

# 2012-2014 CLUB MANUAL

# GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT:

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Visit [www.GFWC.org/ClubManual](http://www.GFWC.org/ClubManual) for updates and more information.

GFWC is a national leader in the fight to end domestic violence by raising awareness about this social issue. By supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens, the goal of the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention is to increase awareness and prevention of the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse in communities across the nation.

GFWC members will speak with one voice:

- In the effort to develop and influence federal and state legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and their families.
- To protect the safety, security, and dignity of older citizens.
- To promote fundraisers which provide a positive and constructive solution to victims of abuse through the GFWC Scholarship program.
- To promote projects that support and cultivate work with national and local domestic violence and abuse organizations.
- With GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Program partners.

In addition to intimate partner abuse, the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention also works to combat child abuse, teen dating violence, and elder abuse. Elder abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect and abandonment. Dating violence is a pattern of controlling and abusive behaviors of one person over another within a romantic relationship. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, and financial abuse. Dating violence can occur in any relationship. It has no boundaries and crosses all lines of race and socio-economic statuses.

### IDEAS

- Distribute purple ribbons to clergy, police chiefs, judges, librarians, emergency room personnel, and others in your community.
- Print table tents with a reminder that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and information about services and how to access them. Distribute table tents to area restaurants and hospital cafeterias.
- Plant a pinwheel garden to raise awareness and money for child abuse and neglect.
- Ask local utility companies to include a message in their October bills.



### 2012-2014 GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT COMMITTEE

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- Provide your local libraries them with materials for a display.
- Host or co-sponsor a training for caregivers and family members to help increase the knowledge of warning signs/indicators of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation as well as strategies to prevent elder abuse.
- Encourage children in shelters to write thank you cards with painted hand prints on them to be distributed to police departments, judges, probation officers, and prosecutors in the county.
- Hold fundraising events with proceeds benefitting a local shelter or the GFWC Signature Project Fund.
- Place shelter “wish lists” in local beauty salons.
- Work with the media to raise public awareness about elder abuse victims and services available in your community and state.
- Investigate resources available in your community regarding domestic violence: Is there a shelter for battered women? A hotline? Is there awareness among community leaders and law enforcement? The community in general? Are there educational efforts concerning Teen Dating Violence Awareness in local schools, places of worship, community service organizations, and local area businesses?
- Host a luncheon and a panel discussion on elder financial exploitation.
- Facilitate an information session for parents on teen dating violence at your school.
- Sponsor art classes for local high schools in which students make posters about dating abuse and domestic violence awareness and prevention. Encourage the use of photography, computer graphics, and artwork to make the posters unique. Work with your local library or community center to post finished artwork for the entire community to view.
- Write an article or op-ed piece for your local newspaper or blog. Work with a person from your local domestic violence shelter to provide additional information.
- Sponsor a Candlelight/Luminary Vigil during Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (October). Luminaries can be designed by a shelter’s residents. Present each attendee with a purple ribbon upon their arrival. Speakers may include a survivors, shelter directors, public officials, and/or police officers. Poetry, messages, and contact information can be printed on a pamphlet that is handed to participants.
- Organize an event for parents and/or your community about healthy relationships and what they should know about teen dating abuse.



## **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE QUICK FACTS**

- One in three teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by his or her partner.
- Each year approximately one in four adolescents reports verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse.
- About one in 11 teens report being a victim of physical dating abuse each year.
- More than one in four teenage girls in a relationship (26%) report enduring repeated verbal abuse.
- Almost 70% of young women who have been raped knew their rapist either as a boyfriend, friend, or casual acquaintance.
- The majority of teen dating abuse occurs in the home of one of the partners.
- Nearly one in five teenage girls who have been in a relationship said a boyfriend had threatened violence or self-harm if presented with a break-up.
- One in four teens who have been in a serious relationship say their boyfriend or girlfriend has tried to prevent them from spending time with friends or family; the same number have been pressured to only spend time with their partner.



The **GFWC Canoga Park Women's Club** (California) collected socks, undergarments, and toys for women and children at the Haven Hills shelter.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

GFWC partners are the organizations listed with whom GFWC has established a formal relationship and mutual understanding. Our partners offer unique and customized services: materials, speakers, kits, and/or additional information specifically designed for GFWC clubs. They are aware of GFWC clubs' specific needs, our organizational structure, and have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with GFWC. GFWC partners will assist in monitoring the donations generated by GFWC members.

To ensure that donations to GFWC partner organizations at the individual, club, district, or state level, are reflected toward GFWC's collective impact, make sure to write GFWC in the memo line on your donation check.



