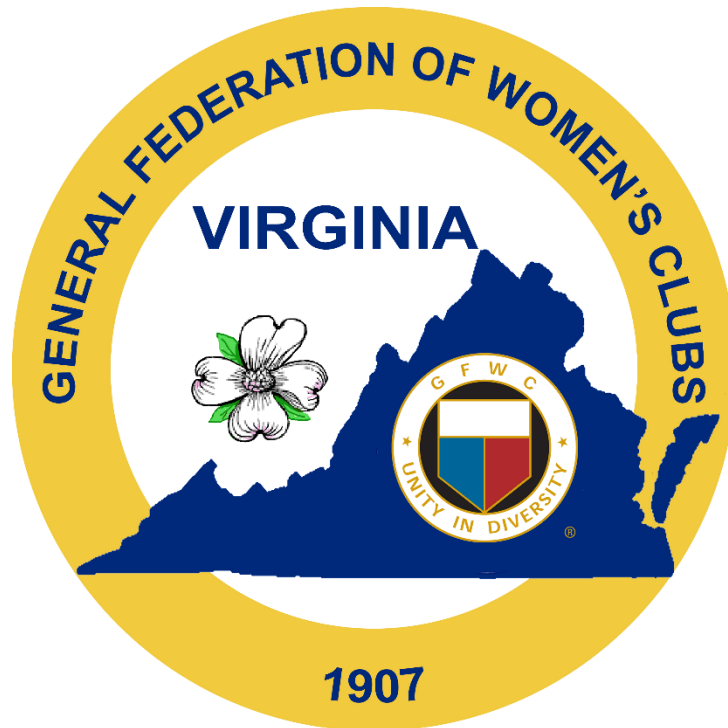


# ANNUAL REPORT

**2024**

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA

“Service, the Debt of Education”



**Distributed at the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

May 4, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton, Richmond, VA

# GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

GFVC VIRGINIA PRESIDENT

Susie Mowry

*"We Rise by Lifting Others"*



It has been an amazing year; one filled with our members and clubs doing what they do best...helping others. The reports reflect the myriad of ways you have either reached out or been called upon to use your gifts and graces, along with your grit and determination, to help those in need. Out of 110 clubs in this federation, 89 reported their activities. There was an extraordinary 134,680 hours put into 3,149 projects in the GFVC Special projects and Community Service Projects. You donated \$561,468 to these projects and provided \$451,388 of in-kind contributions. You had 1994 projects in the advancement areas donating 83,790 hours and spending \$187,827 towards these areas. Amazingly, you raised \$683,490 by expending 45,168 hours on 375 fundraising projects. If there ever was a time to pat yourselves on the back, this might be the time. On behalf of the recipients of this generosity, I thank you.

The state project for this administration focuses on early childhood education. As evidenced by the reports this project has wholeheartedly been embraced by the Virginia Federation. Clubs have read to children, donated books and school supplies, provided incubators and STEM kits and continue to recognize the importance of helping this vulnerable group of children. During the summer conference in Blacksburg attendees put together project kits which tied in with a book appropriate for younger children. Each district received 3 books and project kits to distribute to ECE facilities of their choice, along with directions for clubs to continue making these kits.

Clubs worked on projects in support of all GFVC Community Service Projects and Advancement areas. They provided scholarships to high school students, women returning to school after a long absence, nursing students and to survivors of domestic violence. They "planted" pinwheels in a variety of ways to draw attention to child abuse. Members from throughout the state attended the annual Legislative Day at the capitol in Richmond. This year the Virginia Federation had an increase in membership to the Legislative Action Center. There were cards made and sent to First Responders, nurses and doctors, residents of nursing homes and hospitals. Plastic was collected throughout the state and recycled through the TREX Corporation, in exchange for benches. Ten benches were donated to elementary schools as "Buddy Benches", community gardens and other common areas to support our community members. Clubs participated in the "Sweats for Vets" program, provided veterans with gifts and cards at holidays, visited VA hospitals, and set up a display of woman's history display featuring women during World War II. Clubs built and maintained community gardens, put together food-filled backpacks, worked at foodbanks and collected food for distribution at areas of food scarcity. Meals were prepared and served to the homeless by more than one club in the state. Work was done in all CSP areas, those mentioned is just the tip of the iceberg about the care and concern you have given to your communities.

Besides working on the CSP areas, Virginia clubs supported all Affiliates. Clubs were very generous with their monetary donations to all Affiliates. Members participated in Alzheimer's walks, provided educational material about this dreaded disease and brought speakers to their meetings. There were fleece blankets and No-No armbands made for Operation Smile, along with time donated working in their warehouse. Animals, ducks and bees were purchased through Heifer International. Dimes were collected and donated to March of Dimes. Clubs participated in St. Jude walks and raised money for the hospital. Supplies and money were given to Canine Companions. Members of clubs got vaccinations at Walgreens, thereby providing vaccinations for others through Shot@Life.

A goal of this administration is to provide educational opportunities at every state meeting. The Conference in Blacksburg provided a plethora of information from state chairmen. In addition to workshops, handout material was provided and information put on the GFVC Virginia website for those not attending to review. The upcoming convention will include a panel discussion on "Ideas to Reality" providing attendees the opportunity to learn and take information back to their clubs on innovative and replicable projects.

This officer attended the convention in Chicago, with many other GFVC Virginia clubwomen. In addition to the panel discussions and meetings, it provided a wonderful opportunity to meet clubwomen from across the country and the world. This officer and other Virginia clubwomen attended the Southeastern Region Conference in Wilmington, NC. Again, hearing from our GFVC president and learning from the region CSP chairmen is valuable, but meeting other state presidents afforded this officer the chance to share the successes and the pride she has in the work that you have done. Another value of attending all levels of GFVC meetings.

This officer is so very proud of the women in GFVC Virginia. When the flooding occurred in the Southwestern part of Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina, clubs stepped up with donations of money and goods. With just the money sent to headquarters, there was more than \$7,000 donated. Clubs sent money on their own to these federations and brought much needed supplies. This is what GFVC is all about, helping each other and the communities in which we live. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do in the future. I will be eternally gratefully for the opportunity to be the GFVC Virginia President.

**GFWC VIRGINIA 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT/  
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS  
Joanne Dixon**



GFWC Virginia Juniors enjoyed “The Ride of a Lifetime” and continued to do amazing work in the communities! 357 Virginia Juniors participated in 773 projects, volunteered 19,610 hours, donated \$100,201, and \$109,807.27 of in-kind donations. Virginia Juniors supported Advocates for Children in many creative ways. School supplies were collected, period product drives were held, scholarships were awarded, and books were donated. Virginia Juniors collected items during both state meetings to support our districts. We were able to combine Advocates for Children with the Virginia President’s project of early childhood education. Juniors supported our vets, their local humane societies, food pantries and domestic violence shelters. They educated their fellow club women in self-care, breast cancer awareness, and participated in Go Red for Women during Heart Month in February.

Multiple junior clubs supported their environment with collections of plastic to redeem for a Trax bench, picked up trash along roadways, and one club made a donation to Nature Camp in Lexington. Many clubs contributed to fundraising and supply efforts to Southwestern Virginia and North Carolina to assist those communities that were affected by flooding after the hurricane.

All Junior clubs kept busy with fundraising efforts throughout the year. There were raffles, bingos, auctions, holiday craft shows, and ornaments created and sold to allow clubs the funds needed to support their communities. Junior clubs raised over \$86k during their fundraising activities.

Supporting club members was a large focus during the past year. Many clubs participated in social events, selected clubwoman of the month to celebrate, held new member activities, and supported those going through difficult times. Ladies Night Outs were attended, meals were prepared, and birthdays were celebrated by many clubs. Juniors were busy recruiting new members, with one club welcoming 28 new members in 2024. Social media presence was also a focus of many of the Virginia clubs. Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat were used to improve the visibility of the clubs and the programs they supported.

Early Childhood Education, being the Virginia President’s state project, was supported by many Junior clubs. Centerpieces at GFWC Virginia Conference were created using school supplies, children were signed up for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, and blankets were made for VCU Children’s Hospital, and diaper drives were held to support local food pantries.

Juniors volunteered for over 5,700 hours in the area of Leadership. They held offices at almost every level of GFWC (no opportunity at regional level). Conventions, conferences, board meetings, committee meetings, district meetings, regional meetings and club meetings were attended by our Juniors where they made their voices heard.

Scholarships were given by several Junior clubs. Assistance was given to high school students involved in community service, the arts, and those that met individual club’s requirements.

Our Juniors worked to keep their members and their communities healthy. Health screening reminders were given to members and chemo bags were assembled and donated to a local cancer clinic. Over \$7k was raised for the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure in October, Drink Pink raised over \$6k for the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation and over \$2500 was raised for the American Cancer Society. Members were encouraged to get their annual mammograms, participate in outdoor activities, and attend meetings at a local rowing company.

I am very proud of the projects and work that the Virginia Juniors accomplished in 2024 and look forward to great things in 2025.

## **GFWC VIRGINIA**

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT – CYNTHIA BAROODY**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS – LYNN CHAPMAN**



It was a pleasure to read the club leadership reports – 780 projects and 56,486 hours of volunteer service indicate that clubs are truly invested in “Living The Volunteer Spirit”. We were truly impressed by the different and unique styles that clubs have taken on to support their memberships. Small clubs are looking at leadership as partnerships and establishing backup plans to aid in planning and delivering agendas. Even large clubs are building partnerships with other organizations to present a better and more unified position in their communities.

In August 2024, at the GFWC Virginia Conference in Blacksburg, this chairman along with her junior counterpart presented a hands-on leadership workshop called the “Marshmallow Challenge”. This challenge demonstrated how groups work together to solve a problem, highlighting different leadership styles. Leadership development is personal development; we all work differently – learning and appreciating differences in styles is imperative.

At the GFWC Convention in Chicago as well as SER in North Carolina, your leadership chairs attended workshops and presentations from the GFWC Leadership Team providing us with valuable insights and new formats for inspiring club members to take on leadership roles. The GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs attended GFWC LEADS and has used this information to share her knowledge and resources with our Virginia club members. Articles have been written in the Virginia Clubwoman to share this information with all members.

The leadership initiatives undertaken in 2024 have significantly contributed to the development of new leaders within Virginia. One way to help you develop your skills is to attend our GFWC Virginia LEADS to be held at our conference in August in Staunton. The GFWC Secretary, Dr. Susan Gettys will be attending our conference and participating in LEADS; you won’t want to miss this opportunity. You may find the application on page 112 of the GFWC Virginia yearbook or on the website. Applications are due to your district president. Our hope is that YOU will step up and become our next leader!

**GFWC VIRGINIA 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – CAROLYN FELLERS**  
**JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN – ALAINA CHAFFEE**



Our GFWC Virginia clubs have a lot in common. Communication is key and there are many ways in which you share information, welcome members and give the tools they need to be active and successful club women. We “Zoom” for members that may not be able to physically be onsite for a meeting but still want to join in the discussion.

