

NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF GFWC

Mary E. Wolfe, President

A Proud Legacy – A Shining Future

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Jean Battaglia
8 Thrush Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 732-238-4787
battaglia@njsfwc.org

It's January. Are you already wishing for spring? Spring weather is likely a few months away, and when it comes, for many, spring brings challenges. Children have outgrown those dress-up outfits from last year. Outdoor play clothes wore out or are also too small. Spring holidays usually bring treats and surprises, but budgets may not allow for that. And those teacher and nurse supply closets at schools, so well-stocked in September, may now be close to being bare.

Instead of wishing for spring, think about how to help others enjoy spring when it arrives. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, chsofnj.org, collects Easter baskets and items to fill them.
- Putting Prayers to Action, puttingprayerstoaction.com, collects clothing and personal care items. Visit the site to learn the specifics of the request.
- The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, emmanuelcancer.org, suggests party bags with supplies for in home birthday parties, but any day can be a day to cheer and celebrate as a family if someone brings a "springtime" or similar themed bag to get things started.
- Many daycare centers and nursery schools ask parents to provide rain jackets and boots so children can still play outdoors on drizzly days. Check with a center in your area to see if they need back up supplies for those who may not be able to provide them for their children. Ask if there is a child who might need extra play clothes or that "special" spring outfit, get sizes and offer to dress a child for spring.
- Call a local school and ask if comfort supplies kept by school nurses or guidance offices are low and need to be replaced or added to with items appropriate for spring.

Once you start, you will feel the joy and anticipation of spring yourself.