We are continually working to develop partnerships with organizations whose missions and scope of work are germane to GFWC. Look for updates from the Signature Project Committee, in *News & Notes*, *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and online at [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).



**Prevent Child Abuse  
America**

### **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA**

**Contact:** Barb Shaffer, Senior Director of Chapter Services  
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Chicago, IL 60604

**W:** [www.PreventChildAbuse.org](http://www.PreventChildAbuse.org)

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Since 1972, Prevent Child Abuse America has led the way in building awareness, providing education, and inspiring hope to everyone involved in the effort to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.

Prevent Child Abuse America is the leading national, not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is "to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children." Prevention is defined as the abuse or neglect never occurring. The Prevent Child Abuse America national office is located in Chicago, Illinois, and its network includes 47 statewide prevention chapters.

Every day can be a call to action and an opportunity to recognize that we all play a role in children's lives, healthy child development, and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

- Learn more about child abuse prevention and become a messenger for this cause
- Lend your voice to bring about change for children in the United States through our Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign and affect the policies that impact children and the communities they live in
- Volunteer your time and talent to our local chapter network to help all of us meet our mission to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children
- Host a House Party in your neighborhood to raise awareness and funds.

### **PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION®**

Prevent Child Abuse America is implementing Pinwheels for Prevention®, a national campaign introducing the pinwheel as the symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention in the United States. With more than 1.3 million pinwheels distributed since April 2008, we invite GFWC members to help continue this growth.

- Purchase pinwheels to incorporate into your House Parties, either as decoration or to resell as a fundraising activity
- Conduct your own stand-alone pinwheel activities at any time of year, including gathering with neighbors to plant "pinwheel gardens" in your communities to continue raising awareness of child abuse prevention
- Hold fundraisers with local schools, faith-based organizations, or community centers in which pinwheels are sold to benefit Prevent Child Abuse America



The opportunities are endless. Visit [www.PinwheelsForPrevention.org](http://www.PinwheelsForPrevention.org) for more information.

### HOUSE PARTY WEEKEND®

Throughout the year, supporters across our nation will gather in homes, restaurants, clubs, campuses and places of worship to have fun and take action for children. The House Party Weekend is an opportunity for thousands of people across the nation to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide while recognizing that child development is an essential building block for community and economic development—whoever and wherever we are.

Main event components can include:

- Private parties, hosted by individuals for friends and family, with a goal of as many as 150 parties, engaging 3,000 attendees.
- Community events, such as block parties, church suppers, and community concerts.
- Substitute presents at birthday parties, religious events, anniversaries, family reunions, or other special celebrations. In lieu of gifts, ask for donations to Prevent Child Abuse America.



It's fun, and as simple as you want it to be:

- Hosts will plan and schedule a party on the designated weekend, or another day during the year. Download the online toolkit at [www.HousePartyWeekend.org](http://www.HousePartyWeekend.org).
- The online toolkit comprises a sample invitation, party ideas and recipes, sponsor information, documentation of tax-exempt status, information about Prevent Child Abuse America for guests to take home, and talking points for a brief presentation.
- Hosts will set a fundraising goal, and invite their guests at a specific price point. For example, a host might plan an elegant dinner party for 12 and ask for donations of \$250 per person to reach a goal of \$2,500. With the same goal, another host might prefer an afternoon of college football for 250 friends with a donation of \$10 per person.
- Hosts underwrite all costs associated with the party. Prevent Child Abuse America will credit party expenses as in-kind donations.
- Guests will be able to pay online by credit card or by check made payable to Prevent Child Abuse America. Prevent Child Abuse America will provide acknowledgements and receipts for tax purposes.
- CELEBRATE! This is a year-long opportunity as our children are year-long priorities.
- Hosts will be asked to share party pictures, and to submit all receipts and any donations collected on-site, to Prevent Child Abuse America.

### CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Prevent Child Abuse America strives to have a chapter in every state. To accomplish this, Prevent Child Abuse America needs your assistance. Making local connections through GFWC clubs will assist Prevent Child Abuse America in establishing a chapter in every state so that all children have an equal opportunity for healthy growth and development. For more information, including your state chapter contact, go to [PreventChildAbuse.org](http://PreventChildAbuse.org).

- Share your interest in child abuse prevention with others.
- Work with Prevent Child Abuse America on making contact with interested local stakeholders. These stakeholders can be individuals or groups such as non-profits, businesses, religious groups or advocacy groups.
- Attend local stakeholder meetings.
- Share any available resources in these states.
- Raise funds to assist a new chapter in getting up and running.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

GFWC Community Service Projects, formerly known as Collaborations, are programs and projects members initiate and participate in to serve their communities—they do not include projects that relate to GFWC partners. This section is where the clubs will report all the programs and projects that are specifically related to the Signature Project that can involve other members of the community, other organizations, or the individual club or members.

