



GFWC VIRGINIA TOP TEN - 2021

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT

1. GFWC Grundy Woman's Club participated **a game** with a local Domestic Violence Shelter speaker. Each member was provided fake money and presented with a problem involving family dynamics. The family consisted of two children and a dog. The husband was very abusive and you were given the option of leaving, staying in different places with different regulations about children and a dog. The option of staying with the abusive husband required no money. Going to a shelter for two weeks with no dog or going to a hotel for a week with children and dog required money. The membership discussed what to do when money ran out. The exercise was designed to think about what women in violent relationships struggle with daily.
2. GFWC Mary Ball Woman's Club discussed the needs of **EmpowerHouse** Executive Director. The EmpowerHouse Domestic Violence was unable to open due to COVID restrictions which resulted in in programs and meeting being able to be conducted at the shelter located in Northern Virginia. Every other week, the club was able to provide "activity kits" which included board and card games, puzzles, slime kits, jewelry and beads kits, early reader books, coloring books, art, drawing and coloring materials. The goal of proving the kits were to help alleviate the boredom of being home bound and not utilizing the services at EmpowerHouse.
3. GFWC Kanawha Woman's Club has **supported Rosa** who is a quadriplegic and paralyzed by a gunshot wound from her husband while pregnant for twenty years. Due to her infirmities she has lived in a nursing home. With the COVID restrictions, club members were unable to visit and decorate her room. Cards were sent for different holidays and Thinking-of-You. Over time, club members began to deliver gifts and room decorations in "Trashy Bags" to the front desk ten times throughout the year. Deliveries consisted of birthday, Valentine, Easter, and Halloween goodies. The personal visits to a resilient and tough domestic violence survivor have been sorely missed.
4. GFWC Worthington Woman's Club participated in a "**Bedsheet Collection Drive**" sponsored by the Chesterfield Domestic and Sexual Violence Resource Center. The sheet sets are given to survivors of sexual assault after their sheets are taken as evidence during a criminal investigation. The bedsheet packages include the contact number to the county resource center. The sheet sets are provided to survivors on scene by forensic technicians.
5. GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club provided 35 "**Cuddle and Snuggle**" bags for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) for the City of Chesapeake. Reusable Bags are filled with a small blanket, homemade cookies, a book and a small toy. A bag is provided to each child in a household to make them feel more comfortable with the situation occurring in their household.
6. The Woman's Club of Newport News donated 367 bras which were sent to **Free the Girls** non-profit organization. Free the Girls organization assist women who have been rescued from sex- trafficking situations. Utilizing an economic empowerment model, the bras are provided to formerly trafficked women in developing countries become entrepreneurs by selling the bras in their local second-hand clothing market.
7. The Woman's Club of Accomack County **sponsored a "Hole"** for the LGA Invitational Golf Tournament held at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club. The tournament benefitted the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
8. During December of 2021, the GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club donated a Santa Costume including the beard. After locating a volunteer Santa to fit the suit perfectly, Santa and his elf visited children **Help and Emergency Response Center (H.E.R)**. Santa talked with the children and provided them with a gift. After reading The Night before Christmas, Santa left on his sleigh.
9. GFWC Cobra Juniette Club had 6 members took the **Cool, Not Cool online quiz**. The initiative assisted in raising awareness to Teen Dating Violence including unhealthy relationships and digital abuse. By taking the quiz, the members learned about red flags and discussed the importance of having a support system.
10. The Tri Club Woman's Club filled **72 comfort bags** to distribute to Safe Harbor and provided to victims of domestic violence. Each gallon bag was filled with a bar of soap, wash cloth, hand towel, nail clippers and nail file, comb, tooth brush, tooth paste, deodorant and pack of tissues.

ARTS & CULTURE

1. **The GFWC Star Woman's Club** created a virtual SHERO program for Black History Month. The program consisted of videos of local black women engaged in dance, art, music and poetry.
2. **The GFWC Goochland Woman's Club** created a **Virtual Club Scavenger Hunt** of historic and art related spaces in and around Goochland. Clues for the scavenger hunt were sent to the membership via email. Club members could visit the suspected locations regarding solving the clue in person, take a photograph and submit findings, or visit the clue online and answer a question that could only be found in the online description. The results were emailed to the Arts and Culture Chairman. The person who found the most correct answers to the clues was awarded a \$10 Amazon virtual gift certificate. The Arts and Culture chairman presented a program about each historic site featured in the hunt for the October in-person and ZOOM club meeting. The winner of the scavenger hunt was announced at the conclusion of the program.
3. **The GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas** sponsored a presentation of the musical *Peter and the Wolf*. A CD of the musical was sent to third grade classes at two area elementary schools. The program is intended to expose young children to literature and classical music. Club members created and printed a coloring book for each child (300+) showing the characters of the story and the musical instruments that represented each character in the production. To follow-up and enrich the program further, club members returned to the schools the following week and presented an **instrument "petting zoo"**. Sixteen students from the high school traveled to one of the elementary schools with their music instruments. They were positioned around the cafeteria so that each instrument was a station. Students from both elementary schools were divided into groups of 10 and each time the bell rang, 5–8-minute sessions each, they moved to the next instrument. Each high school student told a little about themselves and their music interests and educated the children on the characteristics and workings of their instrument, showing them how it was played. Certificates of appreciation were given to the high school students along with bags of candy. Certificates and gift cards were presented to the music teachers.
4. **A Virtual Murder Mystery Performance** was organized and presented by the **GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club**. A member of the club owns a dinner theater production company and agreed to host a virtual show with several of the club members playing the characters. She adapted the stage play, *Murder By the Book*, to a virtual performance, created character cards, conducted several tech rehearsals with members and presented the show on a Sunday afternoon. Nine members participated as characters in the show many members attended the virtual performance.
5. During the COVID Pandemic, the **Riparian Woman's Club** decided to honor the many unspoken heroes of their small town by replacing the old **'True Heroes'** mural which the club had commissioned several years ago, and which was weathered and fading. Club members researched and found a local artist willing to design and paint the mural. Designs were submitted to the club committee for their suggestions and approval. Images in the mural honor the services of volunteers who answer emergency calls as well as the military, police, and the medical community who look after our health and safety. Because of the pandemic restrictions, the club could not hold a community wide dedication of the mural so key persons represented in the mural such as doctor, nurse, police officer, rescue squad, fireman, and military personnel were invited to stand in front of the mural, social distancing and with masks required, for a photo which was placed in the local newspaper.
6. As a follow-up to the virtual presentation by the Executive Director of Burfoot House, a residential training program for homeless women in Chesapeake, Virginia, the **GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club** delivered to each resident, a journal, sketch pad, gel pens, coloring pencils, an inspirational coloring book, a pencil sharpener, and a handwritten personal note in a holiday card. The director had emphasized the need for volunteers to teach and/or lead art and crafts projects, and support art therapy initiatives. In addition to the individual resident gifts, the club also supplied the organization with large inspirational coloring books, a coloring pencil set, and a set of 100 different colored gel pens.
7. **The Lexington Woman's Club** sponsored their **27th Annual Student Writing Contest**. Students from nine local schools and two home schooled students submitted 225 entries. The committee contacted all area principals and teachers by letter to inform them of the contest, the dates, and the rules for entries, at the beginning of the school year and sent follow-up emails prior to the final entry date. Students or their teachers placed the entries in a collection box at the local library or hand delivered them to the committee. Entries

