



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

Donna M. Shibley, President



GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention ~ 2020-2022

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Domestic and Sexual Violence happens in all types of relationships and ages, including dating, married, same-sex, former or ex-couples, and couples who live together but are not married. Violence and assault often result in physical and emotional injuries. First important step is safety follow by physical care and then emotional care. Need more education and openness to help prevent these actions.

Here are some suggestions your clubs can do right here in Massachusetts and worldwide to make women and children safe.

- Encourage clubs to put the following information on their FaceBook page and website:
 - National Domestic Violence 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 800-799-7233 ~ <https://www.thehotline.org/>
 - MA Statewide Domestic Violence 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 877-785-2020 ~ <https://casamyrna.org/get-support/safelink/>
 - National Sexual Assault Hotline 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 800-656-4673 ~ <https://www.rainn.org/resources>
- Encourage clubs to reach out to local businesses to include the above information in women's bathrooms; clubs can make small laminated information cards.
- Contact your local shelters to see what their needs are; invite shelter directors to a club meeting to give you information of what is going on in your neighborhood.

Support GFWC Massachusetts fundraising activities for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Prevention. Gifts for yourself, your club officers and clubwomen, family and friends.

- buy heart diversity pins for \$5.00 each,
- buy heart/hand bracelets for \$20.00 each
- watch for other fundraising opportunities

Fall Meeting 2021 ~ all Women's and Junior Women's clubwoman are welcome to participate in a Creativity Contest. More information will be forthcoming. Items will be auction to support DV/SA A&P Club Grants.

Poetry and art contests for Domestic Violence survivors. More information will be forthcoming. Apply for a Club Grant. More information coming soon. To be awarded at Midwinter Meeting 2022.

- **Advocacy:** Encourage clubmembers to develop and influence federal and state legislation to support programs that help women and children. Form a campaign to help women to register to vote. Make information able for women to continue their education.
- **Important dates:** April is Sexual Assault Awareness & National Child Abuse Prevention Month. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

For many more ideas check out the *2020-2022 GFWC Club Manual* on the [GFWC Massachusetts](#) web site by going to the **ABOUT** tab click on **What Do We Do?**