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC partners to the Signature Project Chairman, or GFWC Programs department at **[Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org)**.

### STEP AWAY FROM ABUSE PROJECTS

Donate socks, phone cards, and slippers to your local shelter. Affix the items with a message of support and encouragement that reads, "As you begin your new life and Step Away from Abuse, we hope you will find comfort and warmth as you walk into your newly found freedom."

### STEP UP THE COMFORT PROJECTS

- Donate night bags, birthday bags, pajamas, toiletry items, clothing, coloring books, crayons, etc.
- Host a Pajama Party. Raise funds and collect pajamas for women and children in local shelters.
- Assemble and donate First Night Kits, Birthday Bags, Anger Kits, or Bedtime Snack Sacks.

### STEP TO THE FUTURE PROJECTS

As victims begin their road to recovery their needs change. GFWC can donate items that will help them take the necessary steps into their future. Clubs can work with organizations, such as Dress for Success ([www.DressForSuccess.org](http://www.DressForSuccess.org)), and their local shelters to gather information and items that are needed.

## ADVOCACY

Domestic violence affects individuals in every community across the United States. It may include the use of physical and sexual violence, verbal and emotional abuse, stalking, and economic abuse. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

Consider the following:

- One woman is victimized by an intimate partner every 1.3 minutes. One man is victimized every 6.7 minutes.
- Domestic violence comprises 9% of all violent crime in the U.S.
- 33% of female murder victims are killed by husbands or boyfriends.
- One in five high school girls report being abused by a boyfriend.



### The GFWC Fallbrook Woman's Club

(California) collected and donated collected 269 pairs of women's shoes, 1889 purses, 14 pairs of children shoes, and 2610 toiletry items, pedicure sets, socks, pantyhose, and jewelry to women and children at domestic violence shelters.



### The GFWC Century League of Morrilton

(Arkansas) began the "Purse Project" in which they collected and donated 27 new and slightly used purses filled with toiletries of shampoo, conditioners, toothpastes, toothbrushes, deodorants, body lotions, feminine products, and makeup.

- One in nine Americans over the age of 60 has experienced some form of elder abuse. For every one case of elder abuse reported to authorities, at least five more go unreported.
- Male children who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners as adults.
- Domestic violence results in more than 18.5 million visits to health care professionals every year and \$4.1 billion in medical and mental health expenses.

### **GFWC SUCCESS FOR SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP**

The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship was created through GFWC's commitment to our Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, to change the lives of survivors as they take the next step in reshaping their future in a positive way through higher education. For nearly half a century, GFWC has fought to eliminate all forms of domestic violence, and the establishment of the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Fund is one way GFWC will move towards achieving that goal. Established to provide domestic violence survivors with a means to achieve financial and personal independence and channel GFWC members' steadfast commitment to the prevention of domestic violence, GFWC will award up to eight domestic violence survivors with \$1,000 scholarships annually each June.

Make a difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors around the country by helping them pursue their education and career dreams by supporting through the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship.



According to studies, a college degree decreases the risk factor for domestic violence, and higher education can help survivors obtain careers with better prospects and futures.

### **AWARDS**

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective domestic violence awareness and prevention projects. Certificates will be presented to one State Federation in each membership category. A \$50 award will be presented to one club in the nation.

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Awards Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Signature Project projects and one for partnership projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.



The **GFWC Golden Valley Federated Women's Club** (Minnesota) collected children's pajamas, women's robes and nightgowns, and crocheted slippers for a local shelter.



The **GFWC Woman's Club of Lodi** (California) furnished a library room at a local shelter with furniture, book shelves, books, and area rugs for the families living at the shelter.



The **GFWC Granbury Woman's Club** (Texas) provided food, clothing, furniture, a Christmas tree, and donations to a young woman and her three year old child who were beginning a new life in a small home provided by Catholic Charities.

# 2012-2014 CLUB MANUAL GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT

GFWC Signature Project Fund awards will be determined by donations received to GFWC Headquarters as of December 31 of each year.

GFWC partners will recognize State Federation and clubs for their efforts. Contact GFWC Programs department for information.



Refer to the Awards, Contests, and Grants section of the *Club Manual* for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.

## The **GFWC San Diego Woman's Club**

(California) celebrated the women of a local shelter with a Beauty Night. The members donated make-up and skin care products, and took pictures of the women. Each woman was presented with a framed picture of herself boosting her self esteem.