A total of 66 clubs reported this year. 480 projects were completed, volunteering 18, 989.25 hours, \$2,102.50 dollars were donated, with \$9183 in kind, \$52,644.43 spent and \$736 raised.

You have taken time to update club handbooks, create new name tags for members. You made sure that members and guests are welcomed at each meeting and event. Clubs set up information tables and guest books that prospective members can sign and share their contact information. Members are following up with prospective members to thank them for their attendance and inviting them to come to your next meeting. You are sharing your newsletters with members and making them available to prospective and past club members. Social media and new and updated websites keep all informed of what you have planned. Some clubs are using web apps to communicate with members.

New members are inducted during special ceremonies at club meetings or other special events. Not only are our clubwomen working hard on their projects, but they are also making time to celebrate a job well done. It may be at a picnic, at a restaurant, a member’s home or just wherever they are once their project is done.

We support one another during difficult times in life. Illness, surgeries, loss of a home or loved one. The families of our club members that have passed. We bring food, supplies, and help with travel to appointments. We learn what is needed and we care for one another.

We attend local events to bring awareness to our organization. This gives us the opportunity to recruit, hold a fundraiser or sell tickets to an upcoming event.

Our clubwomen truly stepped up to the plate and climbed into our hot air balloons to take flight. We keep the lines of communication open with our “Ground Crew” so that we continue to “Soar to New Heights in Membership”!

**GFWC VIRGINIA SECRETARY**  
**AMY RIGGS**  
**JESSICA THOMAS, JUNIOR SECRETARY**



It has been a pleasure to serve as your GFWC Virginia Secretary and Junior Secretary so far during this administration. All meetings have been attended by this officer, all meeting minutes have been typed and filed for future generations of club women to see what all our GFWC Virginia clubwomen were soaring to in 2024. Articles have been written for the *Virginia Clubwoman*.

We want to take this opportunity to celebrate all the achievements that have been made at the local, district, and state level here in GFWC Virginia. All of our secretaries are doing a great job of keeping minutes and records for prosperity. Hopefully, today and in the future, we can look back on our accomplishments with much pride.

It continues to be a privilege to serve, and we thank you from the bottom of our GFWC heart.

**GFWC VIRGINIA TREASURER**  
**LYNNE WHERRY**  
**JESSICA THOMAS JUNIOR TREASURER**



Serving as the GFWC Virginia Treasurer during this administration has been uplifting and rewarding. Just as balloons rise to lift our spirits, we rise to lift others. Please be assured that every decision was thoughtfully made, keeping the members' best interests in mind during our deliberations. As your GFWC Virginia Treasurer, I ensured all monthly and other expenses were paid and all funds were kept secure to promote the growth and future of our Federation. Our State President and the Budget and Finance Committee Chairman pre-approved all payments through our electronic voucher system as necessary. The originals of the signed vouchers were forwarded to our GFWC Virginia Headquarters. GFWC dues have been settled, and the GFWC Virginia Juniors have been reimbursed for their share of the dues.

The Budget and Finance Committee, Endowment Fund Committee, and special meetings convened via Zoom before the conference, convention, mid-winter, and other times during the year as needed. Additionally, we attended all Executive Board and/or Junior Executive Board meetings, where financial reports were presented. Articles were written for inclusion in each Virginia Clubwoman publication. As we enter the second year of our administration, we thank you for trusting us to safeguard the GFWC Virginia treasury. Like vibrant balloons ascending, we aspire to elevate our members and ensure that the Federation continues to soar. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for your ongoing support. Together, we will ensure that GFWC Virginia continues to reach new heights, sustained by our community's collective efforts and enthusiasm.





## ALICE KYLE DISTRICT

Carol Pridgen, President

73 Members

4,222 Volunteer Hours

Colleen Barnes Director of Junior Clubs 195 Projects

\$413,816 Donated

**GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention:** Club members keep informed about Domestic Violence by having a representative from the County Victim's Witness Program shared the statistics regarding the prevalence of domestic violence, the talk offered means by which friends and family can assist those affected by domestic violence. SB-HJRWC members participated with the Tri-County Community Action Agency's program for Healthy Families Initiative, this program also provides domestic violence 24 HOUR HOT-LINE, shelter and advocates who will attend court with victims.

**GFWC Junior's Special Program: Advocates for Children:** Clubs supported this program by bringing a variety of items to be donated to the Head Start Program located in the New River Valley. Members donate food, clothing and toiletries to the local High School care closet, clothing and toiletry donations prevent student bullying and food donations provide food for students after school hours and on weekends.

**Art and Culture:** Members support their local Cultural Arts Theatre, support local business by taking a painting class, paint Valentine and Halloween cards to be given to residents at their local nursing home.

**Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Clubs helped by collecting and donating canned goods for the community Food Banks, collecting and donating pet food and other needed items for the local animal shelters, collected food during the winter months to help with a local food program that helps feed area children on the weekends during the summer months, donated to various organizations that offered help to people affected by the hurricanes and fires that occurred throughout the South and in California, participated in the National Day of Service

**Education & Libraries:** Club members continue to award scholarships to Local High Seniors who are continuing their education, continue to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, continue to support Girls Rock! Book Club. One club built three eagle nests (bird houses) will be used for individuals to place book donations in. Each bird nest is designated for specific grade levels. They are always accessible to anyone who needs a book.

**Environment:** South Boston-Halifax JWC members recycle glass, plastic, paper, aluminum, and cardboard by separating them out and taking the items to the recycling bins at the dump, members adopted a park to help keep it clean and free of trash.

**Health and Wellness:** Shot at Life – A club member and her 2 children obtained their flu shots at Walgreen's Drug Store. Club members were encouraged to exercise and to record their healthy eating habits throughout the year. Members hosted a community health fair, collected and donated feminine and hygiene products to the local elementary, middle, and high school, members received a demonstration of CPR techniques.

**Communications and Public Relations:** Facebook messages, emails, texts, and newsletters are used to communicate with members and to show the public the impact club members have in their communities.

**Leadership:** In Leadership club members served as Officers at club level, District Officers, District Chairman, GFWC VA Officers, GFWC VA CSP or Committee Chairman, and GFWC Executive Board members

**Legislation and Public Policy:** No reports received in this reporting area.

**Membership:** Club members know that Membership doesn't just mean trying to get new people to join your club, it's about taking the time to look after each other. Club members are always first to provide a meal when a member has been in the hospital or has lost a loved one. Club members hold social gatherings several times a year at local restaurants and send out invitations to potential new members.

**Fundraising and Development:** Club members held Baked Sales, sold raffle tickets for several different items, and held several 50/50 raffles on several big-ticket items. The raffles were advertised on social media and shared by members which made these raffles a tremendous success. One club sold Terri Lynne pecans as a fundraiser

**Women's History and Resource Center:** A member serves as WHRC District Chair, Member volunteers at Hampden Sydney Atkinson Museum on several occasions, serving refreshments at museum openings, helping with projects with the Student Museum Board and coordinating activities of Central Virginia Arts with the Museum. A club member continues collecting and sorting club archives and memorabilia then donating those items to the archives at the Longwood University Library.

**GFWC VA State Project 2022-2024 "Virginia's Natural Resources and Education":** Members continue to make monetary donations in support of GFWC Virginia President Rosemond's state project.

**GFWC VA State Project 2024-2026 "Early Childhood Education":** Members made monetary donations in support of GFWC Virginia President Mowry's state project.

**GFWC VA Endowment – Dogwood Society – 1907 Society:** Two members joined the 1907 Society for 2024 and upgraded their dogwood pins to the next level, a member bought two bud pins, one club made a donation.

**Alice Kyle District Project – PHFS Camp Fee for a Camper(s):** Members continue to support the Alice Kyle District Project-Camp Fee for a Camper(s)

## **Blue Ridge District**

**Camilla Cabaniss, President**

**158 Members   52,530 Volunteer Hours  
389 Projects   \$39,077 Donated & In-Kind**



Our district is small, but we continue to make a large impact on our communities. Our clubs are in rural areas, small towns, and larger urban communities.

The GFWC Blacksburg Juniors participated in many programs that benefit families in need, especially families with children. They held a diaper drive to stock the shelves of the Montgomery County Christmas Store, participated in a build with Habitat for Humanity, and helped build twin beds for children in need with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. They also worked with the local YMCA to run a shop called Cinderella Project that offered donated formals, suits, and other prom attire to students in the area for no cost, so they could enjoy their evening at the prom.

The GFWC Floyd County Woman's Club had twelve projects in Civic Engagement and Outreach which included donations and service projects to the Hurricane Helene Storm Relief. They also sponsored a canteen for the annual Veterans Day parade. Their annual Arts and Crafts Festival has been a community event for over fifty years. This event is the major fund raiser for the club and allows the ladies in Floyd to support their community's library, food pantry and clothes closet.

The GFWC National Day of Service in September was supported by the GFWC Roanoke County Woman's Club as they shopped and prepared eighteen backpacks with food for a weekend for eighteen students in local schools. Each backpack weighed fifteen pounds. They also supported Children's Assistive Technology Services (C.A.T.S.) with a \$1,000.00 donation for the Hallowheels celebration and fundraiser. The club was a sponsor of the Mother's Day Tea supporting Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet with a donation of \$3,000.00. The Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center received treat bags for Valentine's Day and Easter, and handmade cards for Thanksgiving.

The Botetourt Town and Country Women's Club also participated in the GFWC National Day of Service by preparing one-hundred-gallon size bags filled with snack foods for Solomon's Mission, a non-profit charity. The club also made and filled a hundred "First Night" bags for women and children entering The Turning Point, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. The bags included toiletries, toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, and a note of hope and inspiration.

A "blessings box" at a local church is supported monthly by the GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton. Donations of food are brought to their monthly meetings and delivered to the church the next day. Soups, peanut butter, crackers, and individual boxes of cereal are popular items. The club has a strong relationship with the Town of Vinton, working with the town to establish a "Pinwheel Garden" in April, participate in the Christmas "Parade of Trees" in December, and other events in the town. The club members also deliver treats to the police, Fire and EMS stations on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of each month. They also provide a scholarship for a young lady at the local high school.

The GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club supported "Books Til Six" and donated 1,707 books to the Carillon Pediatric Unit. They also support "Books for Bearcats" by providing 488 books for summer reading to students at Highland View Elementary School. They also provide \$1,500.00 in scholarships to local students. The Butterfly Garden at the Bent Mountain Community Center was revitalized for its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with weeding and clean-up, new plants, a memorial bench, and enhanced programs for the community.

For the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day celebration in town, the GFWC Bedford Woman's Club set up a woman's history display at the Bedford Boys Tribute Center featuring local women during the World War II era. The exhibit contained photos, letters, journals, and furniture and home goods from families in the area. Biographies of the women were also featured. The club also made mini-pinwheel gardens, using small buckets of sand with pinwheels and a small poster explaining the purpose of the arrangement. The gardens were distributed to the libraries and small businesses in the area.

We have spread hope, awareness, education, and the efforts of GFWC International, GFWC Virginia and GFWC Virginia Blue Ridge throughout our communities.

## LEE DISTRICT

Kelly Lane, President

503 Members 39,876 Volunteer Hours

Danielle Basham, Director of Junior Clubs 1,190 Projects \$386,760 Donated & In-kind



**GFWC Affiliates:** Lee District Clubs supported HOBY, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Canine Companions, March of Dimes, Operational Smile, Shot at Life Campaign and Heifer International monetarily and provided links in club newsletters.

**GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention:** Three clubs donated to GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Program; four clubs supported Safe Harbor, Hanover Safe Place, and Recover Hope charities that house survivors of domestic abuse and/or human trafficking. Clubs planted pinwheel gardens in April and displayed banners. Clubs supported families with food or volunteered to serve food at Thanksgiving, and during Christmas.

**GFWC Junior Special Program – Advocates for Children:** Clubs supported Girls for Change, Head Start programs and Title 1 schools towards the GFWC Virginia State project and Early Childhood Education. Clubs collected jars of peanut butter, diapers, and wipes for multiple organizations. Clubs filled Christmas stockings for seniors, contributed school supplies or other wish list items. Both the **Junior Federated Woman's Club of Chester** and **GFWC Worthington Woman's Club** put together No Sew Blankets to donate to the Children's Hospital of Richmond in memory of Sally Cary, Lee District Past President. Advocates of Children Program is supported by both Junior and General Clubs.

**Arts and Culture:** **GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club** donated to Traveling Art Therapist Programs. Clubs sponsored student and adult art exhibits and art activities. **GFWC Goochland Woman's Club** sponsored a WINTER themed art contest supported by 5 countywide schools and offering two \$50 awards. Clubs held craft demonstrations, held Paint Parties. **The Junior Federated Woman's Club of Chester** hosted a cotillion.

**Civic Engagement:** 22 clubs participated in GFWC's National Day of Service by collecting nonperishable food to community food banks, church run food pantries and bagged lunches for homeless organizations. Clubs supported Veterans with thank you cards, calendars, and Wounded Warriors programs. Clubs supported the USO at the Richmond Airport both financially and by purchasing snacks. Three clubs participated in the Wreaths across America sponsorship programs while other members participated in a wreath laying ceremony. Six clubs donated to local police, fire, and rescue units. Nine clubs supported Christmas Mother Programs in seven metropolitan counties by collecting clothing, food and household items. 11 clubs donated to Hurricane Relief Fund to aid flood victims in southwest Virginia.

**Education and Libraries:** Clubs have book clubs where they read the same book and hold discussions. One club furnishes "Children in Crisis Bags" to be given to children experiencing death, illness in the family or a fire in their home or any other situation a counselor sees a crisis. **Louisa Juniors** held a Miss Louisa brunch at the Louisa Art Center. One club has two members who serve as Docents at the Governor Mansion. Clubs support schools by donating school supplies, volunteering at book fairs, and providing other support.

**Environment:** Seven clubs participate in recycling programs curbside or within their counties. Clubs collected plastic bags to donate to local food banks to be used for food donations. Three clubs collect Tab Tops to support Ronald McDonald House. Two clubs supported Earth Day in unique ways. Two clubs recycle wine corks.

**Health and Wellness:** Members actively supported awareness and prevention by wearing colors to club meetings to show support. Many clubs handed out educational material at meetings and in the community. Clubs had a variety of speakers related to Health and Wellness. **GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club** invited a local yoga instructor to discuss the benefits of relaxation. Clubs donated to many Health organizations.

**Communications and Public Relations:** Eleven clubs have club newsletters. Seven clubs have Facebook pages. Six clubs have websites. Clubs distribute GFWC New and Notes and wear their branded shirts and aprons at public events. **Leadership:** Clubs hold officer installations, celebrate banquets and recognize members with gifts. Clubs offer opportunities to gain leadership skills and be versed in Robert's Rules of Order. Clubs review Bylaws and Standing Rules routinely and hold budget meetings. Clubs pay registration fees to attend District, GFWC Virginia meetings.

**Legislation and Public Policy:** Members signed up for the GFWC Legislative Alert Email. Twenty-Two members attended the GFWC Virginia Legislation Day and visited with representatives. Three clubs keep members informed on issues in their jurisdiction.

**Membership:** Clubs recruited members by holding new member socials and encouraging members to invite members. 5 clubs had an increase in membership including one junior club, **New Kent Junior Woman's Club** that had an increase of 16 members in 2024, almost doubling the number of members. Clubs encouraged retention by recognizing birthdays and anniversaries and holding celebrations. Clubs recognize members for achievements with membership pins or show care and concern by sending cards or delivering meals.

**Fundraising:** **GFWC Ashcake Woman's club** sponsored their 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Harvest Run. **GFWC Goochland Woman's Club** sponsored a Murder Mystery Dinner and **Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg** raised money by sponsoring Arts in the Square.

**Woman's History and Resource Center:** **GFWC Kanawha** updated their club history and distributed an electronic copy to members.

**District Project:** - Clubs supported the Children's Hospital in Richmond by donating gift card contributions and held projects. Clubs contributed donations to the Alzheimer Association and held numerous projects to multiple organizations.



## NORTHERN DISTRICT

Yvonne Sening, President      735 Members      71,432 Volunteer Hours  
Jaclyn Francis, Director of Junior Clubs      1,038 Projects      \$160,120 Donations  
\$132,7226 In-Kind



**GFWC Domestic Violence:** Clubs collaborated to collect hygiene items and non-perishable food items for shelters and food pantries.

**GFWC Junior Advocates:** JWCL held their 20<sup>th</sup> annual Prom Wishes, supported Backpack Buddies and collected over 10,500 menstrual items/500 hygiene items for Health4Her. General Clubs supported Boxes of Basics.

**Arts & Culture:** Bel Air celebrated National Tea Month. Clubs supported and sponsored art shows in their communities, held skills classes, and donated supplies for teens in crisis.

**Civic Engagement:** Club completed 154 civic projects supporting local families during the holidays, the military, veterans, local emergency workers, hospitals, the homeless, food pantries and disaster relief. Woodbridge was recognized for outstanding service. Fairfax donated sensory bags and firetruck matchboxes, Bel Air prepared emergency kits, and Arlington built and maintained vegetable gardens. Junioresettes the local foster children's Christmas program and New Dominion provided over 300 meals for Martha's Table.

**Education & Libraries:** ND reported over 128 projects supporting local schools, preschools, libraries and providing books. \$56,944 was provided in scholarships and 5,692 reading hours in book clubs. Arlington held a bike skills class for the community.

**Environment:** Clubs adopted parks, bus barns, and highways. Clubs supporting recycling of a variety of materials. Manassas participated in a Bee Festival, Herndon modeled fashions from a thrift shop, Dominion worked with homeless animals and Star rehabbed wild birds.

**Health & Wellness:** Club supported mental health awareness/suicide awareness and Alzheimer awareness walks. Clubs supported homeless and hypothermia shelters. Woodbridge had an appreciation dinner for INOVA Schar nurses, Dominion organized a golf tournament to benefit ovarian cancer, Junioresettes worked at "A Night to Shine" for those with disabilities, and Fairfax planted a yellow tulip garden for mental health.

**Communications & PR:** Clubs use newsletters, social media, web sites and email. Clubs are active with local business associations and write articles for local publications. Clubs highlight and recognize members of the week on social media.

**Leadership:** ND members participate at every level of GFWC. Mary Ball created a strength/weakness survey for members, Fredericksburg has seen growth in leadership among new members, the Junioresettes hosted mini leadership sessions to learn different skills.

**Legislation & Public Policy:** Clubs attend Legislative Day, host local officials to discuss upcoming issues and promote the legislative action center.

**Membership:** Clubs hold a variety of events to encourage membership, including crafter noons and other socials. Mary Ball celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Loudoun celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup>. Herndon holds a monthly drawing for a flower bouquet for reporting hours.

**Fundraising & Development:** Northern District participated in 99 projects in this area and raised \$149,940.12. Woodbridge held a history alive event, Spotsylvania held Gospel Sings, and Clifton wrote a book dedicated to its community.

**WHRC:** Woodbridge gave monthly "Her-story" moments, Western Fairfax creates an annual Club visual history, JWCL promoted the Women's Suffrage Monument on social media, Fairfax had a member find and preserve a GFWC piece of history.

**GFWC Virginia Special Project: Early Childhood Education:** Clubs have embraced the State project and devote hours and donations to local preschools and schools. Fairfax supports a local preschool monthly through reading and art activities.

### **GFWC Virginia Northern District Special Projects:**

**Comfort Cases:** Clubs reported 6 projects, 85.5 volunteer hours and \$686 in donations.

**Be Kind: Mental Health Matters:** Clubs reported 14 projects participating in the Alzheimer's Walk, the Out of Darkness/Suicide Awareness Walk, planting yellow tulip gardens, sponsoring speakers on mental health and performing numerous random acts of kindness.



## SHENANDOAH DISTRICT

Laura Coburn, President    243 Members    19,328 Volunteer Hours    326 Projects  
\$79,140 Donated    \$57,848 Raised

**GFWC Signature Project Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness:** 5 projects. 84 volunteer hours. \$990 donated. \$1961 in kind donations. Clubs donated basic hygiene items to women's shelters, one club provided Thanksgiving dinner items to a local women's shelter.

**Arts:** 18 projects. 757 volunteer hours, donated \$973, and \$1439 in-kind donations. Clubs sponsored arts and writing contests, attended local arts events, British afternoon teas in tea rooms, a Friday Art Walk to view local galleries. One club hosted dinner for international college students. One club hosted a refreshment center for a 2-day juried art show. A program from director of American Shakespeare Theater and a program by an author of books for middle schoolers. One club served as docents at a local arts center.

**Environment:** 2 clubs partnered with The Trex Company by collecting recyclable plastics in exchange for a Trex park bench made of composite lumber. Several clubs donated money to Nature Camp for environmental education of students. A program by the Soil and Water Conservation District. A picnic lunch in the park.

**Education:** 27 projects. 1,184 volunteer hours. \$30,780 donated. \$616 in kind donations. Clubs gave scholarships, helped early childhood, elementary, middle school, and high school students, 4H, and HOBY. ESO participation, library events. A summer writing class for elementary students. Donated books to Little Free Libraries.

**Civic Engagement:** 29 projects. 2,402 volunteer hours. \$30,270 donated. \$11,909 in kind donations. One club held a public veteran's ceremony, one club donated to Wounded Warriors Project and to a Salute of Virginia veterans drop in center. Five clubs donated and volunteered to address food insecurity with food banks, Meals on Wheels and community dinners. Also donated to local aging, homeless, and children's organizations. A program by a foster mother describing her experience and the experiences of the children in care. Donations to Salvation Army. A program by son of survivor of USS Indianapolis sinking in WWII for Veterans Month.

