



Jennifer Nowak, President

SIGNATURE PROGRAM
Mary Ann Pierce, Chairman
781.444.3189
mapgfwc@msn.com

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

“Never underestimate the heart of a champion.” Ruby Tomjanovich

The goal of the **GFWC Signature Program** is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual abuse in communities within our state by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing programs and shelters throughout Massachusetts. We must become champions with a powerful voice for all victims and survivors.

The Signature Program has eight areas of focus:

- Campus Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Military Sexual Assault
- Teen Dating Violence
- Violence Against Native American Women

There are some ways we can advocate for victims of abuse. Utilize your club website and social media to share information concerning crisis hotlines. Encourage your club to reach out to local businesses to share this information, possibly in their bathrooms with laminated cards. Contact your local shelters to learn their needs. Hold club fundraising events to support them. Raise public awareness of sexual abuse and violence.

- There are many opportunities to support victims and shelters. 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.
- Connect with your local Board of Health and Police Department who should have information on how you can support shelters in your area.

Clubs can do these things right here in Massachusetts 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/>
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 800-656-4673 ~ <https://www.rainn.org/resources>
- MA Statewide Domestic Violence Safe Link 24/7 Crisis Hotline
 - 877-785-2020 ~ <https://casamyrna.org/get-support/safelink/>
- Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)
 - 617-586-1340 ~ <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-for-victim-assistance>



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Download this document, available on the GFWC MA website:

- Domestic Violence Programs ~ List of DPH-Funded Agencies

GFWC Resolutions:

Check to see what areas we can support.

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.

GFWC Affiliates to support:

Hope for Justice ~ shared common mission and vision: to live in a world free from trafficking. UNICEF and Heifer International both help women to support themselves and their children.

Important dates:

April is Sexual Assault Awareness & National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

To see the full GFWC Manual page for the Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, go to gfwcma.org > About GFWC > What We Do~GFWC Manual > Scroll to Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention.