

GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS



GFWC Juniors' Special Program:
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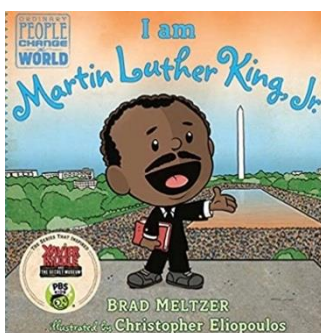
Volume Four January-February 2023 Newsletter

May our friendship turn into silver, silver into gold, gold into diamonds
~ because diamonds are forever. Happy New Year 2023

Thank You clubwomen for your support of Advocates for Children in 2022 with projects and donations to GFWC Affiliates and enhancing the lives of children in your community. I look forward to reading the award entries. Use the previous newsletter as a reminder for filing tips.



Writing
Award
Entries



January 17th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

You can use these books to supplement a child's learning about Dr. King:

[I am Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) by Brad Metzer. This book is part of the Ordinary People Change the World Series and is perfect for elementary age children.

[A Place to Land: Martin Luther King, Jr, and the Speech that Inspired a Nation](#) by Barry Wittenstein

[Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) by Doreen Rappaport

GFWC Affiliate Focus



Fact Sheet

2,702	Active graduate teams nationwide	1,053	Puppies currently being raised
257	Teams graduated in 2022 to date	133	Breeder dogs
517	People currently on the waitlist	4,700	Volunteers nationwide
444	Dogs placed supporting veterans Since founding	51	Volunteer chapters nationwide
1292	In-person and virtual follow up Visits in 2022 to date	7,364	Teams graduated since founding in 1975

Several hundred Canine Companions released dogs are currently in human services roles such as search and rescue, border patrol, customs, therapy, medical alert, and guide dogs, which are not reflected in the numbers above.

- One in four Americans live with a disability and Canine Companions is here to help.
- As the leader of the service dog industry, Canine companions enhances independence for children, adults, and veterans with disabilities through expertly trained service dogs.
- Our service dogs assist people with a wide range of disabilities, including multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, stroke, hearing loss, developmental delay, veterans with post-traumatic stress order and more.
- Established in 1975, Canine Companions is the largest non-profit provider of service dogs in the United States. With our cutting-edge research and training programs, we can achieve our industry-wide goal of providing service dogs to all eligible applicants and reducing wait times for individuals who would benefit from a service dog.

Canine Companions Puppies

Canine Companions breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and crosses of the two breeds. Puppies are raised by volunteer breeder caretakers who provide permanent homes to Canine Companions breeder dogs and nurture newborn puppies until they are about 8 weeks old. Then the puppies are placed with volunteer puppy raisers for a year and a half, where they receive lots of socialization, love, attention, and experiential activities to prepare for their future.



**HEALTHY
MOMS.
STRONG
BABIES.**



End-of-year Highlights from March of Dimes

- Check out the 2022 Report Card to share with your members: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/report-card>
 - Stay updated on our Advocacy efforts here: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/get-involved/advocate>
- March of Dimes Board of Trustees Vice Chair Dr. David L Lakey shares his response to the Measles outbreak we are seeing in Ohio.
 - “Measles is a highly contagious disease and can be dangerous to the health of newborns, children, and adults. March of Dimes encourages all families to vaccinate their children against measles and other vaccine-preventable illnesses. Pregnant women who contract measles are at risk for more severe complications of the illness, as well as at increased risk for preterm birth. We urge families to speak with their primary care doctor about routine vaccinations or visit [marchofdimes.org/vaccines](https://www.marchofdimes.org/vaccines) for more information on vaccines and links to find local providers who deliver no-cost vaccines to eligible families.”
- Has your organization scheduled a March for Babies Pep Up Rally date yet for 2023? Be sure to work with your March of Dimes liaison to set this up for early 2023!
- Check out GFWC specific information here: <https://volunteer.marchofdimes.org/the-general-federation-of-womens-clubs/>

Because children can be victims of slavery and trafficking or impacted when a parent is a victim, I am sharing information with permission from Juliet M. Casper, Chairman GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Committee Quarterly Newsletter Issue #2

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and can also be known as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is a key time for us to

educate ourselves about human trafficking, learn to spot the signs of trafficking, and know how to report suspected actions to law enforcement. Hope for Justice, a GFWC Affiliate Organization, investigates cases of human trafficking and works with law enforcement to rescue victims. Check out the website, <https://hopeforjustice.org/>, and watch one of the videos of a survivor story. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security launched the Blue Campaign to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the signs of human trafficking and to respond appropriately to possible cases. Here are the common signs which are listed on the website, <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>:

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

Wear Blue on January 11 to raise awareness of this issue and post photos on social media with #WearBlueDay. GFWC has been actively engaged in a coalition hosted by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation to support federal legislation including the EARN IT Act, the Kids Online Safety Act, and reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act programs. Congress is currently considering a package of four bills to be assembled into the federal legislation which establishes the framework for the federal government's response to human trafficking. Most notably, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2022 authorizes critical funding to support survivors and combat human trafficking in all forms both domestically and internationally. It also improves existing efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers. Authorization for many of these programs expired September 2021, although federal funding has continued. Current negotiations on TVPA reauthorization include portions of these introduced bills: International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, Abolish Human Trafficking Reauthorization Act, Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act, and the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act.

Juliet Casper also shared this from *The White House Women’s Community Engagement Newsletter* ~ **A Proclamation on National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America**

Around the world, human trafficking has stripped nearly 25 million people of their safety, dignity, and liberty — disproportionately affecting historically underserved and marginalized communities. During National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we reaffirm our commitment to ending this inhumane and immoral practice in all its forms. And as we bring perpetrators to justice, we renew our pledge to help survivors recover and rebuild their lives.

That is why, last year, my Administration released a National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, which helps to prevent trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, and protect survivors. Consistent with this strategy, agencies across the Federal Government are working to combat human trafficking, conduct research to better address its root causes, and strengthen survivors’ access to services, including affordable housing and trauma-informed care. Through the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, we have expanded the recognition of Tribal courts’ jurisdiction over non-Native sex traffickers on Tribal lands. And we have created a new unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs that can help investigate human trafficking as an underlying cause of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. [Click here for the full proclamation.](#)

Your advocacy does help...

President Biden signed into law HR 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, which included two key measures to protect pregnant and nursing workers. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act requires employees to provide pregnant workers with reasonable accommodations, such as access to water, increased bathroom breaks, and restrictions on lifting heavy objects. The Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act or the Pump Act expands on legally protected breaks for workers who are nursing babies.

With less stress on Mom, babies are healthier!



January Observances
National Blood Donor Month
National Birth Defect Prevention Month
National Human Trafficking Prevention
Month

“It’s okay to be different” Month

National Book Month

January 1 ~ World Day of Peace

January 18 ~ Winnie the Pooh day

January 21 ~ National Hug Day

January 22 ~ Chinese New Year



February Observances

Black History Month

American Heart Month

National Children’s Dental Health Month

February 1 ~ World Read Aloud Day

February 8 ~ Kite Flying Day

February 11 ~ International Day of Women and Girls in Science

February 14 ~ Valentine’s Day

February 17 ~ Random Acts of Kindness Day

