



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

BY CARRIE ZIMMERMAN, SOUTHERN REGION

Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent. Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.

A documentary on YouTube #iamvanessaguillen, 20/20 ABC News, led to information of stronger advocacy occurring on Military Sexual Assault. Vanessa Guillen was a soldier in the Army based at Fort Hood in Killeen, TX and went missing on April 20, 2020 from the base. She was killed by a superior officer that was sexually harassing her. Her family and friends used the power of social media to launch advocacy and on January 26, 2022, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to establish sexual harassment as an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice-as called for by the I Am Vanessa Guillen Act in the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act.

Our GFWC Clubwomen want to know how they can help. Advocacy is a big start. Websites listed below give good ideas on how to bring Military Sexual Assault awareness and advocacy.

<https://www.trynova.org/military-veterans-victim-advocacy-program/program-overview/>

<https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/military-sexual-trauma-resource-list>

<https://www.dav.org/veterans/resources/military-sexual-trauma-mst/>



UPCOMING AWARENESS DATES

NOVEMBER

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

Some statistics from [protectourdefenders.com](https://www.protectourdefenders.com)

Sexual Violence Remains Pervasive

- 14,900 members (8,600 women and 6,300 men) were sexually assaulted in 2016. Rates of penetrative assault were unchanged from 2014.
- Most victims were sexually assaulted more than once, resulting in over 41,000 assaults in 2016 alone.
- Over 1 in 4 women and 1 in 3 men were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.
- 1 in 4 survivors of either sexual assault or sexual harassment/discrimination took steps to leave the military as a result.

Read more statistics with the link below:

<https://www.protectourdefenders.com>

National Sexual Assault Hotline Link:

<https://www.rainn.org/resources>

SUCCESS FOR SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP

GFWC's Success for Survivors Scholarship application is open!

The GFWC Success For Survivors Scholarship was created in 2012 to lend a helping hand to those impacted by intimate partner violence who are pursuing higher education. As part of the GFWC Signature Program, the scholarship aims to provide survivors with a means to achieve both financial and personal independence.

Since its inception, GFWC has awarded more than \$97,500 in scholarship funds. These funds come from clubs, State Federations, Regions, and personal donations and scholarships are given based on the amount of money raised.

Your contributions can change a survivor's life. Make a tax-deductible donation GFWC for the Success for Survivors Scholarship fund today.

The 2023 Success for Survivors Scholarship Application is now open on the GFWC website. Applications are due by February 10th and scholarship winners will be notified beginning in June. Be a part of this incredible program. Donate and share the application link with a local service provider near you.

<https://www.gfwc.org/what-we-do/success-survivors/>

Important Dates:

October 13, 2022	GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Application Opened
February 10, 2023	GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Application Deadline
May 2023 – June 2023	Recipients Notified
July 2023	Monetary Awards Sent to Recipients Upon Receipt of Enrollment Verification

"The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship would put me one step closer to obtaining my dream of a college education. My degree will put an end to low-paying jobs, allow personal independence, responsibility, and growth, and break this vicious cycle of poverty and abuse."

- Success for Survivors Scholarship Recipient



CHILD ABUSE

WHAT DO OUR MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT "AGING OUT" OF FOSTER CARE?

When a foster child becomes 18 and leaves the foster care safety umbrella, what will they need? Many still be in high school, these teens find themselves in need of jobs, a place to live, and a means of transportation to survive. We all dream of a foster family willing to continue to provide a safety net and guidance. But many are not so fortunate.

Each year approximately 24,000 American teenagers in foster care turn 18 years old. National studies have shown that within two to four years of leaving foster care at age 18:

40% were homeless

46% had not finished high school

40% were receiving public assistance or were incarcerated

40% experienced drug or alcohol abuse

51% were unemployed

84% became parents

*Statistics from Forever Family.

So how can our GFWC Club Members help these youth? Meet with your local foster care agency and then brainstorm how to fill the urgent needs.

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 gave states more funding and greater flexibility to provide support to youth transitioning from foster care to independent living. Some youth aging out may choose to continue care and supervision of the child welfare system. These youth experienced better outcomes than those who chose or were forced to leave care.

So, what can my local club do to help?

The best thing one can do for a teen in foster care is to become their mentor. Get involved by connecting with them on a regular basis and helping with anything they need. Often they just need help in filling out forms, applications and deciphering what is wanted.

Clubs can also donate money so that they have the resources they need to fulfill their academic and career potential.

Clubs can offer a scholarship to a child in foster care.

Clubs can become involved with a homeless program. Ie Tumbleweed

Clubs can provide full size toiletries, towels, and linens.



GFWC REGION MEETINGS





Support STARFISH PROJECT when you Shop!

As the holiday season approaches, consider shopping with STARFISH PROJECT with our special link. An incredible 25% goes to our Success for Survivors Scholarship!

https://starfishproject.com/?utm_source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gfwc.org%2F&utm_medium=utm_medium%3Dreferral&utm_campaign=utm_campaign%3Dgfwcfundraiser



REGION CONFERENCES, 2022

RESOURCES AND LINKS

- History of the Clothesline Project:
<https://theclotheslineproject.org/history.htm>
- GFWC Legislative Action Center: <https://www.gfwc.org/legislative-action-center/>
- Sheltering Animals and Families Together website: www.saftprogram.org
- National Sexual Assault Hotline, 1-800-656-HOPE
- 1in6: <https://1in6.org/>
- PAVE: <https://www.shatteringthesilence.org/>
- Military Rape Crisis Center: <https://www.stopmilitaryrape.org/>
- Films/documentaries featuring information on violence against Native American women: Wind River, Prey, Sisters Rising, Bringing her Home
- Teen Dating Violence hastags for February: #Orange4Love and #CACampusReady
- Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign (to request materials):
<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/request-materials>



The screenshot shows the top section of the Veterans Crisis Line website. It features the logo on the left, navigation links in the center, and a large image of a woman on the right. Below the image are buttons for dialing 988, chatting online, and texting 838255.

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Call then Press 1
or Text 838255
Chat

How We Help ▾ Signs of Crisis Resources and Support ▾ About ▾

24/7, confidential crisis support

for Veterans and their loved ones

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

Dial 988 then Press 1

Chat online

Text 838255



The diagram illustrates the three ways to use the DoD Safe Helpline. It is titled 'DoD Safe Helpline: How it Works'. The three options are: CALL (877-995-5247), CHAT (Online.SafeHelpline.org), and DISCUSS (SafeHelpRoom.org).

DoD Safe Helpline: How it Works

CALL
877-995-5247

CHAT
Online.SafeHelpline.org

DISCUSS
SafeHelpRoom.org

All Safe Helpline services are: anonymous, confidential, and tailored to support members of the DoD community and their loved ones affected by sexual assault.