were judged by qualified judges recruited from the community. Awards were given for Short Story and Poetry.

8. The Arts and Culture committee of the **Woman's Club of Powhatan County** created a project to complete during the Covid-19 Pandemic, **Comfort Pillows for Post-Operative Breast Cancer Patients**. Monetary and supply donations were received from the membership for the kits. Kits were created for those members doing the sewing and included written instructions with a You-Tube instruction reference. The comfort pillows help the patients after surgery by providing a soft structure to avoid irritation near the surgical site and the subcutaneous port area, are, when using a car seat belt. The club members also created handmade tags with ribbon and well wishes to pin on each pillow. A total of 185 comfort pillows were completed and delivered to the Women's Wellness Group, Johnston Willis Hospital, Midlothian, Virginia. The pillows will undergo quarantine prior to being distributed by the hospital.
9. **Operation Gratitude Thank You Notes** that had been handmade by several members of the **Woman's Club of Springfield**, totaling 199, and decorated with patriotic themes were then distributed to the club members who wrote personal messages and words of encouragement in each note card. The cards were then mailed to servicemen and service women.
10. The Arts and Culture committee, along with other members of the **Dominion Woman's Club**, sewed a total of **688 cloth Covid-19 masks** to donate to area nursing homes, hospitals, free clinics, and the Serve Our Willing Warriors Retreat Center located in Haymarket. This project was initiated during the time when there was a shortage personal protective equipment.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

1. **Adopt-A-Family** GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club - Blue Ridge District
This club adopted one family of 3 young children whose mother had passed, and the dad had back surgery and was unable to work. The club purchased new shoes for the children, and each received a new book bag filled with their grade appropriate supplies. Several ladies treated the children to a new outfit, socks, and underwear. The club provided Thanksgiving turkey dinner along with a gift card to purchase other needed food. At Christmas, gifts were provided by the members for the family.
2. **Front Desk Volunteers** GFWC Goochland WC - Lee District
Goochland Cares provides basic human services and health care to their Goochland neighbors in need. This organization provides a safety net in 12 program areas: Food, clothes, medical care, medical transportation, mental health care, dental care, case management, financial assistance, critical home repair, emergency housing, sexual and domestic violence services, and GED/ESL education. Goochland Cares served over 2,100 residents in its most recently reported year. The ladies of GFWC Goochland WC volunteer one day a week answering phone calls and routing questions to the proper offices.
3. **Operation Smile** Wayland Woman's Club - Shenandoah District
This club used the talents of their members to help support Operation Smile. One member constructed 155 hospital gowns from donated fabric. While others used some of that fabric to make 25 "Smile Bags". The club then got together to stuff the "Smile Bags" with goodies for the children undergoing transformative surgeries. Considerable effort went into each of these components of the project, in addition the members did the sorting, packaging and arranging of transportation to Operation Smile Headquarters.
4. **Blessing Box** Staunton Augusta Junior Women's Club - Shenandoah District
The members of Staunton Augusta JWC commissioned a special box to be built from a local technical center. This 'Blessing Box' was then installed at a business in town and is refilled bi-monthly by the members. Since the installation of the box, community members have also contributed to the project by adding additional items. The 'Blessing Box' supplies food, personal items, cleaning products and books, and most importantly now involves other folks in the community
5. **Veteran Memorial Bricks** GFWC Sedley Woman's Club - Southside District
A few years back this club took orders, landscaped, and constructed a Veteran's Memorial at the Community Park, which was designed to hold bricks that honored veterans from the local area. Unfortunately, some of the forms were lost before the brick were ordered. After many hours of investigation, they retrieved the names of all the people who ordered bricks for this memorial. Additionally new orders were taken. Now the bricks are in place at the Community Park with the Veteran's name, rank, and branch of service.
6. **Christmas Tree Craft Night** James River Junior Woman's Club - Southside District
At their Christmas meeting/party, the ladies of James River JWC also hosted a craft night. Christmas trees were made of metal clothes hangers and garland. The trees were decorated with ornaments and ribbons. They

made 19 beautiful and uniquely decorated trees to be donated to the Brighter Living Assisted Living Facility. When they delivered the Christmas trees, the members also got a chance to visit with the residents and sing Christmas Carols. Residents were able to pick a tree to take back to decorate their own rooms. Others were placed around the dining area to share the joy of the season

