



# JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROJECT: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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

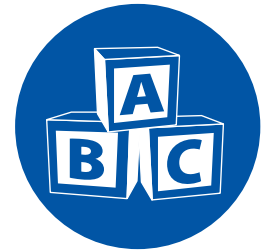
### CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

The GFWC Juniors' Special Project, Advocates for Children, was adopted to give all clubs an opportunity to participate in projects that benefit children of all ages. Clubwomen can become advocates by working to:

- Ensure children are protected from harmful situations
- Encourage healthy physical and emotional lifestyles
- Impact policy to improve children's lives

Program and project ideas are endless, but can include addressing issues such as: feeding hungry children, foster care, child passenger safety, bullying, teen violence, and increased self-image

We have partnered with like-minded organizations that advocate on behalf of children everywhere. Refer to the Partnership section beginning on page 2 for activities designed especially for GFWC clubs.



### 2014-2016 JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROJECT CHAIRMAN

**Dara Bergdoll**  
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### IDEAS

Below is a list of ideas on how clubs may support the Juniors' Special Project.

- Volunteer with backpack feeding programs in local schools - studies show that one in five children in America is "food insecure"
- Support local food pantries and food banks
- Encourage family involvement in children's education
- Raise awareness about the effects of bullying
- Provide equipment and funding for local emergency service personnel
- Support drug abuse prevention programs
- Volunteer at schools or day care centers by reading to children
- Learn about Internet safety and how social media tools affect our youth
- Encourage positive physical activity by volunteering with schools and parks
- Learn about childhood diseases, prevention possibilities and treatments
- Educate members and others about the importance of foster care and the need for quality, professional foster parents
- Help teens who are in transition due to aging out of foster care
- Promote projects that teach teens about responsible driving habits
- Celebrate important commemorative dates including GFWC Advocates for Children Week in October

**GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK**

To raise awareness for GFWC's child advocacy efforts, we have declared the week of October 24 as GFWC Advocates for Children Week. All GFWC clubs are invited to participate by planning events related to the Juniors Special Project. Try a new project or a previously successful one. It's up to you! Consider your club's interests and community needs.

Sunday, October 19 - Saturday, October 25, 2014

Sunday, October 18 - Saturday, October 24, 2015



For event ideas, public relations tools, and more, refer to *News & Notes*, *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).

**GFWC 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.

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.

**MARCH OF DIMES**

**Contacts:** Michelle Shafer, National Director, Strategic Partnerships;  
Linda Carter-Jones, Coordinator, Volunteer Leadership

1275 Mamaroneck Avenue  
White Plains, N.Y. 10605

**W:** [www.MarchofDimes.com](http://www.MarchofDimes.com)

**P:** 914-997-4541

**F:** 914-997-4686

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Why does March of Dimes matter? Because we all know babies and families affected by premature birth, birth defects, and infant death. Our babies deserve better! With your participation, more women will have full-term pregnancies and more babies will begin healthy lives. And if something goes wrong, the March of Dimes offers information and comfort to families. GFWC and March of Dimes have worked together on improving the health of babies for over 70 years. Let's work together for moms, babies, and families. Are you ready to help?

**LEARN. GIVE. VOLUNTEER.****For 2014 ONLY—BE PART OF THE LEGACY!**

The March of Dimes is honored to have partnered with GFWC beginning with Eleanor Roosevelt. In the 1940s, to wipe out polio, FDR asked each every American to contribute a dime. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, their granddaughter, and the March of Dimes are asking each GFWC club to celebrate our shared history and our current mission to support moms and babies by making a contribution towards GFWC's investment in the "Roosevelt Legacy Society" to celebrate and honor the FDR and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of March of Dimes. Imagine the power of that collective gift! A GFWC club gift of \$1,000 or more ensures that your clubs name is engraved on the March of Dimes FDR Legacy Wall plaque displayed at GFWC Headquarters. Club or member gifts of \$500 or more will receive a commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin and gifts of \$75 will receive a keepsake pin. Visit [www.marchofdimes.com/GFWC](http://www.marchofdimes.com/GFWC) to make a donation by **December 31, 2014**.

**PARTNER DONATIONS**

Direct any questions regarding donations to GFWC partners to the GFWC Juniors' Special Project:  
Advocates for Children Chairman or GFWC Programs department at [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org).

**FALL  
PREMATURITY AWARENESS**

Show your Purple Passion for Babies! Prematurity has been escalating steadily and alarmingly over the past two decades. One out of eight babies is born prematurely in the United States. Preterm delivery can happen to any pregnant woman. Each club can "Go Purple" with these four easy steps during November to raise awareness of the crisis of preterm birth during March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Month.

- Mention March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Month at a club meeting. Visit [www.marchofdimes.org/prematurity](http://www.marchofdimes.org/prematurity) for current information.
- Wear purple at meeting or activity. Make it fun!
- Invite club member to share her March of Dimes mission story. Or contact your local March of Dimes office to request a visit from an Ambassador Family.
- Given brief presentation on prematurity to raise awareness. Visit [www.marchofdimes.org/volunteers](http://www.marchofdimes.org/volunteers) for sample scripts.

**SPRING  
MARCH FOR BABIES****Lead a Team:**

March for Babies is America's favorite walking event! When you walk, you give hope to the families of babies born too soon or sick. Here are a few ways to support stronger, healthier babies:

**Organize:**

Assemble your core team. Contact your local March of Dimes office to request a team captain kit. Set up the team page at [www.marchforbabies.org/GFWC](http://www.marchforbabies.org/GFWC) and be sure to name your team "GFWC - your club name."

**Recruit:**

Get the word out about March for Babies; grow the team, ask walkers to sign up online.

**Fundraise:**

Encourage online fundraising, ask your friends and family. Share the goal and give updates on progress. Don't forget, awards are given to top clubs who raised the most donations.

**Walk:**

Get out there on March for Babies day! Don't forget to take pictures and post them on Facebook and Twitter.

**GFWC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

GFWC Community Service Projects are programs and projects members initiate and participate in to serve their communities. This section is where clubs will report all the programs and projects that are specifically related to the Juniors' Special Project that involve other members of the community, other organizations, and/or the individual club or members.

**AWARDS**

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective advocates for children projects. Certificates will be presented to one State Federation in each membership category and a \$50 award will be presented to one club in the nation annually.

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

Many GFWC Partners will recognize state federations and clubs for their efforts. Contact the GFWC Programs department for information.

SUCCESSFUL CLUB PROJECTS



**Don't Text and Drive Highway Safety Booth at After Prom**

**GFWC Four Corners Woman's Club**

(Georgia) arranged to have the national organization of youth safeties "Don't text and drive stimulator" available at two high school's "after prom" event for the teens. Each student had a chance to drive and try to text. Participants had their name entered in a drawing for \$100.



The **Long Valley Area Junior Woman's Club (New Jersey)** raises funds at its Winterfest cocktail party for hippotherapy—a physical, occupational, and speech-language therapy treatment tool that utilizes the horse's three-dimensional motion of walking to stimulate the rider and help enhance balance, posture, mobility, coordination and strength.



The **GFWC Fernandina Beach Junior Woman's Club (Florida)** uses

the funds raised from their annual Sollecito Mardi Gras Ball for the First Coast Freedom Playground. The city's first universally accessible playground allows children of all ages, with or without any handicaps, to play side-by-side in a nature-friendly environment.



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