**Health and Wellness:** Two clubs took holiday greeting cards to local nursing homes. One club had a program on healthy foods, collected recipes, and made a cookbook. One club had an exercise challenge for members.

**Legislation:** 8 projects. 191 volunteer hours. \$40 donated. Candidate Forum for candidates in local elections and encouraged members to sign up for online GFWC Legislative Alerts. Worked at voting polls and gave club programs on all the methods that can be used to vote. A member attended Legislation Day at the state capitol.

**Communications:** 10 projects. 636 volunteer hours. \$1,533 spent. Newsletters, weekly and monthly emails to all members, yearbooks, and a few clubs received local newspaper coverage of events. Some clubs have websites, Facebook and Instagram pages. One club is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce which allows members to participate in Chamber events. Club tee shirts.

**Leadership:** 61 projects. 7,024 volunteer hours. \$17,761 spent. District members serve at all levels of GFWC: local, district, state, regional, and national. Members attended national, state, district, and SER conferences. Committee meetings. Officer training, new member orientations.

**Membership:** 31 projects. 823 volunteer hours. \$710 in kind donations. \$1115 spent. Clubs held recruitment events such as an ice cream social, published membership directories, and regularly contacted members to keep them engaged in clubwork. Several clubs inducted new members.

**Women's History and Resource Center:** 4 projects. 139 volunteer hours. \$1,370 in kind donations. One club maintains club archives in a rented storage unit. One club held an event to recognize a member receiving a 75-year membership pin. One member attended WHRC Anniversary Celebration in Washington DC.

**Fundraising:** 29 projects. 2,462 volunteer hours. \$600 donated. \$58,168 raised. \$7,700 in kind donations. Projects included online solicitations through Day of Giving, raffles, plant sales, Holiday craft bazaar, yard sales, bridge luncheons, manning chicken shack at county fair, afternoon tea party, musical concert, Belk Charity Day ticket sales, Christmas ornament sales, catering lunches at club meetings, auction of wrapped gifts, and a local celebrity chefs dessert party.

**Advocates for Children:** 3 projects. 75 volunteer hours. \$750 donated. \$140 in kind donations. Staunton Augusta Juniors donated to and volunteered with Valley Children's Advocacy Center, as well as donations to Nature Camp and Camp EasterSeals.

## **SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT**

**Julie Johnson, President**

**368 Members 28,373 Volunteer Hours**

**Mary Katherine Steed, Director of Junior Clubs 898 Projects \$137,276 Donated & In-Kind**



Southside has 12 clubs: 9 General, 2 Junior and 1 Juniorette. We held a District Orientation in August, a District Christmas Open-House at a member's home, and a District Reporting Workshop in early January.

**GFWC Signature Program-Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention:** Clubs placed pinwheels in their communities in April and donated needed items and money to local shelters and programs for victims of domestic violence. One club purchased the license for RJI Prevention Project to be taught at a local high school, and another donated 54 stuffed animals for children traumatized in their homes.

**GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children:** 4 clubs supported diaper and wipes drives of other districts; a club collected 400 toys for children at a local trailer park; several clubs donated cash, toys and toiletries, etc. to St. Jude, Samaritan's Purse and Child Fund; one club collected items for children coming to the E.R.

**Arts & Culture:** Clubs donated funds to local art leagues; various crafts were demonstrated at club meetings. One club created and decorated a float for their local Christmas parade and crafted cards for 2 local long-term care facilities. One club helped sponsor a local series of professional classical musicians. Another has a monthly card-crafting club.

**Civic Engagement & Outreach:** All clubs recited the Pledge of Allegiance, encouraged their members to vote and several hosted local candidates. Clubs supported local fire departments, local food banks with money and food, their local Veterans Associations and donated sweatshirts, snacks and prizes for Bingo to their local Veterans Hospitals; for the Salvation Army they filled Christmas stockings and gave Angel Tree donations.

**Education & Libraries:** All adult clubs gave scholarships, totaling more than \$17,000; clubs donated to HOBY, the GFWC VA and Southside District scholarship funds; supported local literacy councils and local school libraries; and supported teachers with donated books, school supplies, volunteer time and money. Reading for fun as well as knowledge was emphasized.

**Environment:** Six clubs participated in recycling cans and plastic, and one qualified to receive 2 TREX benches. Four clubs helped clean up their roadways and three donated to their local animal shelters. One volunteered with the local river preservation association in educational projects for city-wide elementary and middle school students.

**Health & Wellness:** Clubs supported GFWC Day of Service. One club delivered monthly for Meals on Wheels. Clubs donated coats, hats & gloves for needy children; two donated to Hurricane Helene victims; and clubs supported local nursing/assisted living facilities with birthday cards and wrapped gifts at Christmas. One club donated money and held a shower of needed items for Western Tidewater Free Clinic; another made sleeping bags for the homeless.

**Communications & Public Relations:** Six clubs send newsletters to their members; four have professionally produced brochures to distribute in their community and give to prospective members. Clubs have GFWC branded T-shirts, sweatshirts and/or aprons to wear at meetings and events. Several clubs have membership in their local Chamber of Commerce. Three clubs have a website, several use Facebook and other forms of social media.

**Fundraising:** Eight clubs reported a wide variety of events: a vendor market using physical assistance from high school students; a drive-in spaghetti dinner; a Princess Tea Party for children; a cookie walk; Bingo with vintage Vera Bradley prizes; calendars featuring local art; an annual Holiday Bazaar; preparing and serving breakfasts and lunches to local groups.

**Leadership:** Southside members held District and State positions. Members were encouraged to attend the 2 District meetings, the GFWC VA Convention and Conference. Clubs held planning meetings, board and regular meetings, distributed minutes and treasurer reports to their members.

**Legislation & Public Policy:** Each month a member in one club reported on any national, state or local legislation affecting members.

**Membership:** 38 new members joined Southside clubs in 2024. Attention was focused on retention by recognizing various achievements during the year as well as at year-end luncheons. Mentors were assigned to new members, and sympathy and get-well cards were sent as appropriate.

**WHRC:** One club donated to WHRC. Members of one club drove to Washington, D.C. to attend GFWC President Brazil's Open House, then toured Headquarters. Several clubs kept scrapbooks; some prepared a year-end history. Several clubs toured nearby historic sites and made donations to them.

**GFWC Virginia State Project—Natural Resources:** One club volunteered with their local river preservation organization in educational projects for city-wide elementary and middle school students. Clubs reported 12 projects and 125 volunteer hours.

**GFWC Virginia State Project—Early Childhood Education:** One club chose a local preschool to focus on, with members signing up to read to them through the end of the school year; the first member read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and took in live caterpillars. Clubs reported 15 projects and 167 volunteer hours.

**GFWC Virginia Endowment/Dogwood Society/1907 Society:** Clubs donated \$355 and gave \$1,335 in-kind donations.

**Southside District Projects:** First half of 2024—Mental Health Awareness, second half of 2024—LifeNet Health: clubs reported 10 projects, \$225 donated, \$150 spent, and \$255 in-kind donations. At the Fall District meeting our guest speaker was from LifeNet Health.

## SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

**Amy DeWilde, President 174 Members 14,714 Volunteer Hours**  
**JoBeth Wampler, Director of Junior Clubs 777 Projects \$87,451 Donations**



**GFWC Signature Program Domestic Violence:** Southwestern ladies completed 15 projects, ranging from speakers to items collected to make adult and children escape bags. 301 volunteer hours, \$3,052, and had a total of \$4,560 in-kind donations.

**GFWC Juniors' Special Program, Advocates for Children:** 47 projects completed, with 362 volunteer hours, \$11,848 donated, and \$2,575 worth of in-kind donations. Clubs collected diapers, baby wipes, school supplies and books to be given to local preschools and day care.

**Arts and Culture:** 61 projects completed with 1,339 volunteer hours, \$5,150 donated and \$3,057 worth of in-kind donations. Multiple clubs participated in setting up craft tables at festivals, nursing homes, and even sports events.

**Civic Engagement and Outreach:** 92 projects completed with 1,949 volunteer hours, \$14,194 donated and \$9,270 worth of in-kind donations. Club ladies helped with flood relief from Hurricane Helene collecting food and water, making sure workers and communities had a hot meal. Many clubs made monetary donations to shop with a cop, fire depts,

**Education and Libraries:** 86 projects completed with 1,024 volunteer hours, \$46,055 donated and \$6,125 worth of in-kind donations. Members celebrated Read Across America week, collected and donated book bags, made monetary donations to reading programs, public libraries, field trips, and provided high school bands with snacks and water during band camp. One club launched Dolly Parton's imagination library.

**Environment:** 39 projects completed with 982 volunteer hours, \$3,692 donated and \$3,313 worth of in-kind donations. Members collected aluminum and steel cans. Collected over 500 pounds of plastic, pet supplies, trash, donated newspapers to animal shelters

**Health and Wellness:** 65 projects completed with 772 volunteer hours, \$2,016 donated and \$5,085 worth of in-kind donations. Donated blankets, socks and bedding to nursing homes. Volunteered serving Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless, Members had mammograms, donated stuffed animals and candy to nursing homes, members wore pink in Oct for breast cancer, wore red dress pins in Fed for Heart Health, collected peanut butter for local food pantry, walked in 5-K, participated in Relay for Life, Made period product bags, held a diaper drive, blood drive, and made monetary donations.

**Communications and Public Relations:** 47 projects completed with 739 volunteer hours, and \$1,002 dollars spent. Clubs used radio stations, newspapers, and social media to inform members and public of upcoming events. Clubs purchased new signs and GFWC attire to wear while volunteering. Club banners are displayed around towns.

**Leadership:** 91 projects completed with 1,611 volunteer hours, and \$4,577 dollars spent. Club members attended State Conferences, Conventions, and district meetings. Members help plan and decorate for spring state conference. Multiple clubs have members serving on district board and district chairman roles.

**Legislation and Public Policy:** 47 projects completed with 144 volunteer hours, and no dollars spent. Club members belong to the GFWC Legislative Action Center, One member attended State Federations and the LAC Zoom webinar. One club has members that are on the Library board, town council, school board, Intra-Government Action Community for Truancy, members of the board of directors that represents the Women's Resource Center.

**Membership:** 36 projects completed with 726 volunteer hours, and \$3,530 dollars spent.

Clubs set up information tables, host Christmas get togethers, new member socials, celebrate membership anniversaries.

**GFWC Fundraising and Development:** 32 projects completed with 4,444 volunteer hours and raised \$47,316.

Projects include Bingo, raffle baskets, craft fairs, online silent auctions, live TV auctions, bake sales, beauty pageants, yard sales, breakfast with Santa, hosted pool parties, sold mums, and hosted a tower climb.

