

2025

2025 GFWC IDS Strategies and Service Project Ideas

Join your fellow GFWC members for the GFWC International Day of Service on September 27, 2025, as all GFWC comes together in service to end domestic and sexual violence!

Educate, Engage, and Empower: Strategies to Maximize GFWC's International Day of Service Impact

Educate

As you prepare to implement your club's or group's International Day of Service activities, explore opportunities to promote your service project and educate the community on the comprehensive issues related to domestic and sexual violence. Consider having club programs and speakers to further educate members and share information on social media to emphasize the issues or to provide powerful knowledge of signs, symptoms, statistics, actions, or resources for assistance to the community.

Engage

As you develop relationships with shelters or entities that can facilitate your action plan, consider also engaging community members and other civic organizations to participate in your IDS service project. Reach out to the local Chamber of Commerce and law enforcement to broaden the reach of your impact. Create a social media campaign to spread awareness of everything you do widely and to promote your IDS activities.

Empower

With knowledge and involvement in varying ways, members and the community become increasingly empowered to consider what is needed most and can develop varying strategies for addressing the vast needs of those who are survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Timing

The GFWC 2025 IDS takes place on September 27, 2025. We prefer that you undertake your IDS service project on September 27, but we understand that day may not work for your project. If you need to select an alternate day, please choose a date between September 21–27, 2025.

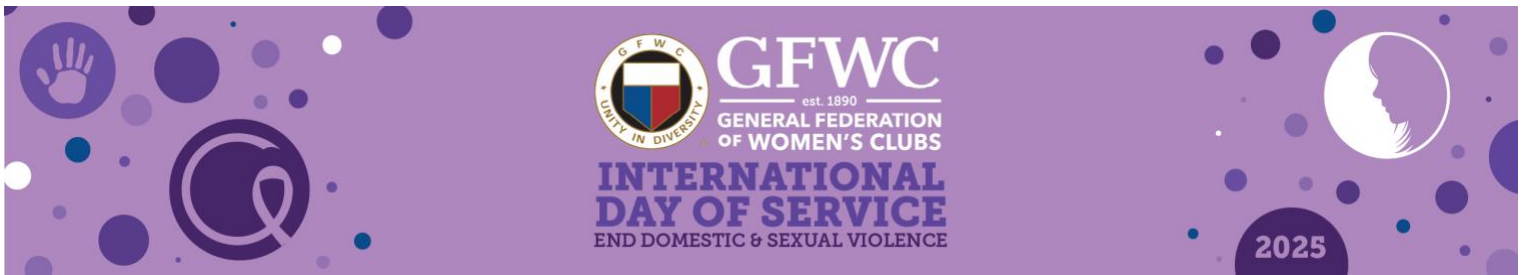
Utilize the GFWC Club Manual to gain information and additional ideas. Access the [GFWC Club Manual](#) through the Digital Library on the GFWC Member Portal.

General Service Project Ideas

- Facilitate a webinar or organize a town hall event in partnership with a local shelter aimed at teaching safe and healthy relationship skills to youth and adults.
- Contact local shelters to identify their specific needs and inquire about how you can assist.
- Raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence by tying deep purple ribbons around trees on a busy street. Add impact by posting signs displaying messages such as “Stop Abuse” and “Recognize, Report, Stop Domestic Violence,” with the club and GFWC emblem as sponsors.
- Statistically, 48 percent of domestic violence victims hesitate to leave dangerous situations due to concerns for their pets' safety. Provide pet supplies to local shelters or identify unique programs that offer kennel services for pets belonging to those escaping abusive relationships.
- Organize a hands-on project to create blankets and afghans for donation to a shelter. These items can serve as permanent bedding covers or be given to residents upon their departure from the shelter.
- Support children adapting to domestic violence shelters by filling a fun bucket or container with bath products, colorful toys, and washcloths. Donate these items to a shelter, providing comfort and assistance during their transition.
- Collaborate with community groups to organize a "Chalk It Up" event. This initiative will involve chalking streets with statistics and messages to educate the community about the needs of domestic violence shelters.
- Organize a scavenger hunt to collect items for a local shelter or holiday gifts for residents. Create interest by forming member teams, each receiving a budget and a list of items to purchase. Allow a set time for shopping, then judge by which team best completed the list.
- Host a Princess Breakfast for a local non-profit organization helping women and children experiencing abuse. Collaborate with a local elementary or middle school to host in the school cafeteria for elementary school students. Children and volunteers could wear princess costumes for fun photographs, as desired or acceptable. Include activities such as nail painting, washable tattoos, as well as games.

Campus Sexual Assault

- Ensure that your local college campus has appropriate policies and procedures in place to address incidents of sexual assault and follows federal, state, and local laws and requirements. Host a campus event educating students and faculty about campus safety.
- Facilitate a “Bystander Intervention” training on how to intervene in situations that involve sexual violence.



- Organize or participate in public awareness campaigns:
 - *It's On Us*: An initiative that reframes sexual assault in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it. Register to host an *It's On Us* event in partnership with a local chapter or sorority.
 - The Clothesline Project: Encourage community members to decorate a shirt and hang it on a public clothesline, serving as a powerful public testament to the urgent issue of sexual violence. This creative expression aims to inspire change and raise awareness about the impact of this problem.
 - Take Back the Night: Take part in an after-dark event on a college campus to make a statement about women's right to be in public at night free from the threat of sexual violence.
- Volunteer at your local rape crisis center.

Child Abuse

- Support local Child Protection Service agencies by making kits for children entering foster care.
 - Collect suitcases and travel bags for children to carry clothes.
 - Sponsor a stuffed animal toy drive to give to children entering foster care. Donate the toys to a local shelter.
- Reach out to emergency shelters in your area to ask for a list of items needed for clients.

Elder Abuse

- Identify and disseminate information on how to recognize elder abuse at local establishments.
- Reach out to a senior center to hold educational programs and seminars. Provide professional speakers and materials for those attending.
- Provide a respite break for a caregiver.
- Organize a "Respect Your Elders" essay or poster contest at your local school.

Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

- Learn the signs of human trafficking and share these broadly via town hall event.
- Partner with an organization dedicated to combating sex trafficking to educate school-age children on self-protection strategies, empowering them to avoid becoming a victim.

Intimate Partner Violence

- Partner with a shelter to help survivors create and implement safety plans to protect themselves and their children, including identifying safe locations and developing escape routes.
- Organize and distribute care packages with essential items for survivors and their children, providing immediate comfort and support.
- Organize workshops, presentations, and events to educate the public about intimate partner violence, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention.
- Partner with a local nonprofit to assist survivors in accessing legal, medical, and social services, helping them navigate complex systems and find the resources they need.
- Provide training for volunteers to equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively support survivors.

Military Sexual Assault

- Find your local military installation's Family Advocacy Program to learn how to assist survivors effectively. This resource can provide valuable information on how your group can offer support.
- Volunteer at local homeless shelters and ask them to share available Military Sexual Trauma (MST) resources.

Teen Dating Violence

- Educate your club to recognize the signs of Teen Dating Violence (TDV).
- Develop a webinar/training to inform preteens and teens about safe and healthy relationship skills.
- In collaboration with the school or school district, facilitate an informative session for parents and grandparents addressing teen dating violence. This session aims to raise awareness and provide essential resources for understanding and preventing such issues.

Violence Against Native American Women

- Educate members and communities about domestic and sexual assault issues facing American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) women.
- Volunteer and/or donate to victim service organizations that serve the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community.
- Reach out to local shelters to inquire about what is needed for clients.