7. **PJs for Me** GFWC Sedley Woman's Club - Southside District
Members donated to a local organization that provides Pajamas to kids who are admitted to the children's floor at the local hospital. This seems like a simple donation but upon reading this club's report, it was clear that the PJs had an amazing and positive impact for children who are away from home for extended, especially when they don't feel well. This was much more than a simple gesture to brighten a child's day.
8. **Veteran's Recognition & Support** Woman's Club of Essex County, GFWC - Lee District
These women work diligently with members of the Rotary Club, American Legion and Retired Military Officers Association to plan and execute programs on Memorial Day, POW/MIA National Recognition Day, and Veteran's Day. One member spoke throughout the state and in D.C. on the plight of POW/MIA families. They also contributed to McGuire VA Hospital in lieu of hosting their annual Veteran Baby Shower because of Covid restrictions.
9. **"Little Thing Projects"** Bedford Woman's Club - Blue Ridge District
The "Little Thing Projects" consisted of 4 main elements that brought joy to the lives of folks in their community. The 4 projects consisted of Easter Cards for Seniors, Goodie Bags for the Bedford Social Services Staff, Snack Bags for local Military Troops being deployed to South Africa, and Stockings for Seniors.
10. **Writing Christmas Cards** Dominion Juniors Club - Northern District
While many clubs write Christmas cards to our troops, it was the amount of effort these young ladies put into this project that was notable. They began by researching an organization called 'Operation Christmas Card For Our Troops.' Over the next 4 weeks, the girls wrote thoughtful notes as to what the military member might want to hear about from back home. The girls, shared stories of their family or extended family members that served in the military and what that sacrifice was like. This conversation led to laughter and tears as stories were told. These girls came away with a new insight and understanding for what service to country means. They continue today to thank Veterans and active-duty members alike.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

1. South Boston-Halifax JWC, Alice Kyle District
Girls Rock Book Club. This program is designed to help girls in middle school improve their grades, strengthen their reading skills, voice their opinions and read outside of a routine school setting. The book club meets once a month at the middle school to discuss an assigned book selection. The students are encouraged to share their opinions of the book and discuss how the book can relate to their real-world experiences. Members of the JWC provide discussion questions, serve as discussion leaders, help guide the meetings, distribute surveys about the book, help choose future book selections and provide refreshments.
2. Club- GFWC Grundy Woman's Club, Southwestern District
The club sponsors an annual **college shower** for two graduating seniors who need help in preparing for dorm life. Members purchase needed dorm items such as sheet sets, comforters, flashlights, laundry detergent, laundry baskets, gift cards, backpacks and other items. The seniors and their parents are invited to the club's May meeting. They are provided dinner and honored with the shower items.
3. Club-Grundy Woman's Club, Southwestern District
The members of GWC partnered with Virginia Tech in the **County-wide STEM program**. All the County students in grade 5 participated in the program. Many different STEM projects were presented to the students with the club members helping the presenters.
4. Club- GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club, Inc., Lee District
To provide relief for the isolation of Covid, this club developed the **AAWC Read and Share program**. The purpose of the program was to encourage members to spend at least one hour each month reading selected short stories. Two selections were included in each month's newsletter with questions to consider about the stories. A Google document was used by the members to share their thoughts and read what other members had written.
5. Club-GFWC Goochland Woman's Club- Lee District

The members of this club purchased materials for a **blanket** for a fifth-grade student with Leukemia to use during her treatments. One club member cut the blanket from the fabric. Wanting the children in the class to make the blanket, the club members, with the school and teacher's permission, sat in the back of the class and called the children back one at a time to work on the blanket.

6. Club-Woman's Club of Sandston, Lee District

The members of this club donate 5 tote bags to the four elementary schools in October. The bags are called "**Children in Crisis Bags**" and are given to children who have a death or illness in their family, a fire in their home, or any situation the school's guidance deems a crisis. The bags contain a "lovey" blanket made by club members, a stuffed animal, an age-appropriate book, a coloring book and a box of crayons. Members deliver more tote bags throughout the year as needed.

7. Club- Junior Federated Woman's Club of Chester, Lee District

A local school challenged its students to a **One Book, One School Event**. Each family of the school was to read a book together. Families who completed the book were entered to win one of 12 prizes. The JFWCC supplied the family game packages. There were six packages for the lower grades and six packages for the upper grades. Each package included two games, popcorn, and candy.

8. Club-GFWC Dominion Woman's Club, Northern District

Pace West School holds a Holiday Bonanza and **PROWL PANTRY Party** for the students. PROWL is an incentive program where students can earn points for good behavior. The points can be redeemed for prizes from the Pantry closet. PROWL represents Prepared, Responsible, Open-minded, and Willing to Learn. The students strive to become "Panthers on the PROWL". The ladies of DWC keep the PROWL pantry closet stocked with prizes. The club also donates items for the Holiday Bonanza where students use their points to "buy" gifts for their families. DWC members wrap the gifts selected by the students in colorful paper.

