



GFWC-NC
Civic Engagement and Outreach
Community Service Program

Pat Witt – General Chair
 Brittany Smith - Junior Chair

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"Civic Engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community through political and non-political processes."

- Preface of *Civic Responsibility and Education*, an authoritative book edited by Thomas Ehrlich and published by Oryx Press in 2000.

What is Civic
Engagement
and
Outreach?

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Process of Civic Engagement

"Civic engagement is the process of connecting individuals in society with one another, to share common interests, and to work for the common good."

www.study.com

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How Do We Engage?

-  Volunteering
-  Advocacy
-  Fundraising/donations
-  Problem Solving
-  Keeping an eye on our neighbor/ supporting small businesses.

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GFWC Community Connection Initiative 2022-24 "A Little Thanks Goes A Long Way" Honoring Essential Workers

WHO ARE EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS?

Medical care providers,
first responders (LE, firemen, EMS),
911 dispatchers,
civil service employees,
farmers,
truckers,
utility workers,
pharmacy providers,
bank employees,
delivery services,
retail employees,
sanitation employees, and
military personnel are all examples.



To be involved is to care about your community and work with others to make it a more positive place to live, work, and socialize.

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WAYS WE CAN ADVOCATE FOR THEM

- Encourage participation in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, 2022
- Support Fire Prevention Week October 9 - 15, 2022
- Present a Proclamation for "Essential Workers Week."
- Sponsor a "business fair" for local businesses (collaborate with Chamber of Commerce)
- Deliver food to their place of business.
- Distribute care packages the first of every month.
- Display GFWC "Essential Workers - Keep Our Country Moving Forward" on car windows and mailboxes.
- Throw a neighborhood or community parade and showcase essential workers of all fields.
- Highlight an essential worker in your club's newsletter and partner with local PR to ensure that the community is aware of these individuals.
- Create signage for your Main Street to highlight the companies and/or individuals who are working to make your community a better place

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Honoring Essential Workers

1st Quarter

Law Enforcement, Firemen,
EMS, 911 dispatchers

- Join in National Night Out on August 2nd.

2nd Quarter

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3rd Quarter

???

4th Quarter

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GFWC-NC President's Special Project

Jennifer Brighton, Chair

- How can we work in the MST?
- Become or support *Trail Angels* who provide rides, meals, laundry/shower facilities and more to MST thru-hikers



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Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP Mission

- BE responsible to undertake ACTIONS that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community – locally, nationally, and globally.

• Focus areas:

- Citizenship
- Crime Prevention, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness
- The Needy, Hungry, and Homeless
- Military Personnel and Veterans
- Support and Aid Female Veterans

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Citizenship

PROGRAM IDEAS

- Conduct Community Conversation sessions to engage the larger community on key issues, identify positive solutions, and stimulate public policy initiatives.
- Sponsor a Candidates Forum for town officials and/or state representatives, with club members serving as hosts and moderators. Invite media to cover the event.
- Invite a speaker from the League of Women Voters to provide information on voting rights and how to increase participation and educate voters.
- Honor and celebrate patriotic holidays by hosting or volunteering for events commemorating Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Constitution Day, and others.
- Consider purchasing or printing copies of the United States Constitution for distribution to middle school aged youth at school, athletic groups, after-school programs such as YMCA, Girls Clubs/Boys Clubs, etc. Consider collaborating with civic groups to conduct citizenship composition contests for these youth. One organization that provides copies at a bulk rate is Freedom Factor.
- Encourage all members to sign up for the GFWC Legislative Action Center and communicate the issues in club publications, website and when appropriate on social media platforms.
- Participate/organize community 'service days' such as Martin Luther King's birthday, September 11th Service Day, etc.

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Crime Prevention, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness

PROGRAM IDEAS

- Warn club members and others by sharing information on identity theft from USA.gov, including potential victims, types of theft, warning signs, and prevention as well as how to report and respond.
- Help make homes and communities safer by providing information on crime prevention strategies, such as neighborhood/park watches and suspicious activity reports. Include a listing of non-emergency numbers or websites for your community.
- Spread the word about the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home by providing information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the signs and causes of poisoning, and how to prevent it. Collaborate with local merchants to purchase carbon monoxide alarms at cost and then provide them to the elderly and/or needy. Respond to any similar needs for smoke detectors.
- Work with first responders and your local high schools to provide motivational presentations on at-risk driving practices, such as texting and failure to use seat belts.
- Hold a bicycle safety workshop for children during National Bicycle Safety Month in May.
- Plan a club or community program with first responders in September, National Preparedness Month, on possible emergency situations, natural disasters, and how to be ready at home.
- Provide information to community members on how to make a Disaster Preparedness Toolkit. Perhaps conduct a community session to prepare such Toolkits for the elderly and/or needy.

