



**General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts**  
Lynne M. Stader, President



**Domestic Violence  
Awareness & Prevention Program 2016-2018**

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The goal of the **GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention** is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse in communities across the nation by supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC is a powerful voice for those who have no voice.

**Dates to remember:**

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

JUNE 15 IS WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Domestic violence affects individuals in every community across the United States. It may include the use of physical and sexual violence, verbal and emotional abuse, stalking, and economic abuse. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

**Advocate - Things to Know:**

- Domestic violence is the most common source of injury to women, more common than automobile accidents, muggings, and rape by a stranger combined.
- Domestic violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.
- Domestic violence is most common among women between the ages of 18-24.
- Every nine seconds in the U.S., a woman is assaulted or beaten.
- 19% of domestic violence involves a weapon. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.
- Every year, approximately four million older Americans are victims of physical, psychological and/or other forms of abuse and neglect.
- Boys who witness their mothers' abuse are more likely to batter their female partners as adults than boys raised in nonviolent homes.
- Domestic violence costs \$8.3 billion in expenses annually, a combination of higher medical costs (\$5.8 billion) and lost productivity (\$2.5 billion).

The United States Department of Justice defines domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.

**Physical Abuse:**

Hitting, slapping, choking, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair pulling, etc., are types of physical abuse. This type of abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use upon him or her.

**Sexual Abuse:**

Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual abuse includes, but is certainly not limited to, marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred, or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner.

**Emotional Abuse:**

Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem is abusive. This may include, but is not limited to, constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with his or her children.

**Economic Abuse:** Is defined as making or attempting to make an individual financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding one's access to money, or forbidding one's attendance at school or employment.

**Psychological Abuse:** Elements of psychological abuse include — but are not limited to — causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.

Use the 2016-2018 GFWC Club Manual Signature Program Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Guide available on GFWC website for more information - <http://www.gfwc.org/>.

**GFWC PARTNERSHIPS:**  
**Prevent Child Abuse America**  
([www.PreventChildAbuse.org](http://www.PreventChildAbuse.org))



Since 1972, Prevent Child Abuse America has led the way in building awareness, providing education, and inspiring hope to everyone involved in the effort to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.

**Pinwheels for Prevention**

Prevent Child Abuse America is implementing Pinwheels for Prevention, a national campaign introducing the pinwheel as the symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention in the United States.

Visit [www.PinwheelsForPrevention.org](http://www.PinwheelsForPrevention.org) or the Massachusetts Chapter [www.masskids.org](http://www.masskids.org) for more information.

The opportunities are endless.

## **HOW TO HELP:**

### **GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship**

Established to provide domestic violence survivors with a means to achieve financial and personal independence, GFWC will award scholarships to domestic violence survivors with \$1,000 scholarships annually each June. Make a difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors around the country by helping them pursue their education and career dreams by supporting through the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship.

You can donation to this scholarship directly through GFWC of MA. Look for the line on the **GFWC of MA Contribution Form.**

### **Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Activities for Your Clubs:**

- Donate night bags, birthday bags, pajamas, toiletry items, clothing
- Host a pajama party to raise funds or collect pajamas for shelters
- Assemble and donate First Night Kits, Birthday Bags, Anger Kits, or Bedtime Snack Sacks
- Support Dress for Success ([www.DressForSuccess.org](http://www.DressForSuccess.org))
- Work with local shelters to gather information and items that are needed
- Hold a "Shades of Purple" Fashion Show with proceeds donated to the Scholarship Fund.
- Work with local businesses to hold a "Wine, Women, and Shoes" Fashion Show: featuring a wine tasting, gourmet food samples, a shoe fashion show with shoes displayed on silver platters, and a silent auction.
- Raffles and Auction Baskets Ideas include: a Wine Pull Raffle where bottles of wine are wrapped so the labels can't be seen and then they are numbered. Sell raffle tickets and have participants choose from a basket filled with wine corks that have been numbered and win that particular numbered bottle of wine.



### **GFWC of MA Focus Areas:**

#### **Jane Doe Inc.**

For more information regarding Massachusetts state resources, caregiver support, advocacy, legislation and additional volunteer opportunities visit: <http://www.janedoe.org/>



### **Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign!**

[The first Thursday in March - March 2, 2017](#)

Invite men/boys to be leaders to help end violence against women. White Ribbon Day is part of the international White Ribbon Campaign. Designed especially with men in mind, this was created by a handful of Canadian men in 1991 on the second anniversary of one man's massacre of fourteen women in Montreal to urge men to speak out against violence against women. Today, the WRC is a worldwide campaign in 60 countries that has collected well over 5 million signatures and growing. In 2008, Jane Doe Inc. launched the opportunity for Massachusetts to join this international effort for human rights to engage men to help end violence against women, men and children. The approach is one of celebrating positive masculinity; inviting men and boys to be leaders to help end violence against women; and encouraging men and boys to contribute to a solution in any number of ways. For more information visit: <http://whiteribbonday.janedoe.org/about-white-ribbonday/about-us/>