9. Club-Woman's Club of Springfield, Northern District

The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop is a consignment shop owned, operated and staffed by the WCS. Children who visit the shop with their parents are offered a **free book**. As books are donated, a club member sorts the books by variety, ages and reading abilities. Funds from the Pink Elephant are used for projects for the Woman's Club.

10. Club-Bent Mountain Woman's Club, Blue Ridge District

The members of this club work with the Child Life Specialist for the Carilion Hospital Pediatric Unit. The club provides **books for the pediatric patients** to have to take home or to use as a distraction during a procedure. Parents are encouraged to read with their children during the child's hospital stay. The Woman's Club delivered 503 books this year to the hospital.

ENVIRONMENT

1. GFWC Dominion Woman's Club - Northern

Club members partnered with **Bull Run Mountain Conservancy (BRMC) and Leopold's Preserve (LP)** to learn more about the local environment and find ways to help care for and protect it. The members took hikes with a naturalist to explore forest, lowlands and wetlands. They volunteered to assist during the BRMC fundraiser, then worked at LP to improve directional signs, assist with a field burn to remove invasive plants, and planted/maintained native plants at the entrance area. Both organizations gave presentations during Club meetings and members learned about the importance of water conservation. On Earth Day members participated in a pond clean up at LP. Overall, the Club's program impacted the hundreds of visitors at LP each year, so they can enjoy the trails and the wildlife.

2. Pennington Gap Woman's Club — Southwestern District

Club members repaired holiday displays in the local park of their small town of 1,800 people. This year, members spent 120 hours to remove 450 sets of old lights from the Christmas Fantasy display, replace them with new lights and then donate the old lights to be striped and recycle the copper wiring. The project prevents the old lights from going into the landfill and it supports a wonderful family event for their community.

3. GFWC Junto Woman's Club — Southside District

Club members assembled 600 educational boxes for 5 local elementary schools. The Club is passionate about improving water quality in the Nansemond River, which runs through their community and they wanted to

encourage young people to learn about the waterways around them and their importance. The boxes contained a colorful map of the river, a bandana showing the local waterways, a ruler, and a stuffed waterfowl/animal found in or around the waterways of their community. The impact of this project is to inspire young children to be conscientious about polluting water and to appreciate the rivers importance to all kinds of wildlife. Members Participating: 18 Volunteer Hours: 46 Club Donation \$200 In-Kind Donation \$0

4. GFWC Junto Woman's Club — Southside District

Club members partnered with NRPA (Nansemond River Preservation Alliance) with a unique **oyster reef ball project** and a \$200 monetary donation. During the first activity, members filled mesh bags with oyster shells donated by a local seafood restaurant. Then members took the mesh bags and oyster reef balls they created in 2020 and placed them on the base of the river. The Club's efforts will hopefully create an artificial reef structure to help to improve oyster population. Oysters are currently in decline in this area due to the poor water quality.

The new oyster reefs will help provide habitat for crabs, fish and other wildlife, which helps filter pollution.

5. GFWC Floyd County Woman's Club, Inc. — Blue Ridge District

This large Club partnered with **Sustain Floyd**, which focuses on educating the community about environmentally sustainable practices. Club members provided educational programs at Floyd Farmer's Market on Saturdays and helped produce and distribute the Floyd Food Guide. The Guide provides the community with information about local Farmer's Markets, Community Supported Agricultural farms (CSAs) and the Energy Fair. Club members encouraged their community to eat healthy, organic foods and buy locally grown produce.

6. GFWC Bent Mountain Women's Club — Blue Ridge District

For over 25 years, the Club members of this small club volunteered 377 hours to maintain a **butterfly garden** for the Bent Mountain Elementary School. The members have regularly tended to the garden by purchasing native plants, annuals, weeding, mulching, and pruning. The butterfly garden contains a wide variety of native plants which provide food and habitat for variety of insects and birds, as well as butterflies. Over the years, they have added a bench, steppingstone paths and a bulletin board with information about butterflies. This year Club members hosted 4 programs about pollinators and their host plants. Each program focused on an age group (preschool, elementary, teen and adult) and included books, a craft, and exploration in the garden. Their community impact is encouraging young people to learn more about pollinators and their importance in the Ecosystem.⁵

7. Wayland Woman's Club - Shenandoah

Club members collected pillowcases to repurpose and sew into **Pillowcase Dresses**. The dresses were made for young girls in the state and sent to Southwest Virginia Partnership for distribution before Easter. Club members spent 270 hours to handmake 92 dresses using donated pillowcases, sheets and extra trimmings. The impact of this project was to alleviate some financial pressure on families in need and it was seen in the happy smiles of many young girls.

8. GFWC Varina Woman's Club - Lee

Club members donated **denim jeans to repurpose them for making quilts**. The denim jeans were cut into quilt size squares then sewn together to make three quilts. Then members sewed fleece to the back side of the quilts. The Club identified people in their community that were in need and distributed the quilts. One was received by a homeless man, one was given to a family in need, and one was given to a resident in a nursing home. The quilts were valued at \$50 each and the project prevented was a clever was to repurpose denim fabric.

9. Covington Woman's Club of GFWC - Shenandoah

This small Club organized a **community clean-up** in Spring and Fall. Club members supported a proclamation that was signed by the community's governing bodies, to declare April as the designated clean-up month. Each citizen in the community was encouraged to pick up one bag of litter during the week of April 11-17. The Club partnered with the Alleghany Chamber of Commerce to promote the community clean-up. Over 450 bags were distributed by Club to individuals, group and organizations. The Clubs efforts

were successful; a local business picked up 69 bags litter on Earth Day, a Ruritan club picked up 78 bags of litter, and the local inmate crew picked up 8,060 pounds of trash and 118 tires. The clean-up project made a big impact on their entire community by making it look nicer and preventing trash from entering streams and waterways.