**GFWC Women's History and Resource Center:** 12 projects completed with 228 volunteer hours and \$200 dollars donated. Clubs celebrated Women's History by attending programs, highlighting their own club, joined 1907, attended luncheons, organized ladies night out event. One club learned about GFWC Unit for Overseas Service.

**GFWC Virginia Special Projects:** completed 1 project with 34 volunteer hours and a total of \$100 dollars donated.

Members belong to GFWC Legislative Action Center and attended zoom webinar The Power of you. Some members serve on town council, school, library and board of directors, and 1 member is representative for Women's Resource Center.

**GFWC Virginia State Project "Early Childhood Education":** 4 projects completed, and 25 volunteer hours completed, and \$575 dollars donated. Members collected school supplies and made table centerpieces, then donated to Pre K and kindergarten classes.

**GFWC Virginia Endowment / Dogwood Society / 1907 Society:** 1 project with \$469.14 dollars donated. 3 District members contributed to the 1907 Society and Endowment Fund

**Southwestern District Projects / Alzheimer's:** 1 project with 34 volunteer hours and \$100 dollars donated. Clubs made monetary donations to Alzheimer's Awareness

## TIDEWATER DISTRICT

Jane May President

742 Members

1,083 Projects

47,969 Volunteer Hours \$97,408 Dollars Donated



**GFWC Affiliates:** Donations were made to Alzheimer's Association, Canine Companions, St. Jude Hospital for Children, Operation Smile, Heifer International, Hope for Justice, Shot at Life, UNICEF and the March of Dimes. Five Tidewater District clubs donated a total of \$1170 to Heifer International. Cape Henry continued their project of purchasing mating Alpaca. Great Bridge WC volunteered at Operation Smile to pack 1050 Smile bags and 230 NONO arm bands in 2024.

**GFWC Signature Program:** Clubs donated \$4,277 and made \$10,035 in-kind donations to women's shelter residents and their children. The Woman's Club of the Eastern Shore donated money and items to the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

**GFWC Junior Special Program: Advocates for Children:** Clubs made \$7,908 in-kind donations. Junior Woman's Club of Hilton Village assisted at a picnic for Edmarc Hospice for Children

**Arts and Culture:** Clubs held art shows. Provided supplies and money to decorate sneakers for survivors of domestic violence prom. Accomack County Club members made spring hats and holiday crowns.

**Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Clubs focused on four areas: Crime Prevention, Safety, And Disaster Preparedness; Military Personnel And Veterans; Citizenship The Needy, Hungry, And Homeless. Five Tidewater District clubs donated a total of \$2,490 to Hurricane Helene efforts in Southwest Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Mercy Chefs, and Samaritan Purse.

**Education and Libraries:** Projects included awarding student scholarships. Clubs supported back to school supply drives, donated children's books to free clinics and schools, volunteered at local libraries, and supported the Peake Early Childhood Center with supplies and money. Three members took the Milk and Cookies tour at the Peake Early Childhood Center.

**Environment:** Clubs participated in The Great American Clean Up and Adopt-A-Spot locations. They recycled and repurposed plastic film for NextTrex park bench program, brown paper bags for food banks, prescription and reading glasses for the Lions Club, Soles for Souls shoe recycling, and pop tops for Ronald McDonald House.

**Health and Wellness:** Clubs supported homeless/food insecurity programs, Children's and Nursing Home needs, and the Mental Health of our communities and our members. Several clubs included articles on health issues in their monthly newsletters.

**Communications and Public Relations:** Clubs displayed banners and flags to announce to the public that they were actively involved in the community. Members were given club history brochures, club year books, and newsletters.

**Fundraising and Development:** Clubs performed 84 projects, worked 12,463 hours, and raised \$162,028.00 dollars. Clubs held fashion shows, basket raffles, cookies sales, craft classes card parties, car shows and bazaars. They worked festivals, sold nuts, sold plants,, cookie sales, bazaars, and card parties.

**Leadership:** Clubs reported 90 projects and 11,023 hours. Members served as District Officers and Chairmen, GFWC Virginia President, and GFWC Virginia chairmen.

**Legislation and Public Policy:** Members were educated and well informed on the issues on all levels of government. WC of Tidewater has a Legislation and Public Policy Chair.

**Membership:** The district gained eighty-two (82) new members. Two clubs have night divisions. There are orientations for new members. The Woman's Club of Newport News painted rocks and attached a QR code linking their Facebook page.

**WHRC:** Two clubs made donations to WHRC, GFWC Virginia Headquarters Fund, and the GFWC Virginia Endowment Fund. The Woman's Club of Hampton is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**GFWC Virginia State Project:** Clubs donated preschool puzzles, books, bubbles and a bubble shooter and a playset. Poquoson WC donated 48 STEM kits for their local library preschool patrons.

**District Project:** Clubs have donated food and pet food to keep all fed and together. In-kind donations of \$3,257 were made to help feed all.



# 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM 264 Projects 10,030 Hours**  
**Helen Hill Chairman \$21,675 Donated \$116,083 In-Kind**

Club members reported projects on education, health care, community celebrations and learning a new craft. This included dance and etiquette sessions and an international dinner for students, awards in art, festivals in the park and card making.

## **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – Bel Air Woman’s Club – Northern District**

The club members enjoyed a program given by an Arizona Navajo.

## **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Award**

## **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Lexington Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District**

International Student Dinner was held by the club.

## **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

The club hosted author James Hale who was collecting history of the area for a book.

## **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club – Southside District**

The club helped with a parade, decorated the town and held a home decoration contest all for Christmas. Had a performance of the song “Watch the Lamb”.

## **Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Powhatan County, Inc. – Lee District**

The club made “fidget mats”, walker bags and pillows for breast cancer patients.

## **ART CONTEST-MEMBER ENTRIES**

### **WRITING CONTEST, Carol Guilliams-Mills & Florence Powell Co-Chairman**

The GFWC Virginia Creative Writing entries came from five of the eight districts in GFWC Virginia. Blue Ridge, Northern, Shenandoah, Southwestern, and Tidewater had entries mailed and received by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Alice Kyle, Lee, and Southside had no entries. We had three judges to review the entries at the State Level.

### **Member Short Story – Amateur**

1<sup>st</sup> Place “The Flood” Janet Jaworski

Woman’s Club of Fairfax – Northern District

2<sup>nd</sup> place “Together in Peace” Annie McNeill

GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District

### **Member Poetry – Amateur**

1<sup>st</sup> place “The Path of Loss” Sarah Entsminger

Herndon Fortnightly Woman’s Club – Northern District

2<sup>nd</sup> place “Our Hearts Enduring” Gail Smith

Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District

3<sup>rd</sup> place “Appalachian Way” Annie McNeill

GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District



## **ARTS CONTEST – STUDENT ENTRIES**

### **Carol Guilliams-Mills & Florence Powell Co-Chairman**

#### **Student Poetry**

##### **Grades K-2**

1<sup>st</sup> “Browz”

Adeline Frances  
Barker

GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club

Shenandoah

##### **Grades 3-5**

1<sup>st</sup> “Song of the Sorrowful  
Bird”

Luke Crosby

GFWC Lexington Woman’s Club

Shenandoah



**Grades 6-8**

|                 |                                |                 |                             |            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | "When Heaven Holds Its Breath" | Jaclyn Marshall | GFWC Lexington Woman's Club | Shenandoah |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|

**Grades 9-12**

|                 |                     |  |  |  |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | No Entries Received |  |  |  |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|--|--|

**Student Short Story****Grades K-2**

|                 |                   |             |                       |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | "Friends Forever" | Berra Gragg | Pembroke Woman's Club | Southwestern |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|

**Grades 3-5**

|                 |                    |              |                       |              |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | "The Great Escape" | Samson Gragg | Pembroke Woman's Club | Southwestern |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|

**Grades 6-8**

|                 |                        |               |                             |            |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | "Piper Miracle Strong" | Vivienne Hirt | GFWC Lexington Woman's Club | Shenandoah |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------|

**Grades 9-12**

|                 |                            |            |                       |           |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | "Of Bines and Old Friends" | Chloe Nunn | Poquoson Woman's Club | Tidewater |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|



**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH PROGRAM 815 Projects 38,240 Hours**  
**Sue Trussell, Chairman \$146,707 \$ Donated \$191,164 In-Kind \$19,521 \$ spent**

**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Mary Ball Woman's Club – Northern District**

Blue Star Mothers collected items to make care packages for deployed service members. The club donated essential items across seven categories, donating over 600 care packages.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Award****Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman's Club of Hampton – Tidewater District**

Supported Chasing Zero Foundation whose goal is to go from 22 to zero in veterans suicides. The members participated in walking, collecting donations as well as fully support the organization and cause raising several thousands of dollars.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

Collected move in essentials for Upside Down Moments that provide support and resources for children going into and aging out of foster care. They filled laundry baskets with all the essentials, clothing, blankets, stuffed animals and books.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Hilton Village – Tidewater District**

Supported THRIVE Peninsula which encourages, educates and empowers the community in need toward transformed and self-sustaining lives through the Breakfast with Santa event where they collected non-perishable goods to be donated.

**Best Overall – Large Club – Woman's Club of Fairfax – Northern District**

Donated Matchbox/Hotwheels to local fire department, where first responders distribute them to children in emergency situations. These toys provide comfort, help ease stress, and create opportunities for conversation – helping children feel safe during a crisis.

**COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC RELATIONS 389 Projects**

**Lynn Osborne, Chairman 10,955 Hours \$18,340 Spent**



Most all clubs reported using the GFWC bullets of: Branding; Public Relations; Club Communication; Website; Social Media; and Digital Meeting Capabilities. A few clubs reported creating a QR code with club information on it.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club – Lee District**

This club organized and sponsored a Harvest 10K/5K Run incorporating all aspects of communication.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman’s Club GFWC – Alice Kyle District**

This club maintains a private and public Facebook account as well as an Instagram account. The accounts are updated about GFWC Virginia projects and club meetings to show the public the impact of our community involvement. They also posted pictures of events they had.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

This club developed a QR code which directs you to the club’s Facebook page. Members put the QR code on the back of painted rocks, which were placed at various locations throughout the city

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club’s Social Media Director and Webmaster continuously enhance the website, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages to inform and keep members engaged while branding the club throughout the community.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

This club promoted an annual event, Harvest Run, using their website, Facebook, social media, advertising in local magazines, posting flyers and posters, hanging banners in their town, and designing t-shirts with the club’s name on the back. A special Race Facebook page was set-up to attract runners.

