

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN SUPPLEMENT 2018-2020
Jean Battaglia, Chairman
8 Thrush Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Telephone: 732-238-4787 Email: battaglia@njsfwc.org

GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK- To raise awareness for GFWC's child advocacy efforts, the fourth week of October has been declared as GFWC Advocates for Children Week. All GFWC clubs are invited to participate by planning events related to the Juniors Special Project.

GFWC Partner, March of Dimes – www.MarchofDimes.com

- “Go Purple” during November, Prematurity Awareness Month
- Observe National Birth Defects Prevention Month in January
- Participate in a March for Babies event

GFWC Partner, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital – www.stjude.org

- Hold a real or virtual walk during September, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Donate funds for a red wagon.
- Donate items for use in patient care and support, such as mask straps and pillowcases.

Note: When making donations, reference GFWC and your state and club so that it will be credited properly.

Helping in Our Communities:

- Domestic Violence
- The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey-chsofnj.org helps at-risk infants, children, youth, and families achieve their potential
 - Knit, crochet or provide baby blankets, baby sweaters or booties for infants in their program.
 - Conduct a mitten, hat and scarf drive to keep toddlers warm during the winter months.
 - Outfit and decorate a “reading nook” for infants and toddlers in their Family Success Center.
 - Collect spare change in a baby bottle and donate to Baby Bottle “Formulas for Hope
 - The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation – www.emmanuelcancer.org assists New Jersey families who have a child with cancer, ages 0-18, without forms and red tape. Visit the site to see ways to help.
 - Organize a Dress Down Day or other fundraiser in your community.
 - Volunteer to work at a booth at their holiday party.
 - Help with an item on the wish list.
 - Create birthday bags for patients and family members.
- Community Food Bank of NJ - www.cfbnj.org -Visit the site to find ways to give support to their children’s programs. Donate healthy snacks for children, especially over the summer, when they are not in school nutrition programs.
- Dress a needy child for a special occasion such the first day of school, Christmas, etc. Contact the school nurse for the sizes of needy children and purchase complete outfits including underwear and socks.
- Putting Prayers to Action (formerly Tender Loving Care Ministries) helps children in the Appalachians, (270) 735-3155, puttingprayerstoaction.com.
- Collect new pajamas, Newborn to size 16. These can be donated to battered women shelters or local pediatric cancer centers. BE SURE TO CHECK WITH THE ORGANIZATIONS FIRST.
- Homes for Children with HIV/AIDS –AIDS Resource Foundation for Children, www.aidsresource.org St. Clare’s-Haller House, 182 Roseville, Newark, NJ 07107 call (973) 483-4250 or www.dooleyhouse.org Dooley House, 523 Cooper Street, Camden, NJ 08102 call (856) 541-1154. Donate baby monitors, diapers, baby and child toiletry items, twin sheet sets and bedding and children’s magazine subscriptions (e.g., Disney, Sesame Street, etc.). Go online for a complete wish list.
- Sponsor a child aging out of the foster care system. Donate large towels, washcloths, pillowcases, and other supplies for independent living.
- Project Linus – Visit www.projectlinus.org to contact the Project Linus Chapter in NJ near you. Check out the website for patterns and more information. Make blankets to be given to deserving children Blankets can be knitted, quilted, sewn or crocheted. Use child-friendly colors and washable materials.
- Provide children’s birthday party supplies, including small gift items, to a local shelter.
- Visit onesimplewish.org to learn how to help grant wishes for underserved children and young adults.

Helping in School:

- First Day Pet – Supply stuffed pets to help an anxious child adjust to first day of school. Check with local school for their policy on stuffed animals.
- Stock School Nurse’s closet with water and snacks for the child who comes to school without breakfast or is just hungry (gluten free and no nuts).
- Collect back to school supplies to be donated to battered women shelters, food banks, local elementary schools in need.

Focus on Health

- Participate in the American Occupational Therapy Association's National Backpack Awareness Day Go to www.AOTA.org for event planning tips and strategies including handouts, artwork and videos.
- Sponsor an Alex’s Lemonade Stand to raise money and awareness of childhood cancer causes, primarily for research into new treatments and cures, and to encourage and empower others, especially children, to get involved and make a difference for children with cancer. alexlemonade.org
- Donate pediatric medical equipment to a local EMS organization.
- Request Medication Safety “Look Alike” information cards from local pharmacy and handout at events.
- Parents of Autistic Children of NJ - Autism Shield Program – speaker available at all counties – 732-785-1099 or email info@poac.net, Local walks encouraged.
- Go to foodallergy.org to learn about allergies and the Teal Pumpkin Project.

Focus on Safety:

- Hold programs that raise awareness about bullying and cyberbullying
- Promote responsible driving habits – ask local police department ~~to be involved along with~~ and the local high school how to be involved.
- Create a child safety zone in your neighborhood. Go to kidsafecommunities.com for more information.
- Red Nose Day is sponsored by Comic Relief, Inc. a public non-profit, raising money to provide grants to organizations helping children in poverty. Visit rednoseday.org
- Donate stuffed bears to police and fire departments to be given to children in a traumatic situation.
- Promote the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey. “The 15-Minute Child Break” is a FREE, interactive, one hour presentation for parents, grandparents and caregivers who are concerned about children (of any age) and substance abuse. Representatives from the Partnership meet with groups on location to deliver this informative, engaging, and educational presentation. Contact drugfreenj.org or call 973-467-2100.
- Contact your local law enforcement agency to sponsor a workshop on safety issues for children, such as, Internet, bicycle, driving, seatbelt and car seats.

Review the 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual – Advocates for Children Section for additional project ideas and resources.