagher has rung the bell for the Salvation Army in the past. She has the opportunity to sign up for a time slot each year at her church. There are always time slots available through the weeks at Publix in Englewood, FL and she just happened to pick 4 to 6 pm on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, this year.

Oddly enough, it was only 59 degrees and very breezy during that time period, so being residents of SW FL, Publix customers were chilled and hurrying in and out of the store to get home and warm up...but the number of donors who stopped and put money in the kettle was amazing! Some even from their cars!

They were so pleasant and expressed gratitude that the Salvation Army does so much for the community and especially for people in need at this time of year. Kathryn

thanked them for their very kind donation, wished them a Merry Christmas and they returned the sentiment along with a "Thank you for doing this!"

Kathryn wore her Blue Umbrella Love, Respect and Kindness T-shirt, the apron covered the words, but all the sentiments were right out there the entire time. Salvation Army Bell ringing is part of our combined history in this country and a great way for our Love, Respect and Kindness to shine! Check it out in your community!



The Woman's Club of Historic Overtown Village, Inc., the newest GFWC Florida Club of District 11, (only three years old!) held its third annual toy giveaway for Overtown and neighboring community children on Saturday, December 16, 2023. It was held at the City of Miami Historic Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum.

They collected over 1200 toys and 1000 books, they also raffled 5 bikes. In addition to the toy and book drive they have begun a 2-year initiative – an ongoing collection of Black baby dolls.

Members from other District 11 Clubs helped by donating wrapping paper, bows, toys, money, but most importantly they went to help wrap and spend time with their sisters from this amazing club. Lavette Moore, the founder, and president of the club, was the driving force behind this extraordinary event. Children left the building with one or more toys and many books. The Black baby dolls were an incredible success.

This was a community effort by all. The Miami Historic Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum offered their venue for this event to happen; Toys for Tots, the Miami Book Fair, Jackson Health Systems, Cultural Urban Book club, K.B.'s Real Christmas Trees, The Early Learning Coalition, Girl Scout Troop 1877, BigMama's Quilting and Vintage Guild, Inc., GHLayerion Designs. Da-Venya Armstrong, CEO of Armstrong Creative Consultant Group, Trish Grant Treasures, and many others

contributed to the success of this event. This is the result of a community engaging and working together...It indeed takes a Village, and this one is strong and proud!

WNBN Radio station and Channel 10 were there to document this give-away extravaganza!





Ms. Lavette Moore, founder and president of GFWC The Woman's Club of Historic Overtown Village, Inc.



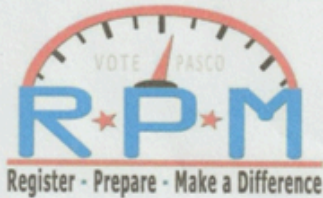


BRIAN E. CORLEY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, PASCO COUNTY

UPDATE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

- Voter Registration Applications (New or Update)
- Vote-by-Mail Ballot Information
- Election Information Materials
- Election Worker Recruitment (Paid Positions)

Tuesday, February 6, 2024; 10am-12pm; Small card room at the Clubhouse



Visit PascoVotes.gov to:

- View and print a sample ballot
- Access an accessible sample ballot
- Check your voter registration status
- View unofficial voter turnout
- Request a vote-by-mail ballot
- Find your Election Day polling place

Proudly sponsored by GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.



SWAP 'n SHOP

TBGCC Community Center
Saturday, February 17, 2024
1:00pm- 2:30pm with setup 30 minutes before

Swap N Shop event!

Sponsored by: GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.

Doing some spring cleaning and
clearing out those closets?

Bring clean, gently used/ new clothing
and take what fits & you like.
No money exchanging hands

Included in the swap: women's & men's clothes,
purses, shoes, accessories, jewelry

Leftovers will be donated to
Sunrise Domestic Violence Shelter

Please share this free TBGCC residents community
event with your friends and neighbors.

For more info:
Sharon 813-220-2716



Advocacy and GFWC

According to the GFWC Standing Rules, "Member clubs shall be responsible for carrying out the intent of the resolutions." Clubs and clubwomen are the local advocates for GFWC's legislative agenda.

It is through the national network of grassroots advocates that the Federation gains its political influence.

When advocating on behalf of the Federation, it is critical to remember:

When speaking on behalf of the Federation, members may not oppose the GFWC resolutions.

GFWC is a nonpartisan, nondenominational organization. Clubwomen are allowed to advocate for policies or legislation, but NOT allowed by law to endorse candidates or engage in partisan politics. GFWC members must separate personal political activities from official club or state federation work.