10. Dominion Junioresettes Club - Northern

This small Club of Junioresettes **collected over 400 acorns and nuts** in their Haymarket, Virginia community. The program was educational for the members since they had to research and learn how to identify the species of trees for all the acorns and nuts collected. Then Club members sorted acorns and nuts based on the tree species, labeled and bagged them. The bags of acorns and nuts were sent to the Virginia Department of Forestry to help reforest various areas in the region. The impact of this small project is much bigger than the Club probably realized because one oak tree provides habitat for over 400 wildlife species and can live over 300 years. So, their effort can potentially make a significant impact for many generations of people and wildlife.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

1. Floyd Blood Mobile Canteen/American Red Cross – GFWC Floyd County WC INC. – Blue Ridge District **Note: This project was selected as the best single project – Large Club**

Members of the Floyd County Woman’s Club sponsor the American Red Cross Floyd Blood Mobile Canteen the first Friday in December. Members provided baked goods and sandwiches to serve to blood donors, members of the Red Cross staff, and other volunteers working the Blood Mobile. Six members volunteered to work the canteen, serving drinks, sandwiches, and monitoring their recovery time, and one donated blood during the event. The Club also made a monetary donation to the American Red Cross.

2. Miles of Smiles – Covington Woman’s Club of GFWC –Shenandoah District

Note: This project was selected as the best single project – Small Club

“Miles of Smiles – card Ministry” - Once again, members of the Covington Woman’s Club spent the year sending cards and notes of encouragement to club members, community members, Veterans in hospitals and Nursing Home Residents. Words of encouragement and “thinking of you” helped lift the spirits of shut-ins. At the club’s November General Meeting, club members wrote Christmas/Holiday cards to residents of local nursing homes and Veteran’s hospitals. The total number of cards sent was 1,655.

3. Valentines for Healthcare Nurses – Woman’s Club of Fredericksburg – Northern District

Mary Washington Healthcare (MWH) operates two hospitals in the Fredericksburg area. In early January 2021 they requested the community say thank you to their healthcare workers caring for patients impacted by COVID 19. Thirty-five members purchased or made valentines and wrote "thank you" on MORE THAN 1,000 VALENTINES. Six masked Club members were permitted to enter the hospital lobby to present the valentines to share with workers on ALL patient units! Members brought a poster covered with hearts that said "With Heartfelt Appreciation to our HEALTHCARE WORKERS. Thank you for Caring." This project was highlighted in the local newspaper, and a full report was published in our Club newsletter. The project was also recognized by Northern District President Mary Driver- Downs (February) and a photo and press release in both the GFWC BLOG (February) and the Virginia Clubwoman Magazine (March).

4. Little Hands Virginia – GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club – Lee District

This club initiated a new project in 2021 supporting *Little Hands Virginia*, a nonprofit organization that provides essentials to babies 0-3 years and families in need in the Greater Richmond area. It works with local agencies, hospitals, homeless shelters, and other nonprofits to provide the items needed. The club held a “baby shower” jointly with another Lee District club to collect items. Eleven members attended the shower and brought recommended gifts. In total one member delivered 336 essential items and the staff was overwhelmed with the club’s generosity. In November the club took part in the Little Hands, Virginia Coat Drive. Twelve club members donated 26 new and gently used winter coats for the children.

5. Katie’s Dream House – GFWC Wytheville Woman’s Club –Southwestern District

All 13 members of this club had the honor of putting up the first of many Katie’s Dream House Blessing Boxes. A combination of food, hygiene, books, and information all go in the box. With 320 and counting

Hours the box stays full as well as donations from the community. Members take turns making sure the blessing box stays full. A second Dream House was added, and the club held a “housewarming” for the box which was in a neighboring county. Three members took supplies to fill the box and answered questions for the local newspaper.

6. **Edmarc Hospice for Children – The Woman’s Club of Smithfield - Southside District**
The mission at Edmarc Hospice for Children is to serve families with children who have life threatening illnesses. Club members made casseroles for Hospice families in January and April. Two club members delivered 90 frozen casseroles to provided quick meals for the families allowing them to focus on their sick children. In addition, the club donated \$50 to Edmarc.
7. **The W/AWC Clothes Closet – Waynesboro/Augusta Woman’s Club GFWC - Shenandoah District**
For more than 4 decades this club has sponsored and staffed a clothes closet, which distributes items to those in need. The clients are referred by the Division of Social Services, local Food Banks, churches, schools, word of mouth and self-referrals. The Clothes Closet is staffed one morning a week throughout the year, and at additional times, if requested to help in emergency situations. Items are donated by club members and others in the community and some from Federation friends. In 2021, volunteers distributed approximately 4655 pounds of adult’s and children’s clothing, linens and small household items serving 1064 adults and 741 children.
8. **"Comfort Bear" Project - GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club – Northern Virginia**
Throughout 2021, 12 WFCWC members continued work on a project begun in 2018 to make and provide " comfort bears" for infants and young children receiving medical care at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia. They have continued this project providing knitted hats for patients with cancer, infant hats, and pillows to the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, delivering over 400 items during the year with close to 400 hours of service dedicated to this project. the group also made breast pillows and knitted hats for use by adult cancer patients. Despite COVID-19 limitations, members worked individually to cut out patterns from various fabrics; stuff the bears and breast pillows with fiberfill; sew the bears, pillowcases, and breast pillows; and paint or embroider cheerful faces on the bears. During 2021, WFCWC delivered 282 comfort bears, 48 infant hats, 80 knitted hats for cancer patients, and 120 breast pillows to INOVA.
9. **Thanksgiving Baskets - Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester — Lee District**
This Club’s annual Thanksgiving Basket Project provided 50 baskets to multiple Chesterfield County schools to identify and distribute to families in need. This was the largest donation of baskets completed to date. 28 clubwomen and many of their children met at a local restaurant to assemble the baskets and deliver them to a central Chesterfield County school location for distribution. The club was featured on the Chesterfield County School Facebook page as they thanked our organization for the baskets which positively impacted over 100 children, several of which were considered homeless.
10. **BRA-Ha-Ha – GFWC Great Bridge Woman’s Club –Tidewater District**
A total of 12 members met over 2 meetings for planning and designing our ninth entry in the Bra-Ha-Ha sponsored by the Chesapeake Health Center’s Breast Cancer Unit. The funds raised at this event help provide free mammograms and breast health services to underinsured and uninsured community members and supports advanced breast health technology at Chesapeake Regional Healthcare. The entry this year was titled “No Bones About It.” It consisted of a black base with a black and silver tulle skirt printed with silver skeletons. The bra was decorated with string lights, a skull, skeleton hands with pink fingernails and a silver and pink rhinestone ring, a bone necklace, and pink feathers. Design inspiration was based on a friend that was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer that eventually spread to her bones. Additionally, eight members participated in the BRA-HA-HA 5K run/walk, 4 in person and 4 via the virtual run/walk, for a total of 41.5 miles. Members paid a \$30-35 entry fee.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Lexington Woman’s Club – “Rockbridge County Community Festival”