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The Needy, Hungry, and Homeless

PROGRAM IDEAS

- Consult your local welfare office, shelters, churches, and other community-assistance organizations to determine community needs and help provide provisions for the needy. Make known to policy makers.
- Work with your local schools to establish "closets" within the schools where clothing, shoes, backpacks, underwear, socks, outerwear, and personal hygiene items are organized and stored for distribution to children in need. Sponsor the clothes closet and stock it regularly.
- Place a strong emphasis on childhood hunger and work with or establish local programs that provide weekend and summertime meals for needy children. Consider offering family nutrition tips that help parents shop for and cook healthy, affordable meals.
- Organize a club/community day of service at a local food pantry by donating essential goods and sorting and organizing their shelves. Offer a few surprises, such as "Birthday Bags" filled with cake mix, a can of icing, candles, a baking pan, and a birthday card. Involve recipients as much as possible to give them a way to give back.
- Assist Habitat for Humanity by providing volunteer labor or donations such as furniture and household goods. Consider making or providing meals and/or snacks for volunteers.
- See if there is an affiliate of Family Promise or another shelter for homeless families in your area. Investigate their needs and determine if there is a project that is right for your club.
- Locate and assist with a local mobile-laundry service.

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Encourage members to research local or national programs that support the military. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs can direct you to the assistance programs available for military families, and for veterans.

Create awareness about the three primary mental health concerns of military personnel and veterans: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Depression, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Encourage programs such as the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) that offer specific help for these conditions.

Keep mental lives often together during medical treatment by supporting the Fisher House Foundation, which builds comfort homes at military installations and the Military and Veterans Support Center, which provides support for the Heroes Program, which uses donated airline miles to bring family members to the hospital bedside of the injured, and Heroes for Heroes, which uses donated hotel points to grant guests to the injured.

Support active military personnel with programs through the USO, such as Wishbook, to provide gifts of comfort food packages, phone calls home, and long-distance calls. Support military families with programs such as the USO, and band divisions (music and games) to troops deployed to remote areas.

Contribute to *Wraths Across America* by sponsoring wreaths or volunteering at Veterans Cemeteries to place or remove wreaths.

Contribute to *Heroes and Homecoming* by sponsoring a volunteering as a "Guardian" to accompany an honor, and/or bring a member of a "Welcome Home" congregation. Write cards for the on "Mail Call" during the return home.

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Connect to support health needs, reduce isolation and depression, and provide comfort and encouragement

Here are specific ideas provided by a Women Veterans Program (WVP) Manager at VA Medical Center across those needs:

- Donate shopping provisions and bath gels, beauty products, cozy socks and slippers, adult inspirational coloring books and colored pencils (in great variety), games and playing cards, and/or gift cards to salons, coffee shops, and retail and grocery stores.
- Supply beverages and snacks to the WVP lounge. The lounge is a Women's Health Clinic (WHC) small group of members looking to provide camaraderie and new contacts. Make new friends and have fun!
- Contact local homeless shelters to ask if any current residents are female veterans. If so, they may be able to determine what additional support or resources may help these veterans become more self-sufficient.
- Coordinate with the WVP Manager to help women veterans receive special mentions in their lives, with gifts and thoughtful cards for new babies, family birthdays, and other major milestones.

Note: If your community does not have a WVP Manager, reach out to a local assisted residential living manager that can identify those in their care who are female veterans.

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*Program Suggestions and Details in GFWC Club Manual

GFWC RESOURCES



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GFWC AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- ❖ Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- ❖ \$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program.

Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program projects.

Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC

Refer to the Awards section of the Club Manual for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines

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GFWC-NC Reporting and Awards

Overview of Reporting

- Annual Program and Statistics Report - CSP reports to President of club
 - Includes number of projects and participants, hours, donations, in-kind donations, dollars spent, and dollars raised. Due to GFWC-NC 1st VP by February 1st. Club sets due date.

Overview of Awards

- One Outstanding Program award for a General, Junior, Juniorette club for each CSP and one Creativity Award for all clubs. Judging criteria is defined.
- Special Programs – One Overall Club and one Club Creativity Award in each Program among all clubs.

*The primary resource for all reporting and awards is on the GFWC NC website under Reporting and Awards. Many of the forms are fillable online.

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Reach Out to US!

We want to be a resource and to stay engaged with all of you!!


SOO.....

Let us hear from YOU!

Pat Witt – General Chair
Brittany Smith - Junior Chair


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GFWC Signature Project - Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and PREVENTION

❖ Community Connection Initiative: Raise Awareness to Hope and Health
GFWC NC Chairman: Eva Jackson



Juniors Special Program: Advocates for Children

❖ Community Connection Initiative: Refresh and Revive
GFWC NC Chairman: Casandra Webb

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