GFWC est. 1890 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

STAND UP. SPEAK UP. SHOW UP.

September 2026

SIGNATURE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence in communities across the nation. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for victims and survivors. In 2007, GFWC helped launch the Million Voices Campaign to End Domestic Violence in America, partnering with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, beginning our strong commitment to survivors. Here we are in 2026, asking GFWC members to use your voice again to STAND UP. SPEAK UP. SHOW UP.

Stand Up – Learn about the issues, become informed, and support those affected by domestic and sexual violence.

Speak Up – Raise awareness in your community, educate others, advocate for effective policies, and share available resources.

Show Up – Take action by partnering with local organizations, volunteering, conducting service projects, and supporting survivors.



UNITY PROJECT

Pledge to Stand with Survivors

The Unity Project has a simple goal: to bring GFWC members together nationwide in a public show of support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Participation is easy:

1. Sign the pledge.
2. Take a photo holding your signed pledge.
3. Share your photo on social media.
4. Use the following hashtags:

#GFWCStandSpeakShowUp
#GFWCforSurvivors
#IAMGFWC
#WeAreGFWC
#GFWC

You can find the Pledge on the GFWC Member Portal. Take the pledge and post on your social media!

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Now is the time to build relationships with your State Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Your state coalition can be one of your strongest partners, offering speakers, educational and prevention materials, survivor services information, and opportunities for meaningful community collaboration.



GFWC Signature Program Chairman, Tina Smith, with NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence volunteers with NH Governor Kelly Ayotte. Lyn Schollett, executive director of the coalition, says, "It takes survivors, legislators, community members and crisis center directors working together to make these changes a reality. No one does this work alone."

WE AGREE, LYN!

Go to the GFWC Member Portal to find a list of State, Territory and Tribal Coalition today!

GFWC MEMBERS SHOWING UP



GFWC Texas returned to the Texas Capitol after a 20-year absence and organized a successful Day at the Capitol focused on advocacy and action. They spent the day at their State Capitol delivering packets and informing their elected officials about GFWC. They let them know GFWC Texas stands for the awareness and prevention of human trafficking for sexual purposes.



Thank you GFWC South Carolina for taking the GFWC Pledge to Stand with Survivors

SPEAK UP: LEGISLATIVE ACTION

It is important for all members to stay informed about the GFWC 2026 Federal Legislative Priorities. Three of these priorities connect directly to the Signature Program, and we will highlight them in upcoming newsletters.

VAWA Appropriations: GFWC urges Congress to increase federal funding for FY 2027 to provide safety, access to services, and justice for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Survivors rely on federally funded direct services such as shelter, rape crisis response, legal assistance, and counseling. Safe communities rely on prevention programs, 24-hour hotlines, and trauma-informed training for law enforcement.

*Sign up now for the GFWC Legislative Action Center. Simply visit **gfwc.org**, select **Advocacy**, then **Legislative Action**, and complete the registration.*



SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Join the movement to help end domestic and sexual violence by registering yourself or your club on the GFWC Member Portal. In 2025, members donated more than $1.5 million to support survivors, and 13,100 members came together in a single day of action. Amazing work!

Check out these project ideas:

GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club (MA) — Support for Our Sisters

The club proudly united with the Veterans Administration's Trust Program. This program supports female veterans dealing with military sexual abuse, substance abuse, PTSD, and more through a transitional residence program. As a means of supporting our veterans, DJWC wanted to ease some of the financial stress these veterans face by collecting personal hygiene items.

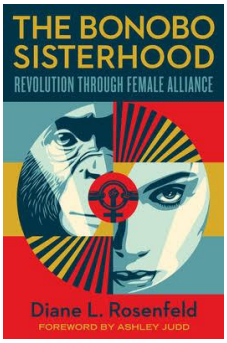
GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Women's Club (PN) — Getting to Know Speaker Series

The club hosted a speaker series for the community on the GFWC International Day of Service. The speakers were from five local and state organizations in the community that provided information on programs that help victims, support families, and informed the community of where to turn for help. The members obtained donations and were able to provide refreshments. The clubwomen were instrumental in working with the community members to make this a successful event for their community.

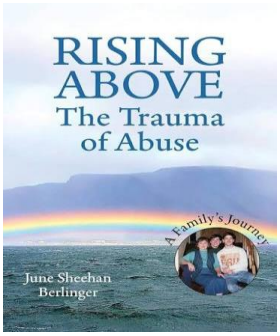
Visit the GFWC Member Portal for more project ideas!

READERS' CORNER

Members of the Signature Program Committee have read books that deeply affected us, and we look forward to sharing selected recommendations with you in each newsletter. As you explore these titles, please be mindful of your own well-being and take care of yourself while reading.



The Bonobo Sisterhood: Revolution Through Female Alliance by Diane L. Rosenfeld, published in 2022



RISING ABOVE – The Trauma of Abuse: A Family's Journey by June Sheehan Berlinger, published in 2026.

2026-2028 SIGNATURE PROGRAM COMMITTEE



(L-R) **Jean Revis**, Mid-Atlantic Region; **Mickey Coonfare**, Mississippi Valley; **Trisha Schafer**, Great Lakes; **Jackie Boland,** Southern; **Kimberly Skagen**, Western States; **Hope Royer**, Southeastern; **Barbara Harvey**, South Central



Tina Smith, New England Region, Signature Program Chairman; Tismith12@comcast.net