This club participated in their annual Community Festival in August. They had a booth to promote the work of the club and to recruited members instead of selling fundraisers. This club collected

voluntary donations and wore their GFWC apparel and handed out fans on that warm summer day. The GFWC logo was on signage and the club's banner was prominent on the front of the booth.

2. **Narrows Junior Woman's Club GFWC – "TV Auction"**

This club utilized social media, local newspaper, and cable channel to publicize information regarding their yearly TV Auction Fundraiser. They submitted 2 weekly articles, paid advertising spot and a full-page advertisement to acknowledge everyone that donated to their auction.

Furthermore, they place 4x6 signs with the club's name and auction information in each of their four towns in their county. This club also hung a 15' x 4' banner on side of the bridge that crosses over 460 to advertise with club name, dates and cable information. Auction letters were sent out on club stationary to merchants and contributors of the auction with the Federation Logo on them. (4 hours, Dollars Spent \$0.00)

3. **GFWC Pennington Gap Woman's Club - "Headstart"**

For several years this club has been the top supporter for their local County Headstart students. They were approached by the Headstart Director to set up a Christmas Decorating tree event for over 100 students from all the school in their county. This club immediately started campaigning for Cedar live Christmas trees to be harvested and brought to the local park for kids to decorate. Farmers in the county immediately jumped in to help and cut down trees for each class to decorate and delivered them to the park before the deadline. School buses arrived with the kids, and a special area was setup with Santa Clause for the kids to give their wishes to and a phot with Santa was available to take home. The club members had already assembled lights on the trees and the kids made their own decorations and ornament to hang. Once the kids were finished members served a pizza lunch and drinks. Pictures were published in the local newspaper and on the school's sites of this event. The club also posted all the pictures on their club Facebook pate after getting a release of the school Director. The club received numerous Thank You's not only from the school officials but from the parents and the community. Each child in very class wrote a personal note along with a colored picture to the club.

4. **The Woman's Club of Smithfield – "The Woman's Club of Smithfield: Improving Our Community Through Volunteer Service"**

This club designed a trifold brochure about their club entitled "The Woman's Club of Smithfield: Improving Our Community Through Volunteer Service" The brochure gives the purpose and history of the club, describes the Community Service Projects, lists their special events, lists what they support and includes an invitation to com join this club. The brochures were updated, and more copies printed this year. Brochures were available at all their fundraising events and members are encouraged to pass them onto friends and neighbors who may be interested in becoming a member or interested in what the club does.

LEADERSHIP

1. The **GFWC Dominion Woman's Club** – leadership focused on communication and transparency. They made certain that members were informed and stayed involved in club activities as the pandemic continued. Their president sent a personal note to each and every member in February to maintain connections with members.
2. The **GFWC South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman's Club** – President and First Vice President organized two "onboarding sessions" which took place in July. These sessions for new members included a presentation about club leadership; the goals of their local, state national and international organizations; and explanation of the projects and fundraisers their club routinely participates. 7 new members attended and existing members as well.
3. The **GFWC Woman's Club of Tidewater** - had five members prepare and submit a complete Jennie Award application for a fellow member with over 50 years of service. Several working sessions were held. Tasks involved interviewing the candidate, finding and borrowing scrapbooks and other resources, retrieving photos and articles and articles from the internet, setting up and attending a photoshoot, obtaining recommendation

letters, writing an essay, and taking all the individual items and organizing them into cohesive and logical pages. Pages were collated to form a 25 page booklet and submitted to GFWC Virginia.

