

## **Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children** **By Carrie Zimmerman, Juniors' Special Program Chairman**

**from GFWC News & Notes 10.21.2021**

### **Advocates for Children Week Starts October 24**



GFWC's Advocates for Children Week starts this Sunday! Make the most of October 24–30 and stick your neck out to support children. Parents and caregivers need more training to be the best Advocates for Children in emergency or other health situations. Schools need more support to create and upgrade curricula for students.

Participate in the “Stick Your Neck Out” challenge! View the Juniors' Special Program section of the Club Manual in the Member Portal Digital Library in the “C” Resources folder and the “Special Programs and CSPs” subfolder.

And be sure to submit your success story to [PR@GFWC.org](mailto:PR@GFWC.org). Your Advocates for Children project could be selected to be published on the [GFWC Blog](#).

### **from GFWC News & Notes 10.16.2021** **Provide Support for Children in Crisis**

GFWC clubs support our children in many ways including the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children. An essential part of advocating for children is helping children facing crises. Supporting programs that bring awareness to children in crisis can advance the goal of developing safe communities all around the world. Some ideas for helping children in crisis include:

- Supporting foster children through luggage and clothing drives, creating care packages for children entering foster care, supporting birthday or holiday parties, hosting new shoe drives, and organizing Foster Parents' Night Out events.
- Helping children's mental health by supporting parenting classes in your community, advocating for more mental health services in your community, supporting social-emotional learning in schools, teaching communities about ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), participating in or supporting mentor programs, and creating programs that bring awareness to teen suicide.
- Supporting programs in schools and communities that provide food and clothing to children experiencing poverty or homelessness, providing support to homeless shelters, and educating communities about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act—a federal program to protect homeless families and youths in schools.

As GFWC clubwomen, we can make an impact in our communities for children one project at a time. Remember to submit your project for the "Stick Your Neck Out"

challenge as we celebrate Advocates for Children Week from October 24-30, 2021. This Chairman looks forward to reading all of the “Stick Your Neck Out” challenge and Juniors’ Special Program reports this year!

**from GFWC News & Notes 9.30.2021**  
**Organize Your Advocates for Children Project**

It’s that time of year again for us to be thinking about projects and how we can advocate for children! We would love to see many more projects turned in this year for our “Stick Your Neck Out” Challenge that is held *during* Advocates for Children Week, October 24-30, 2021.

Our many GFWC Junior and Woman’s Clubs showed their dedication to children by supporting many programs in their community even though limitations were in place. Some of the different programs included:

- Providing safe Halloween candy trails
- Creating online Halloween costume contests
- Donating art supplies to children’s hospitals
- Giving books to schools that focus on impacts of domestic violence
- Offering online giraffe scavenger hunts, by collaborating with businesses
- Supporting CASA (court-appointed guardians for children)
- Distributing treat bags to children in domestic violence or homeless shelters
- Donating to school arts programs

The application for the “Stick Your Neck Out” award can be found in the Juniors’ Special Program section of Club Manual in the Member Portal Digital Library in the “C” Resources folder and the "Special Programs and CSPs" subfolder. These applications can be sent directly from your club to me, [Carrie Zimmerman](#). We look forward to your entries!