



# 2022-2024 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH



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The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. The four “broad strokes” of this effort include: Citizenship; Crime Prevention, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness; the Needy, Hungry, and Homeless; and Our Military Personnel and Veterans.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE: A LITTLE THANKS GOES A LONG WAY



Community Connection Initiatives are designed to answer the need to build awareness and recognition of who GFWC volunteers are, what the organization accomplishes, and making GFWC recognizable in local communities. This branding effort assists in giving GFWC a more human side, which will help to build your recognition and grow your membership.

Civic engagement is the process of connecting individuals in society with one another, to share common interests, and work for the common good. [www.study.com](http://www.study.com)

GFWC clubs are encouraged to focus efforts on giving thanks and advocating for the essential workers in the community. Essential workers in the community include many fields of work not only medical care providers and first responders, but also the many 911 dispatchers, teachers, civil service employees, farmers, truckers, utility workers, pharmacy providers, bank employees, delivery services, sanitation employees, and military personnel as examples.

Review the Club Manual to see how GFWC clubs can work with others to make the community a more positive place to live, work, and socialize.

### Affiliate Organizations

(Confirmed as of date of printing)

Depending on club intent, projects/programs from these GFWC Affiliate Organizations could be reported here as well:



### Resource Organizations

(Located in the Resources Area of the Club Manual.)

**“True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on Earth.” – Eleanor Roosevelt**

- Work together with other community members or organizations to create a social media platform, such as Facebook or Twitter page, to engage the larger community on key issues, identify positive solutions, and stimulate public policy initiatives.
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- Collect books that celebrate women of the suffrage movement or other women and girls of historical or societal importance, including biographies, nonfiction, and historic fiction, and donate them to local schools, libraries, and programs such as the Boys and Girls Club, YWCA, and Girls, Inc.
- Visit state monuments, notable homes, and other historic sites, perhaps as part of a State or Region meeting. Collect a donation or hold a fundraiser to help support the site or its mission.
- Work together to “Get Out the Vote!” Encourage others to register and vote, provide information about early voting or polling location and times, and offer transportation if needed.
- Collaborate with bookstores or libraries to create a prominent display of nonfiction books that commemorate Women’s History Month in March, tell the “herstory” of women’s suffrage, and celebrate the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on August 26, 2020.
- Make homes and communities safer by providing information on crime prevention strategies, such as neighborhood/park watches and suspicious activity reports.
- Support and thank local Police and Fire Departments for keeping the community safe.
- Share fact sheets with members and friends, including “The Top Ten Financial Scams Targeting Seniors,” and “Eight Tips for How Seniors Can Protect Themselves from Money Scams.”
- Work with first responders and your local high schools to provide presentations on at-risk driving practices, such as texting and failure to use seat belts.
- Organize a winter clothing drive in the fall, collecting, sorting, and cleaning gently used coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, and gloves.
- Encourage members to research local or national programs that support our military.
- Work with your VA to identify veterans who need household supplies and furniture, employment assistance, educational scholarships, or other help.
- Create awareness about the high rate of suicide among veterans and suicide prevention programs.
- And many more provided in Club Manual.

(This list is a brief offering of project ideas. Please visit Club Manual for other grassroots projects and/or programs as well as those with Affiliate Organizations or Resources.)