4. **The GFWC Varina Woman's Club** – Leadership Chairman included 9 pages about GFWC Federation Facts, history and additional facts about GFWC Virginia, their district and their club. Members were ask to read the information and told that there would be a quiz during the club's regular Zoom Meeting. During the Zoom meeting, the chairman divided the 21 attending members into 4 groups of 5 members each. A question was ask and the first team answering the question correctly won a prize. At the end of the game the chairman delivered 10 prizes since there was a tie. The members had fun learning about the Federation and Facts on all levels of GFWC.
5. **The GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club, Inc.** – First Vice President researched and set up an app called "Track it Forward" for members to report their hours and money for each CSP and Advancement Programs. Members used the app on their smartphones and /or their computers. She pulled reports from the program quarterly to keep track of the number of hours each member spent on programs. She set up one meeting in April to brainstorm the progress of the new program with members. The link to "Track it Forward" was included in each newsletter. Reports were derived from the app for each CSP and Advancement Area into an excel document.
6. **The GFWC Woman's Club of Windsor, Inc.** – presented a program on Developing Leadership Skills and Team Building. A skit was written to highlight qualities of a leader as well as encourage team building. They believe the reason many women will not say yes to leadership is because they are afraid they will make a mistake and embarrass themselves. Most of the time we are afraid of making a "fool of one's self". The skit showed how no one is perfect and they made "fools" of themselves. This in turn creates a teambuilding. When you build a team, a Leader will arise.
7. **The Bent Mountain Woman's Club** - Co-Presidents and Vice President were ask to join a planning meeting for their county's 200 Plan. This group of leaders purpose, including representatives from the Bent Mountain Center Board, Fire & Rescue, and key business owners, was to identify needs and key issues for the future of Bent Mountain. Their club played an integral part in the success of this project.
8. **The Woman's Club of the Eastern Shore**- Leaders use Google Docs as their primary method of responding to meeting attendance and project participation. Information that includes who is attending, club roster to pot luck information.
9. **The GFWC Vinton Woman's Club** – three members led the way joined with other members of the district to submit a nominee for the GFWC Jennie Award. Many hours and research went into producing the nomination notebook. This resulted in the nominee being GFWC Virginia's nominee and also one of two Southeastern Region's nominees to GFWC.
10. **The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Hopewell, Inc.**- By-laws are updated annually to include revisions to their leadership roles, duties of those roles, and who can serve. Each member has a card that details their club history.

LEGISLATION

1. **Woman's Club of Accomack County – Tidewater District – 25 members, 1 project, 9 hours**
This club sponsored a Meet the Candidate Forum for local, State and Federal election cycles when appropriate. They held their meeting on October 21, 2021 at their clubhouse to which the public was invited. The candidates invited to speak were on the ballot for Accomack and Northampton Counties. It took several months of reaching out, answering questions, and verifying the status of candidate participation to lock down the event. The event was advertised on WESR radio, and in all the local newspapers. Two candidates for State delegates came to the event. The chairman of this project acted as moderator. She guided the discussion of relevant topics of concern with a list of well thought out questions for them. There were 40 people in attendance including club members.
2. **Covington Woman's Club of GFWC – Shenandoah District – 24 members, 1 project, 24 hours**
This club had four members participate in two Candidate Forums. The first forum was held at City Hall in Covington for Covington City Treasurer. The second forum was held for the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors. The members screened all questions to determine acceptable content and clarity.
3. **GFWC Kanawha Woman's Club – Lee District, 19 members, 9 programs, 20 hours**
In the spring and fall of 2021, member interest in advocating for women in the military was initiated by references to combat service legislation in club program discussions of Sara Hammel's novel, The Strong

Ones, a compelling story of a determined effort made by a group of 46 civilian women to bring equal rights to women in the military. This club donated \$100 to the Women in the Military Service in America Foundation. They supported legislation to prevent military sexual assault.

4. Tri-Club Woman's Club – Lee District – 40 members, 5 projects, 80 hours

This club wrote letters and made phone calls to their US Senators and US House of Representatives asking them to support:

1. The Victim of Crime Act (VOCA)
2. Veteran Therapy Act
3. Fund Global Vaccination Act
4. Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act
5. Equal pay for equal work

This club also reported on new laws such as hands-free phones in the car, health insurances caps on insulin, concealed handgun training, bills on abortion, bill to abolish the death penalty and many more. They also reported on the outcomes of all legislation they were following.

5. GFWC Ashcake Woman's Club – Lee District – 2 members, 1 project, 6 hours

Two club members attended an election integrity presentation hosted by Henry Clay Woman's Club of GFWC. Chris Piper of the Virginia Department of Elections was the speaker. Mr. Piper explained the process of making sure there is no voter fraud.

6. GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club – Tidewater District, 37 members, 2 projects, 2 hours

This club provided their members with a sample ballot of the November election for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General in Virginia. Club members were notified that in-person, early voting for Chesapeake voters was available. Members watched the "Meet the Candidates" event held by the Chesapeake Bar Association. Members were encouraged to sign up for the Legislative Action Center (LAC).

MEMBERSHIP

1. **GFWC Botetourt Town & Country Woman's Club** – After months of remote meetings this club focused on helping members get to know each other with a new membership game. This "Get to Know Your Fellow Members" game had members provide one fact that's not generally known about them. Each month, the membership chair posted a "fun fact" in the club newsletter and had members guess who the fact was about. Members that guessed correctly were included in a drawing for prize provided by the membership chair. Volunteer Hours: 6, Dollars Spent: \$35
2. **GFWC Cobra Juniorette Club** – Members designed and decorated flyers that they hung at the school inviting girls to join the club. They then hosted a Little Sisters Project during which members "adopted" girls in younger grades for fun activities, including a spa day where they got pampered and learned information about GFWC. Volunteer Hours: 8
3. **South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman's Club** – A social was held at a local brewery after a regular meeting. Current members invited guests and gave presentations on the benefits of club membership. Snacks and drinks were provided. Engaging perspective members in a fun setting resulted in 5 new members! Volunteers Hours – 4, Dollars Spent: \$104
4. **GFWC Great Bridge Woman's Club** – This club celebrated their 45th anniversary and a member created a video to share the history of the club. Videos were also produced for retention and recruitment purposes to feature the Community Service Programs. These videos were shared via monthly Zoom meetings, on the club web site and on their Facebook page. Volunteer Hours: 40
5. **Lexington Woman's Club** – This club held an informational meeting for four new members and paired each of them with a mentor, the member who sponsored their joining. Guidelines were established to give mentors methods for helping new members learn about club culture and how they fit into its programs and activities. Understanding the importance of new member engagement, mentors were encouraged to stay in touch with the new member, monitor her Club involvement, and explain club structure and programs. Feedback has been positive, with members noting the advantage of having one person to guide them in their first year and improved communications. Volunteer Hours: 8

