

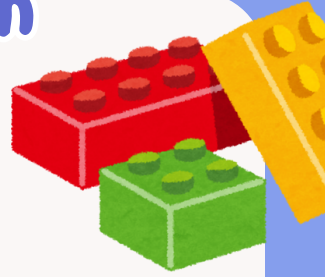
Junior Special Program



GFWC
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**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

Champions for Children NEWSLETTER

Suzanne Hooser, GFWC Chairman



February

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Educating young boys and girls on acceptable Dating boundaries and respect. As club members, raise awareness through social media, show support by wearing orange and explaining why. Partner with local schools to fund speakers or have posters put up. Hold educational club meetings for members and the community to discuss how to spot the warning signs. Talk to your teens!

1 in 3 U.S. teens will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse from someone they are in a relationship with.

Celebrate International Day of
Women & Girls in Science
February 11th
Support or host a science fair
Support STEM programs

Village Improvement Association Federated Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs (FL) The STEM Night for Girls began with a presentation from an 8th-grade science teacher who always wanted a way to introduce young girls to more careers in STEM. Speakers included a marine biologist, a crime scene investigator, a physical therapist, a TV meteorologist, and a fingerprint specialist. Thirty girls were invited, and each girl was given a guided note-taking sheet to remain engaged with each speaker. The marine biologist brought a shark tooth for each girl. The crime scene investigator brought the "crime scene" truck and allowed them to tour it.



Children's Dental Health Month

Donate toothbrushes and toothpaste to local shelters.

GFWC-Twentieth Century Club of Bruce (MI) partnered with local dentists to promote good dental health. The club sponsored a Dental Coloring Contest at a local elementary school to encourage children's creativity. All students were given a dental health coloring sheet to color, and members judged the contest. The winners were presented with a Dental Goody Bag filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, and other items donated by one of the local dentists.



March



National Nutrition Month

Donate nutritional snacks to your local schools or shelters

Provide books on healthy eating.

Offer to support field trips to a local farm for education.

Teach a cooking or gardening class



GFWC New Tampa Woman's Club (FL) - Education comes in many forms; this one is delicious. The club threw a pizza-making party for the children living at the Friends of Joshua House, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improve the quality of life for abused, abandoned, and neglected children and teens. It was felt that learning to cook an essential meal was necessary for these children. Seven members arrived with the ingredients and cooking supplies for twenty-five children to make pizzas and chocolate chip cookies from prepared cookie dough. The members "educated" the children in pizza making. The children prepped the ingredients in an activity room adjacent to the kitchen. Each child was given a premade pizza shell and instructed to add all their favorite toppings. Cookie baking was next using prepared cookie dough. Two pizza-making sessions were provided for different age groups. Many of the best memories are created when learning to do something alongside caring adults. The children all enjoyed eating the pizza and cookies as much as learning how to make this simple meal.

GFWC Augusta Woman's Club, (GA) - held a Snack Attack Competition to encourage children to think about healthy snacks, gain confidence in making snacks themselves, and make wise choices. Children submitted healthy recipes that were made in the school kitchen and judged. First, Second, and Third prizes were awarded. The Media teacher made a video showing background scenes just like TV shows. The competition was publicized on the local news.

Reminder

MARCH is CHILD LIFE MONTH

Recognize child life specialist and their work. Child life specialists are healthcare professionals who help children and their families cope with medical experiences. St Jude Children's Research Hospital is an expert in this type of care.



Read Across America Day is March 2nd.

This is a perfect time to restock little libraries or volunteer to read to children at your local schools, public library or bookstore. Donate books to those in need or host a children's author.



GFWC Texas Decatur Woman's Club (TX) Bridgeport Bookcase Project was supported by GFWC Texas Decatur Woman's Club through monetary and book donations. This long-standing project, initiated by the local Rotary Club, builds bookcases in the homes of economically deprived children with limited access to reading material. The shelves are filled with new and donated books when the bookcases are delivered. The Decatur ESO group is dedicated to this annual project, which aligns with their personal and club goals of fostering literacy and promoting reading enjoyment.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

APRIL



Raise Awareness

Wear blue on April first and post on social media
Plant blue pinwheels, the symbol child maltreatment prevention.

Host a family fun event- movie night, game night, or a craft event

Share resources or ask local businesses to display informational materials



Make the safety and wellbeing of children and families a priority

visit <https://childwelfare.gov> for the National Child Abuse Prevention Month Outreach toolkit to find ideas and resources.



EARTH DAY

Dust Woodsy the Owl off and teach children about recycling to save our planet. Sponsor a clean-up day at a local children's play area or plant a tree .



GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club (MA) held a rain barrel raffle for "Plastic Free July" in their town. They had a pledge drive, with citizens pledging to replace plastic water bottles in July. For each pledge, a raffle ticket was earned for the rain barrels, and a fun sand pail with accompanying fun kid-friendly toys was available for any child who entered.

Develop your own ideas and imagine a better world