**Best Overall – Large Club – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

To meet CPR goals this club utilizes Social Media to include Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and LinkTree. They recognize a special member on “Meet the Member” Monday on Facebook, “JWCL Month of Service” social media posts for one month, Canva Content Creation, website revamp and upkeep, advertising research, and helped create a slideshow for the Northern District Fall Meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS - WEBSITE CONTEST**

**Lynn Osborne, Chairman**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club’s website is inviting and easy to navigate. Their postings include the history, goals, and accomplishments. There is a photo gallery, projects, imagination library, members only, partners, events, and calendar section.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – The Woman’s Club of Windsor, Inc. – Southside District**

This club’s website is easy to navigate. There are links to GFWC and GFWC Virginia. They posted their Mission, history, fundraisers, pictures, events and scholarship information. There is a Member’s Corner for minutes, reports, and bylaws.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

This club’s website is very inviting and easy to navigate. It has information about the club, projects, fundraisers, photos, calendar, donations, how to contact them, and links to federation. There is a members section for online dues payments, GFWC resources and JWCL event sign-ups.

**EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES PROGRAM 548 Projects 19,959 Hours**

**Ilia Desjardins, Chairman \$300,955 Donated & \$63,566 In-Kind**



2024 was a great year for Education & Libraries for the club women of GFWC Virginia. Clubs spent time and dollars appreciating teachers, librarians, and school board officials. They collected and donated books throughout their community, donated over \$1,000 for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, donated over \$4,000 for HOBY, spent 112 hours reading to children on Read Across America Day, and donated \$230,405 in scholarships to the youth of Virginia! GFWC Virginia gained 16 new pledges in the statewide ESO program.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Mary Ball Woman’s Club – Northern District**

This club decorated “The Learning Corner”, a child-friendly area of a study room at a local community college. While the parents study, the young children can play with the toys, books, and games for all ages, races, and religions.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – Farmville Junior Woman’s Club – Alice Kyle District**

This club provided thirty books to the local elementary school “Eagle Nests”, three different bird houses that are used as little free libraries, each designated for specific grade levels.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

This club sponsored a Candidate Forum for Newport News School Board prior to elections. Club members compiled questions from the community, promoted the event via social media, and had over 125 attendees. This forum helped voters make informed decisions about their local School Board and encouraged community engagement for the benefit of school aged children.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – GFWC Pearisburg Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

This club sponsored the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in Giles County. They raised money to fund the books that are distributed monthly and promoted the service to register 330 children so far. They continue to promote the program which provides free books for children, from birth to five years of age.

**Best Overall – Small Club – Pembroke Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

This club held several different interactive summer programs for the community. Topics included nutrition, 4H, Master Gardeners, Naloxone training, sewing, and genealogy.

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

This club promoted Education & Libraries to club members. ESO, National Thesaurus Day, National Library Shelfie Day, as well as book swaps, bookmark making, and book discussions were all part of the “WCT Club Literary Adventures”.

**ENVIRONMENT 373 Projects 22,376 Hours**

**Emily Amick, Chairman \$1,979 Donated and \$51,183 In Kind**



**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

This club donated used pumpkins to local farms. The club collected a total of 100 pumpkins and delivered them to a local farm in the county, which were used as food for farm animals after the fall holidays were over.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Junior’s Woman’s Club of Hilton Village – Tidewater District**

The club worked to educate members on ways to make spring cleaning more sustainable in the monthly newsletter. The environment chairman also shared tips at a meeting that would help members make more sustainable cleaning choices that could protect members and the environment. Spring cleaning is a terrific way to donate unwanted items, reduce waste, and help the planet.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – General – GFWC Swift Creek Woman’s Club – Southside District**

This club held a pet shower for two months. A list of needed items from a local shelter was provided. Club members responded by bringing items to meetings. Helping animals is just as important as helping the planet and each other.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – No Winner**

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

This club celebrated the 30th anniversary of their butterfly garden. The garden is located at the Community Center. In 2024, new plants, new stepping stones, and a new memorial was installed for a recently deceased club member. The club celebrated the anniversary in August. Butterflies are not only beautiful, but they contribute to the environment through pollination, which is crucial for plant reproduction and biodiversity.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Manassas, Inc. – Northern District**

The club participated in the annual Manassas Bee Festival. the club spent a “crafternoon” preparing 535 wildflower seed goody bags for attendees along with club and bee pollinator information. Bees are crucial pollinators, facilitating the reproduction of many plants and food crops. Bees support a wide range of ecosystems.

## FUNDRAISING

Miranda Lester, Chairman

288 Projects 36,706 Hours  
Dollars Raised \$530,680



### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club – Southside District**

This club hosted a Princess Tea Party where 11 club members decorated and elaborate venue with colorful princess decorations, a Fairy Godmother was present, refreshments served, and photographs taken.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – Essex County Junior Woman’s Club – Lee District**

This club hosted an “Egg My Yard” event with stuffed eggs and sold spots to the local community where they hide the eggs.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Women’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

This club partnered with a bank (First Bank) and held Customer Appreciation Hot Dog Day. Members worked hard prepping food, cleaning tables, and serving drinks.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club hosted their annual event with a raffle called “Wheelbarrow of Fun.” It was filled with various beer, wine, spirits, and glassware.

### **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Bedford Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

This club of only 12 members held its 49th year of the largest fundraiser for their club, Holiday Mart. With an amazing number of 654 volunteer hours, they have help from Liberty High School’s FFA and Bedford Baptist Church. Advertising is the key to this successful event, and they covered all avenues from newspaper to website to yard signs! Funds raised help local nonprofits, pay for the clubs operating expenses for their projects.

### **Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Springfield, Inc. – Northern District**

This club has the MOST volunteer hours of all the clubs with a total of 4,235 for the year 2024. Their success has been The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop. This shop has been open for 59 years and provides materials at a very affordable price. The profit is returned to the community in the form of scholarships and other community service grants. The Pink Elephant lost its lease this past summer and had to permanently close its doors in December. The members of the club were extremely dedicated to making the shop a success and kept it open until its last day. The club donated \$6,430.24 for grants to the community. Their hard work and dedication deserve to be recognized as the Best Overall. Well done ladies of Springfield!

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM 567 Projects 33,276 Hours**

Suzzane Williams Chairman \$66,787 Donated & \$95,199 In-Kind



Clubs’ activities included supporting affiliated programs with donations and in-kind contributions, as well as meeting community needs. Club meetings emphasized disease prevention through meeting programs as well as participating in exercise routines which are fun and beneficial.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – Woman's Club of Arlington – Northern District**

This club makes pillows for heart surgery patients. These patients are urged to cough after surgery to clear their lungs and the pillows provide a buffer to lessen pain. The club made 100 big heart pillows that were given to Arlington and Inova Fairfax hospitals.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman's Club GFWC – Alice Kyle District**

Members are encouraged to exercise and track their healthy eating habits throughout the year. This year, members tracked their personal exercises in a number of activities as well as at their own pace. One member volunteered with a local youth soccer organization!

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club – Tidewater District**

This club developed the project Newborns in Need which provides necessities for premature babies and babies born in crisis in local hospitals. The club assembled Essential Kits which contained many items including a diaper bag, diapers, a pack of baby wipes, a changing pad, and a fleece blanket.



**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – GFWC Pearisburg Junior Woman's Club – Southwestern District**

This club is active in several areas promoting personal health awareness as well as contributing to the community by hosting a blood drive, donating period product bags to the school's free pantry, and conducting a diaper drive for the local health department's pregnant teens resources.

**Best Overall – Small Club – Buena Vista Woman's Club – Shenandoah District**

The club donated snacks, paper products and household items to a local domestic violence shelter, donated 70 pounds of food on GFWC Day of Service, and invited a local resident to share her experience as a foster mother. Her talk raised awareness about the need and rewards of foster care.

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Women's Club – Blue Ridge District**

This club spent volunteer time and in-kind donations over a wide range of areas including addressing food insecurity, creating an information brochure about the lethal opioid Fentanyl, and personal care through exercise and health screenings.

**LEADERSHIP**                      **780 Projects 56,486 Hours**  
**Cynthia Baroody, Chairman**              **\$129,174 Spent**  
**Lynn Chapman, Junior Chairman**



**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Woman's Club of South Norfolk – Tidewater District**

Staying Informed and Inspired – The club handbook was updated with printed copies provided and digital copies available on the club's Google Drive. Treasured members communications improvement efforts: Forwarding GFWC Tidewater information via email, group text messaging, personal phone calls, Facebook page and our Member News page on our website as we encourage all members to explore GFWC resource websites

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Hopewell – Southside District**

Juniorette Club Mentorship – This club utilizes its combined leadership expertise and skills to advise and mentor a Juniorette club. The mentors strive to instill in them a great appreciation for federation, serving their communities, and strengthening their knowledge of GFWC.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Herndon Woman's Club – Northern District**

Developed a Standard Operating Guide – This club recognized the value of having a comprehensive document to aid both officers and members in the operation of their club. A committee worked to develop a set of guidelines, responsibilities and performance outcomes to help run the club more efficiently.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

Strategic Planning Retreat – This club held a strategic planning retreat for the executive board at the start of this administration. The purpose of the meeting was for incoming board members to collaborate and develop their club's goals which specifically focused on membership, service, and fundraising.

**Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Regency Woman's Club – Lee District**

This small club continues to use a simpler and more flexible organizational structure concentrating on fewer departments to use their resources wisely. Officer positions as well as chairmen positions are adjusted each year as needed. The members all work together to plan agendas and conduct meetings. Everyone has a backup plan if needed. This club revisits and brainstorms every year to do what is necessary to continue the club operations.

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club – Blue Ridge District**

This club's executive board along with the community service chairmen held a leadership team retreat in August to set the budget and discuss and plan the projects and programs for the year. This club has developed a collaborative partnership with Bent Mountain Center. This collaborative partnership has significantly enhanced the ability to serve and impact the community. The club members volunteered for major community events: Summer Fest, Fall Festival, Christmas Festival and parade to name a few. By working together, the Bent Mountain Woman's Club and the Bent Mountain Center have effectively combined resources and efforts, achieving greater outcomes than they could individually.

**LEGISLATION and PUBLIC POLICY 127 Projects 1,230 Hours**  
**Celeste Corrigan Chairman \$288 Spent**



With 2024 being a Presidential election year, there was a strong effort to ‘get out the vote’ across the state. Clubs encouraged their members to register and use the Legislative Action Center. Many of the clubs participated in the GFWC Virginia Legislative Day in Richmond. Dr. Sandra Treadway gave an informative talk on the new monument, “The Voices in the Garden”, and the 7 Virginia women represented.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – Woman’s Club of Phoebus – Tidewater District**

The Woman’s Club of Phoebus noticed a problem in their community. The City of Hampton has many Airbnb’s. Many are unregulated. This causes problems in their neighborhoods with noise, parking, and many other issues. By communicating with our City Council about this, the city is now trying to limit and control Airbnb’s.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Winner**

**Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

The Woman’s Club of Newport News sponsored a Candidate Forum for City Council and School Board candidates. Invitations were sent to all candidates to participate in a question-and-answer forum. Over 150 residents were involved. The goal of the forum was to help voters become better educated on the candidates and community issues.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – No Winner**

**Best Overall – Small Club – No Winner**

**Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

The Woman’s Club of Tidewater had 75% of their members registered with the Legislation Action Center. Legislative concerns are viewed through the Legislative Action Corner in News and Notes for all members to have access. To encourage civic engagement information from GFWC is reprinted in the club newsletter or forwarded to members via email; this also included articles about GFWC Resolutions.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Carolyn Fellers, Chairman 480 projects 18,989 hours**  
**Alaina Chaffee, Junior Chairman \$52,664 spent and \$11,286 in-kind**



**Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Woman’s Club of the Eastern Shore – Tidewater District**

WC of the Eastern Shore: Trading Closets Tidewater District

Members are asked to clean out their closets and bring clothing and accessories. A member sets up this “boutique” setting in her home. Members can shop before and after the meeting. They may take home whatever they like at no cost. Items not selected are donated to a local homeless shelter, thrift store or safe house. Members bring food to share.

**Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – Narrows Junior Woman’s Club of GFWC – Southwestern District**

Recruitment and Retention: This club gathered together to participate in non-club activities together. Club members took a Christmas trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre for a delicious meal and entertainment. Members enjoyed each other’s company and shared their affiliation with others.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – General – GFWC Woman’s Club of Greene County – Shenandoah District**

One member learned about an informal gathering of people over “55” so she decided to attend. While there she ran into women she already knew. She was given the opportunity to share information about her woman’s club. Plus, they invited her to come back at a later date to share more. Women recruited from this group helped their club membership grow 10%.

**Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Woman’s Club of Williamsburg – Lee District**

Birthday Train: Members organized a "Birthday Train" activity to engage current club members. Members who participated in this optional activity were assigned a club member who has a birthday following theirs. They gave a small gift to their assigned member for their birthday. This allowed members to meet others they might not already know.

#### **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman's Club – Lee District**

Retention – this club played a game that allowed members get to know one another better. Each member completed a questionnaire to collect a variety of personal facts. They were also asked to provide one fact unknown to other members. A mystery member is selected at each meeting. The member who guessed the name of the mystery member won a prize. If no one guessed correctly, then the mystery member won the prize.

#### **Best Overall – Large Club – Woman's Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

Two projects stand out for this club. One is a "Drive By" meeting in a parking lot where they collect donations of recyclable items, touch base with each other, recruit and fundraise. The other is the creation of painted rocks with their QR code on one side. The rocks are placed in multiple areas of their community. The QR code allows people to connect with their club and receive information about the club.

#### **GFWC VIRGINIA 2024 – TOP RECRUITERS**

- Blue Ridge – Rebecca Ovelgoenner Blacksburg JWC 8 members
- Lee – Courtney Rogers – Junior Federated Club of Chester 6 members
- Northern – Nora Peterson – Dominion WC 5 members
- Shenandoah – Carol Lewis – WC of Greene County 10 members
- Southside – Barbara Barnes – WC of Windsor 4 members
- Southwestern – Carol Brown – Pennington Gap WC 2 members
- Tidewater – Sue Sasser – WC of Accomack 6 members

Each will receive a \$10 Marketplace gift certificate.

CONGRATULATIONS to Carol Lewis Woman's Club of Greene County as our GFWC Virginia **Top Recruiter for 2025** bringing 10 new members into federation. She will receive a \$25 Marketplace gift certificate. The winner of the recruiter coupon award will be drawn at convention and will receive a \$25 Marketplace gift certificate.

#### **GFWC STAR RECRUITERS**

##### **White Star (5 to 9 members)**

Rebecca Ovelgoenner, GFWC Blacksburg Junior Woman's Club  
Patricia Jeffress, GFWC Goochland Woman's Club  
Karen Johnston, Woman's Club of Western Fairfax  
Celeste Corrigan, GFWC Dominion Woman's Club  
Yvone Sening, Woman's Club of Fairfax  
Carol Preston, Woman's Club of Newport News

##### **Red Star (10 to 14 members)**

Jennifer Brame, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester  
Courtney Rogers, Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester  
Carol Lewis, GFWC Woman's Club of Greene County  
Sue Sasser, Woman's Club of Accomack

## NEWSLETTERS

Pat Jeffress, Editor of *The Virginia Clubwoman*

GFWC Virginia Newsletters were judged based on the following criteria: Appearance and organization, readability, GFWC affiliation logos, name of the club on the front cover, reports of officers and chairmen, member recognition, federation information, and reminders.

### Large Clubs

- 1st Place      *The Weekly Thread* (a weekly)  
GFWC Woman's Club of Hilton Village (Tidewater District)
- 2nd Place      *Metro Media*  
GFWC Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club (Lee District)
- 3rd Place      *Bulletin By The Bay*  
Poquoson Woman's Club (Tidewater District)



### Small Clubs

- 1st Place      *Worthy News*  
GFWC Worthington Woman's Club (Lee District)
- 2nd Place      *The Vinton View*  
GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton (Blue Ridge District)
- 3rd Place      Spotsylvania County Woman's Club Newsletter  
Spotsylvania Woman's Club (Northern District)

The enthusiastic story of community volunteerism and friendship was visible in all of the newsletters. This Editor has been the Editor over the course of ten years and was impressed with the digital abilities of ALL the club newsletter Editors. Great job ladies! You made it hard to choose.

## GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM

### ~ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Joyce Jolly, Chairman      150 Projects 3,782 Hours  
\$18,919 Donated & \$28,288 In-Kind



Clubs focused on educating club and community members and supporting the efforts of local organizations in preventing abusive behavior in their local communities.

#### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Regency Woman's Club – Lee District**

Members collected like-new clothing items which were sold on Poshmark and at a sale in a member's home. Proceeds were donated to several local organizations.

#### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman's Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

The club held a fundraiser to support FreeKind Inc. which is a curriculum for middle and high school students and focuses on human trafficking. A donation was made to the local school department to support the purchase of the curriculum.

#### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – No Winner**

#### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester – Lee District**

Twenty-eight new club members joined together to fill 900 eggs with candy and cash for the Eggstravaganza event. They hid the eggs, served food and cleaned up afterward.

#### **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Worthington Woman's Club – Lee District**

This club sponsored nine projects in support of the following: scholarships, pinwheel gardens, purple ribbons, provided Mother's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas events, and made monetary donations to organizations.

#### **Best Overall – Large Club – GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club – Tidewater District**

The club sponsored twelve projects in support of the following: held diaper drive, solicited restaurant coupons, donated winter clothing, made treat bags for Valentine's Day, set up a pinwheel garden, had egg hunt, Mother's Day, Halloween and Christmas events, filled backpacks, and sponsored guest speakers.

## **STATE PROJECT: Early Childhood Education**

**Nancy Vadersen, Chairman**

**98 Projects 1,458 Volunteer Hours \$6,861 Donated \$17,112 In-Kind**



Clubs promoted formal and informal education that guides the growth and development of children throughout their preschool years (birth to age five) through school supply drives, donations of books to local preschools and Title One schools, and support of Head Start programs and teachers.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Ashcake Woman’s Club – Lee District**

The club purchased foam floor tiles, a bean bag chair, three bookshelves and 20 fictional books for the Hanover Health Department’s project to create a Book Nook in the waiting area for children.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hilton Village – Tidewater District**

This club donated \$100 to the First United Preschool to sponsor a visit to the school by the Portsmouth Children’s Museum.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – The Woman’s Club of Windsor, Inc – Southside District**

During the town’s National Night Out event, the club had a booth providing pictures for preschool children to color, helping children turn bags of grapes into butterflies, giving children books and toys from a Treasure Chest, and providing hula hoops for children to exercise.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club held three events and two fundraisers for Dolly Parton Imagination Library, registering over 370 children and raising \$482 for DPIL.

### **Best Overall – Small Club – Henry Clay Woman’s Club of GFWC – Lee District**

The club adopted a Domestic Violence Shelter’s pre-kindergarten student and provided her with back-to-school supplies, provided two preschool children with gifts for Christmas, provided sixty Dr. Seuss themed treat bags for Story Time at the library, and collected children’s books for four Little Libraries.

### **Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Fairfax – Northern District**

The “Grandmas” supported Fairfax Preschool by giving a Welcome Back to School Basket to the preschool staff, making a Halloween craft with two classes, holding a fall bulb planting activity and a Thanksgiving craft project, and giving each child a book to read during winter break.

## **GFWC WOMEN’S HISTORY and RESOURCE CENTER**

**Hope Royer, Chairman**

**115 Projects 2,516 Hours**

**\$3,080 Donated \$3,920 In-Kind Donations**



Clubs celebrated women’s history in monthly newsletter articles, reports and programs at club meetings and through creative club projects. Club histories were updated. Donations included community projects, GFWC Headquarters Façade Restoration and Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation.

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – General – GFWC Bedford Woman’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

“Empowering Women Veterans” exhibit commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and the roles of women in the community during World War II. The exhibit at the Bedford Boys Center was open in June at no cost to the public,

### **Best Single Project – Small Club – Junior – Staunton/Augusta Junior Woman’s Club – Shenandoah District**

2024 Christmas ornament honored celebrated community philanthropist and designer of the building featured on the ornament. Her history was shared with club members, included on the ornament insert and was used in an interview with a local newspaper.

### **Best Single Project – Large Club – General – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District**

Creative end of year history presentation celebrated Americana associated with farming. Original script, costumes, props, favors and refreshments reflected a “Down on the Farm” theme.



### **Best Single Project – Large Club – Junior – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

Used social media to promote active participation in GFWC’s Call to Action on “The Women’s Suffrage Monument on the National Mall” legislation.

### **Best Overall – Small Club – GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club – Lee District**

Updated digital club history; celebrated club anniversary on Federation Day; focused on women veterans; November book discussion (The Women); American Quarters Program; donated to GFWC Façade Restoration Project and Women’s Suffrage Monument Foundation.

### **Best Overall – Large Club – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

Celebrated club past presidents on Federation Day; honored past club officers with “Days of Service” project; used women centric stamps on club mail; attended GFWC Holiday Open House, donated to the WHRC; and the historic Peninsula Rescue Mission.

## **GFWC AFFILIATE AWARDS**

**Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President**



### **Alzheimer’s Association – Woman’s Club of Newport News – Tidewater District**

Many members of this club participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, collected donations for the Association and made and sold fascinators with the money going to the association. Educational information was included at meetings and in newsletters.

### **Canine Companions for Independence – GFWC Metropolitan Richmond Woman’s Club – Lee District**

This club had a “puppy raiser” and her current dog visit their club to educate them on the program. The Club made a monetary donation to CCI.

### **Heifer International – GFWC Swift Creek Woman’s Club – Southside District**

This club “purchased” goats, sheep, pigs, garden seeds, honeybees and chickens to benefit those in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries.

### **Hope for Justice – GFWC Woman’s Club of Tidewater – Tidewater District**

This club generously donated to Hope for Justice.