6. **GFWC Dominion Juniorette Club** – Since members of this club are different ages and from different schools and friend groups, the club makes it a priority to have “get to know you” events. An event was held in the spring at a local ice cream shop. Prospective members were invited to enjoy ice cream and games, and then learned about the Club and its activities from current members. Eight of ten guests that attended joined the club!
7. **GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club** – This club understands that engagement is key to retaining existing members and recruiting new ones. To that end, in addition to conducting business, they strive to present programs of interest during their monthly membership meetings. In 2021 the club held Zoom meetings until it was deemed safe to meet in person and then they held hybrid meetings to offer options to all. The club had an 8-person program committee to plan presentations/activities for the year – in 2021 they included informational programs on organizations such as Soles4Souls and the Wildlife Rescue League, officer installation, a GFWC overview and on-line bingo.
8. **GFWC Sedley Woman’s Club** – This club’s First Vice President incorporated activities at club meetings to help members get to know each other and learn about GFWC. They played a “Unity in Diversity” game where members were asked to find at least two things in common (other than club membership) with a member they didn’t know well. They also regularly reviewed Federation facts and stressed that their club can have a bigger impact as part of a large organization.
9. **GFWC Woman’s Club of Accomack County** – This club experienced a reduction in membership numbers due to health, relocation and other personal reasons, and also saw new members join and witnessed a renewed energy and direction for the club. In a time of membership transition, their Membership Committee took time to ask “where do we go from here?” They reflected on the positive and negative aspects influencing the Club’s current condition and implemented a project to assess members’ satisfaction with aspects and activities of the club. A survey was developed and administered to all members, resulting in a 50% return rate. The information garnered from the completed forms will be used in all areas to improve goals and enhance club participation going forward.
10. **Junior Federated Women’s Club of Chester** – Each month this club recognizes a Clubwoman of the Month. This is voted upon by membership with a secret ballot at each monthly meeting. The clubwoman is recognized for going above and beyond the call of club. A sign with the JFWCC symbol is placed in the member’s front yard for all to see for an entire month. A picture of this sign in front of the member’s home is posted on social media. This recognition not only spotlights a member, but also helps to publicize the club on a local level and creates conversations about club opportunities.

GFWC WOMEN’S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER

1. **GFWC Kanawha Woman’s Club** located in the **Lee District**: Throughout the year 2021, the club promoted in its newsletters an “Armchair” tour of the upcoming 100-year anniversary of the purchase of GFWC Headquarters building on 1434 N Street, Washington, DC. The January issue highlighted the history, architecture, and development of the Dupont Circle neighborhood. Articles in the Spring and Fall issues focused on architectural details, history of previous ownership, details of purchase by GFWC, highlights of furniture, art, and artifacts throughout the building.
2. **The Lexington Woman’s Club** located in the **Shenandoah District**: At their annual holiday meeting in December, members celebrated the club’s 110th Anniversary, remembering this first meeting on December 6, 1911, of 34 ladies who met at the local high school to vote on the club’s constitution and bylaws, and pay their first dues of 50 cents. The club’s historian had prepared a one-page handout that depicted photos of all the founders of the club as well as the high school, which is now a fraternity house. The photos were accompanied with excerpts from the minutes of the first meeting and a list of names of all women attending. A second, more substantial handout had been researched by one club member that gave an overview of milestones in the club’s history. It was accompanied by “facts about life in 1911”. This handout was converted into an article that appeared along with a photo of attending club members in the local paper.
3. **GFWC Grundy Woman’s Club** located in the **Southwestern District**: A special display was developed by the club historian and chaplain to honor women in history. It was displayed at the local library. The women honored were represented by pictures and a biography of each. Among the women featured were Amelia

Earhart, Ida Bell West Barnett, Annie Oakley, Mae West, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, Dolley Madison, Mercy Otis Warren, Harriet Tubman, Jane Adams, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sacajawea, and the wives of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The display was viewed by hundreds of visitors, some of whom had never known about these women that helped shape country and culture.

4. The Woman's Club of Newport News located in the Tidewater District:

The club celebrated Women's History Month with a presentation by a Jamestown interpreter who explained what life was like for one of the first women in Jamestown. In addition, the club also had a presentation of its past presidents who made significant contributions to GFWC, GFWC Virginia, and the Tidewater District, among them Maude Nichols who wrote the Federation Song; Fannie Sternes who established a scholarship for the district, and Paula Cutler who recommended Operation Smile to GFWC.

5. GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club located in the Northern District:

During the October meeting, a representative from the "Turning Point Suffragist Memorial" provided a presentation on the memorial, which commemorates the millions of women who engaged in the suffragist movement; how they sacrificed, organized and, in some cases, endured torture for their cause. Sentinel suffragists were unjustly imprisoned, kept in isolation, locked in solitary confinement, and in some cases severely beaten. When word leaked out to the public, it was considered a "turning point" in the battle for suffrage.