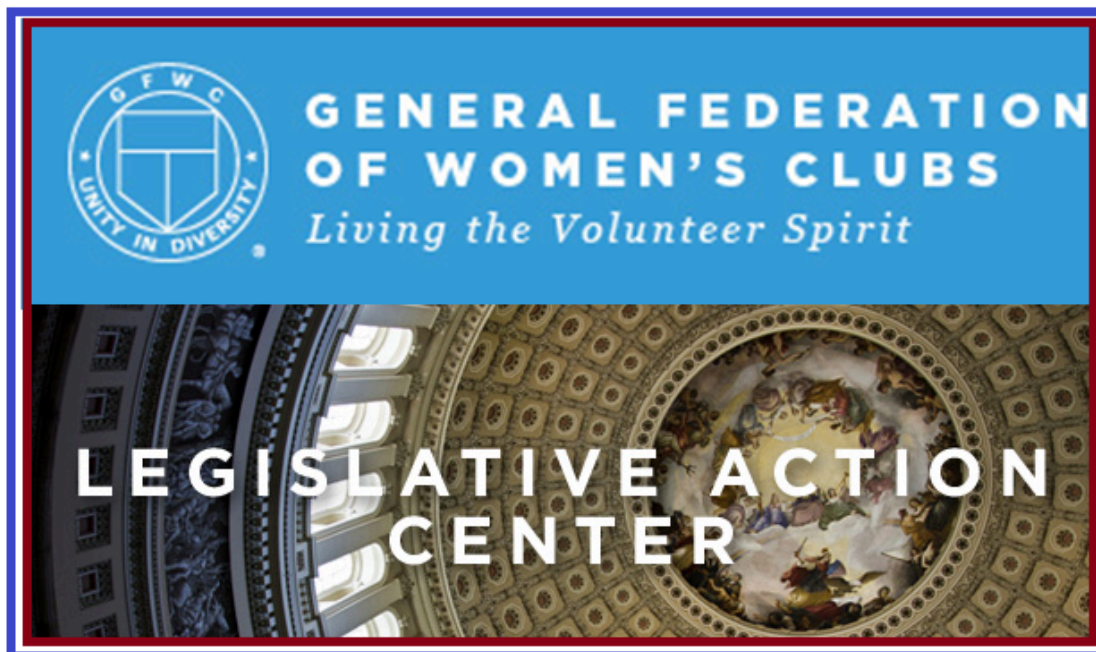
Minority opinions may be expressed as follows: A member organization (club or state federation) holding a minority opinion and wishing to support its stand further may do so provided it states that its action represents the minority vote of GFWC.

Legislative Action Center

Take Action: Use Our Legislative Alerts

Sign up for the Legislative Action Center here:

<https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home> 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.



Advocacy in Action

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, GFWC often joins other national organizations to urge congressional or federal agency action on a particular matter. These letters, in addition to individual

clubwomen contacting their members of Congress directly through the Legislative Action Center, result in a national network of grassroots advocates working together to improve the lives of club members, their communities, our nation, and the global community.

To promote the interests of the Federation and its members, GFWC may provide additional information including bill summaries, congressional conference reports, and research findings germane to GFWC advocacy efforts. We also encourage clubwomen to engage in face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and their professional staff. These meetings may be on Capitol Hill or in-district. To assist you in your legislative visits, GFWC provides talking points and leave-behinds for our core issues as well as for other timely matters.
his is GFWC advocacy in action!

Tips for meeting with Legislator

<https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home>

I hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter from Trisha Shafer, GFWC Signature Program Chairman.

Wishing you all a very happy holidays!

Lee Kraus
GFWC Florida Signature Program Chairman

GFWC Signature Program Newsletter



If you would like to order Blue Umbrella T-shirts and/or jewelry

please contact Paula Juvinal at pjuvinall@gmail.com or call 727-401-1328

You can also **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!



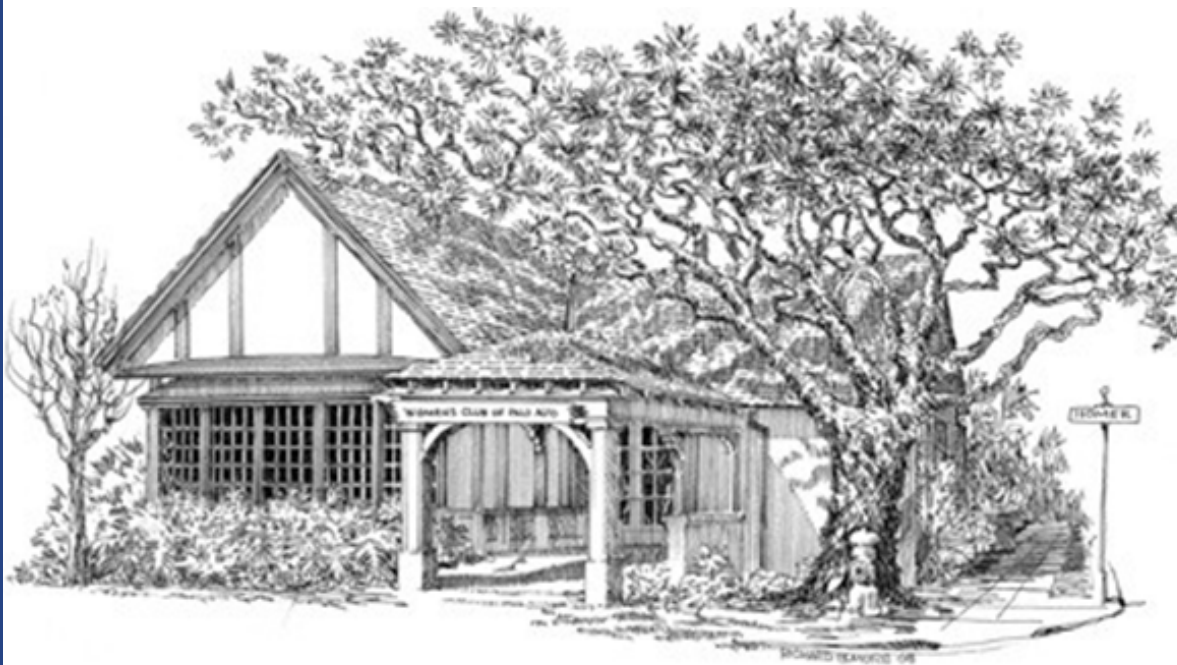
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.

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



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Blue Umbrella Club Inc. | 11214 E Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd #195 Seffner, FL 33584, Miami, FL 33133
7862529272

[Unsubscribe vayermoli@hotmail.com](mailto:vayermoli@hotmail.com)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by vayermoli@hotmail.com