

GFWC ~ Top Projects for 2023 ~ Award Entries ~ Massachusetts recognitions

Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children: Period Palooza

The GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club partnered with two local girl-centered service and leadership groups to host a Period Palooza open to the community. The event was organized to help fight period poverty and to bring awareness to the issue. Speakers discussed the need for equitable access to menstrual products and how a lack of access affects females locally and globally. Participants were invited to decorate pouches filled with one month's worth of various products. The period kits were delivered to the local library, food pantry, and middle & high schools.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: Warm Hands Warm Hearts

GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club has five club members who continued the club's annual project. The club had a list of items to be collected. Warm accessories of 57 hats, 36 pairs of gloves, 37 headbands, 41 scarves, and 12 children's hats were distributed. An anonymous source gave each member \$20 to hand out at night. Various homeless sites downtown were visited, including the ice-skating rink, the library, and the train station. The Kindness of Strangers project was another huge success in raising awareness while raising care and concern for the homeless. Club members then went to dinner, and one of the \$20 went to her on top of her tip.

Environment: Plastic Free July

GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club held a rain barrel raffle for "Plastic Free July" in their town. They had a pledge drive, with citizens pledging to replace plastic water bottles in July. For each pledge, a raffle ticket was earned for the rain barrels, and a fun sand pail with accompanying fun kid-friendly toys was available for any child who entered.

Communications and Public Relations: A GFWC Friendsgiving

GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club after two years of planning, a community Friendsgiving event was held in August 2023. Recognition was given to individuals and 37 supporting organizations. A short video presentation highlighted the club's involvement in the 13 communities it serves. Pictures of the event were highlighted on multiple Facebook pages, and articles were submitted to local newspapers, online and club websites, and the club newsletter and

Volunteers in Action

GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club launched a "Volunteers in Action" show on a video and local cable access channel. Hosted by the club, each show highlighted the local club and topics from local non-profit organizations. Topics include why you should volunteer with a non-profit, benefits for you and the community, upcoming events, and more. The roundtable format featured three club members and a representative from another non-profit

Leadership: Wall of Leaders

GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership held a Wall of Leaders poster contest during their Annual Convention. Instructions were to highlight outstanding women who show their worth and stand tall and proud for GFWC MA and Junior Membership. They were especially looking for women who demonstrated leadership in their club and state. Posters were placed on

display, and the women were honored. One honoree went on to serve in leadership in the Junior Organization.

Legislation/Public Policy:

Using GFWC Resolutions Close to Home

GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club was motivated to take action when a proposal to build a gasification plant at the city's closed landfill was initiated. Members looked to GFWC Resolutions for guidance and got involved with a local group to educate the community about the danger of releasing harmful pollutants into the air. A community forum was organized with city council members and a state senator in attendance.

Membership:

Think Pink Membership Event

The Needham Women's Club sponsored a Think Pink Membership Event at a local country club on the heels of the popular Barbie movie. Participants were asked to dress in shades of pink, a signature pink cocktail was served along with other refreshments, and a local female comedian entertained the crowd of 125 people. Attendees brought donations to fill birthday bags for the community food pantry consisting of cake mixes, frosting, candles, and other party needs. This was a successful way to begin the club year, as this fun event gained five new members.