



GFWC ~ Top Projects for 2019 ~ Award Entries ~ Massachusetts recognitions

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

Rape Victims Clothing Closet ~ **GFWC Agawam Junior Woman's Club** contacted the YWCA to offer assistance. The YWCA Director requested specific clothing for rape survivors. Victims must leave their own clothing at the hospital for forensic testing and need clothing to wear home. The club applied and received one of the GFWC MA Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Awareness Grants for \$500. The grant, as well as member donations, were a tremendous help in restocking the YWCA clothing closet.

Conservation:

Used Sneaker and Shoe Collection ~ **GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club** reached out to the community and high school Cross Country Track Team to collect used sneakers and shoes. The collection was advertised in the local paper and drop off bins were placed throughout town. Shoes that could be recycled were brought to Nike for their Reuse-A-Shoe Campaign while those that could be reused were given to the Soles4Souls Campaign. Over 300 pairs of shoes/sneakers were collected.

Public Issues: Monthly Care Package for Soldier ~ **GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club** supported one area soldier each year with a monthly package sent to the soldier. Members reached out to his family to learn about his interests. They included personal notes from members tucked between homemade cookies. In December, the soldier received two club packages—enough for him to share with members of his platoon. Being remembered with a package from home is so important for our servicemen and women.

Communications and Public Relations: Our Story in Video ~ **GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club** created a promotional video to present at their September Potluck Dinner and at the Apple Pie Café during Northborough's Annual Harvest Celebration. Photographs, arranged to the song "You've Got a Friend in Me," highlighted the club's projects and showed the fun and camaraderie enjoyed by members while working together in the community.

Legislation/Public Policy: Legislative Issues ~ **GFWC Dedham Junior Woman's Club** devoted an entire club meeting to an issue of legislative importance. The meeting focused on domestic violence awareness and prevention and included a dialogue on legislation that was needed at the local and state level. Members also discussed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 and wrote postcards to legislators advocating for the passage of the Act.

Membership: The Day the Teddy Bears Have Their Picnic ~ **GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club** used their year-end club meeting in a creative way to encourage members to return. Each member brought a much-loved Teddy Bear or other stuffed toy to introduce as their guest during roll call. Teddy Bear themed decorations were used. Each member was asked to bring an additional new teddy bear to the meeting to be included in donation bundles for children in foster care.