### **March of Dimes – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District**

This club prepared personal care kits for parents of children in Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit at a local hospital

### **Operation SMILE – GFWC Great Bridge Woman’s Club – Tidewater District**

This club raised money for Operation SMILE, made No-No Arm Bands, fleece blankets and donated plush animals and other items for Smile bags.

### **St. Jude Hospital – Woman’s Club of Smithfield – Southside District**

This club had 36 members participate in the St. Jude Virtual 5K, raising \$1,353 for the hospital

### **UNICEF – GFWC Botetourt Town & Country Women’s Club – Blue Ridge District**

The club donated monies at several of their meetings in support of UNICEF.

## **JUNIORS’ SPECIAL PROGRAM ~ ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

**Amanda Paez, Chairman    211 Projects    3,668 Hours**  
**\$80,728 Donated & \$22,158 In-Kind**



Clubwomen across the Commonwealth supported programs and community partnerships that positively impacted the lives of children in 2024. Whether through monetary donations, supporting schools through supply drives, addressing food insecurity, and even supporting regional efforts for foster and at-risk children, GFWC Virginia has held the mission of enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service to heart.

### **Best Single Project – General – Small – Wytheville Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

Always looking for an innovative way to raise awareness, the amazing Wytheville Woman’s Club hosted a children’s bicycle raffle at the GFWC Virginia Summer Conference. Over \$500 was raised for the GFWC Virginia Advocates for Children program.

### **Best Single Project – Junior – Small – GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman’s Club – Lee District**

Backpacks of Love is an organization that sends food home with students that face food insecurity. The Powhatan Junior Woman’s Club highlighted this program by collaborating with Crazy Rooster Brewing Company to host a collection drive at the brewery. 162 jars of peanut butter were donated.

### **Best Single Project – General – Large – Poquoson Woman’s Club – Tidewater District**

Transitioning into foster care can be an overwhelming experience. After reaching out to their local social services agency about how they could help, the Poquoson Woman’s Club donated monogrammed duffel bags for children and age-appropriate books. They also enlisted the services of a photographer, so the children could have pictures of themselves and their siblings.

### **Best Single Project – Junior – Large – GFWC Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District**

After learning about an organization in the county that provides local support for foster children awaiting placement in a safe, loving home, the Appalachian Leading Ladies JWC decided to participate in the ‘Bin Buddies’ program. This program encourages the community to team up to supply each child with a host of new clothes, toiletries, shoes, toys, blankets and more. Club members adopted a bin, which they’ll keep filled for these crisis situations, which can occur at any time.

### **Best Overall – Small – GFWC Regency Woman’s Club – Lee District**

With nine projects and over \$1000 in in-kind/monetary donations, the GFWC Regency Woman’s Club supported the Davis Child Advocacy Center which assists its services during child abuse cases, the Salvation Army’s Christmas Assistance Programming ensuring the neediest in our community feel the Spirit of the Season, the Children’s Hospital Foundation, and several of our affiliate programs.

### **Best Overall – Large – Junior Federated Woman’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

With five projects and over \$2400 in in-kind/monetary donations, the Junior Federated Woman’s Club of Chester provided blankets for the VCU Children’s Hospital, diapers and wipes for the Chesterfield Food Bank, supported Girls for a Change which empowers young black women to make positive change in their community, and partnered with their YMCA for several programs, including volunteering with Bright Beginnings program to help children get ready for the school year, assisting at an Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, and Holiday Extravaganza.

## **Director of Junior Clubs Awards**

**Joanne Dixon, GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs**



### **GFWC VIRGINIA CLUB – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**

This GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs will award an Outstanding Achievement Award to one club in each size category. The Junior Club that demonstrates leadership within the club’s level, while also supporting Advocates for Children in our communities.

### **Small Club – Narrows Junior Woman’s Club of GFWC – Southwestern District**

Narrows Juniors hosted their 41st annual TV auction fundraiser, raising over \$13,000. Members collect hundreds of donations to be auctioned, including monetary prizes, in-kind donations, and free services. The club provides scholarships to five graduating high school seniors, and assistance for HOBY and 4-H camperships. They donated clothing to needy families, contributed to Camp Easter Seal, the food shelters, for needy children. They support the local splash pad, contributing toward free summer admission. Narrows Juniors adopted families for Thanksgiving and Christmas and contributed to local high schools. Members collect plastic, pop tabs and empty pill bottles for recycling, and repurpose old books and magazines by donating them to doctor offices, senior center and nursing homes. Members serve in a variety of leadership positions. The club offers \$5 off dues for each member who draws a new member to the club. The club hosts a secret pal gift exchange.

### **Large Club – Junior Federated Woman’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

The Junior Federated Junior Woman’s Club of Chester (JFWCC) hosted several events for children in partnership with the Chester YMCA and partnered with a non-profit organization to help make crochet blankets for chemo patients during treatment. They supported a blanket drive for Homeless Vets, food donations to the Chesterfield Food Bank, Christmas Mother donations, JC Homelife donations, and sponsored a table at the 7th Annual MLK Jr Service Awards Breakfast at the Chester YMCA. JFWCC continued their partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Three registration events were held throughout the year to increase awareness of the program, signing up more than 370 children which translates to 1,850 donated books.

### **GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

This recognition award is to recognize the dedication and hard work of a special Junior Club Women over the last calendar year. The GFWC Virginia Junior organization recognizes the outstanding work done by Juniors of Virginia and all they do to promote leadership and volunteerism.

**No entries received for 2024**

### **GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR NEW CLUBWOMAN AWARD**

This recognition award is to recognize the dedication and hard work of a new Clubwoman in last calendar year. The GFWC Virginia Junior organization recognizes the outstanding work done by Juniors of Virginia and all they do to promote leadership and volunteerism.

### **Melissa Estes – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

A new member of the Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester, Melissa has stood out for her enthusiasm and commitment to club work. She has engaged with her fellow new members, volunteered at many events, and volunteered to chair the clubs Polly Parton Imagination Library. She has been instrumental in hosting events aimed at enrolling more children. She is tireless in her efforts to raise money for this program and has also started Spanish lessons to better connect with families in her community. Melissa has made significant contributions to the club’s success. Her ability to inspire and motivate others has played a crucial role in the club’s impact in the community.

### **GFWC VIRGINIA JUNIOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This award can be awarded to anyone who is nominated, is an active GFWC Virginia Junior Club member when nominated, and attaining at least 110 points on the form in the Junior Awards section of the Yearbook.

**No entries received for 2024**

### **GFWC Virginia Junior Honor Society**

The Junior Honor Society is recognition of a club's high level of participation in Federation activities, particularly those that are directly sponsored by the Junior organization. In order to qualify, clubs must meet a minimum point level in the following sections: Federation activities, Federation Funding, Federation meetings and Special awards. There are three award categories (participation award for those who submit information but don't meet minimums): Gold, Silver and Bronze. Participation certificate given to clubs who do not meet the minimum criteria.

#### **Participation**

Narrows Junior Woman’s Club of GFWC – Southwestern District

#### **Bronze**

GFWC James River Junior Woman’s Club – Southside District

GFWC Pearisburg Junior Woman’s Club – Southwestern District

#### **Silver**

Farmville Junior Woman’s Club – Alice Kyle District

#### **Gold**

Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District

#### **Gold & Highest Point Total**

Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District

# **SPECIAL JUNIOR AWARDS**

## **CORRINE MURRAY AWARD**

### **Large Club – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club’s participation in the community included partnering with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library providing feminine hygiene products to middle schools, and donating money to Communities in Schools.

### **Small Club – No Entries Received**

## **MARJORIE BRANCH AWARD**

### **Large Club – Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester – Lee District**

This club was selected for the Marjorie Branch award for promoting membership in their club. This club recognizes that by celebrating, revitalizing, and re-energizing current members they are able to maintain a strong club. Their entry showed this club had many activities to attract new members and retain existing members.

### **Small Club – No Entries Received**

## **PHYLLIS V. ROBERTS AWARD**

Three large clubs submitted nominations for the Phyllis V. Roberts Award, with two clubs presenting particularly strong submissions. The Junior Federated Woman’s Club of Chester paid a beautiful and touching tribute to a long-standing member who had passed away by organizing an evening of service in her honor.

### **Large Club – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

This club demonstrated the essence of the award through extensive engagement with General clubs across various programs, fundraising activities, meetings, and projects.

This club increased their engagement with General clubs last year. Members attended various GFWC events at district, state, and national levels, such as the GFWC Holiday Open House, GFWC Virginia Convention, Northern District Spring and Fall Meetings, GFWC Virginia Conference, and Southeastern Region Conference. Club members also participated in the Western Fairfax Woman's Club Mystery Dinner Theater scholarship fundraiser, the Woman’s Club of Loudoun’s Attic Sale fundraiser and their 80th Anniversary Party. Northern District General clubs joined the clubs holiday gift drives, volunteered at the Out of Darkness Walk event, and supported bingo fundraisers.

In September 2024, the club organized a friendly food drive competition with six other Northern District GFWC Virginia clubs: The Woman's Club of Arlington Virginia, GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club, The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Mary Ball Woman's Club, Woman's Club of Fairfax, and Woman's Club of Springfield, VA. The club challenged these clubs to collect items at their September meeting for their local food pantry in honor of the GFWC National Day of Service. A total of 263 pounds of food was collected and donated to Loudoun Hunger Relief. Collectively, the seven clubs donated approximately 1,750 cans and packaged goods to local food banks, totaling \$1,600 in-kind donations.

This club has shown dedication to collaborative service and promoting engagement at a variety of events throughout GFWC.

### **Small Club – No Entries Received**

## **SHELBY PAISLEY HAMLETT AWARD**

### **Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

This clubs efforts of partnering with Mobile Hope ensured that young girls and their families could access hygiene products they needed which is vital for maintaining health, dignity and educational attendance.

## **SHENANDOAH DISTRICT AWARD**

### **Large Club – Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

This club is the sole Junior Club in their District. They are rebuilding their leadership roles and connections with their District starting with the Third Vice President, Director of Junior Clubs. This Director has also chaired numerous times a large project held annually which helps teens with formal wear for prom. She is also a member of the Dogwood Society. This club supports the members who are serving and have served on all levels of GFWC and GFWC Virginia.

**Small Club – Farmville Junior Woman’s Club – Alice Kyle District**

The Shenandoah award is presented to a small but mighty club. This club has three members, one of which is new and has already taken a leadership position attending GFWC LEADS, developing her own “why” for joining GFWC and revamped the Club Handbook. While supporting this member, this club continues to serve their community and each other.

**SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT JUNIOR AWARD IN LEGISLATION**

**Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun – Northern District**

This club took action to share and support the GFWC call to Build the Women’s Suffrage Monument on the National Mall, which was sent to local representatives and senators. Through the power of social media, they were able to reach quite a few people all over and were successful in their efforts as the proposal for the site was passed. They also encouraged members to fill out all the forms on the GFWC Action Center. These ladies have been very active in their local legislative efforts.