What an exciting year for GFWC International Outreach! It was a pleasure to read all the State Award Entries from 45 of our states. In addition to supporting the Partners, there were so many ideas of additional projects you did to reach beyond our own borders to the global community.

We collected everything from shoes to bras, and helped provide everything from clean water to new smiles. We engaged with refugee families, high school and college students, helping them become part of our communities and celebrating with those becoming citizens.

What an impact GFWC clubwomen made in 2018 in the global community. Clubs participated in 5341 projects, volunteered 138,755 hours, made in-kind donations valued at $632,137 and donated $907,281 to projects and our International Outreach Partners.

Thank you to all the clubs and states for sharing through your GFWC State Award Entries all the wonderful projects done in 2018. I encourage all clubs and clubwomen to think globally and engage with those in your community and throughout the world. Together we are helping to make a difference in the lives of many and change the world.

Project Ideas

Has your club planned a project for the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service on January 20, 2020? How about planning an International Outreach project? What better time and way to engage those in your community than on the National Day of Service? Many in the community will be looking for a way to volunteer and why not your club’s project? Our GFWC President Mary Ellen Brock has challenged us to have at least 1000 projects completed on this day. Here are a few suggestions for easy done in a day projects.

1. Operation Smile is in need of blankets/quilts and Smile Splints so invite your community or other women’s organizations to participate. Add a potluck for fun. You may even gain new members!
   https://www.operationsmile.org/content/smile-splint
   https://www.operationsmile.org/content/quilts-blankets-and-afghans

2. A “Free the Girls” projects can easily be a very fun time while providing bras for the women working to become self reliant. Hold an early evening party with admission being a new or very gently used bra or two, the fancier and colorful the better. Hang the bras with around the room for decorations. Make up a bra trivia game and/or present a program on Free the Girls.

3. Research the organizations providing services for the refugees in your community. Find out what items are most needed and hold a collection drive. Invite the community to participate. Have a drive thru drop off and maybe serve an ice cream to thank those donating. Ask the organization to be present to answer questions.
Partner News and Updates

Please be sure to read the articles from our International Outreach Partners. They are full of new and important information for us.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Read about the success of the Tanzania School Milk Program and the role GFWC played in the article below. Please know this program would not have been possible without the donations of livestock GFWC clubwomen have made over the years.

Plans are underway to use this successful model in other countries with an emphasis on childhood nutrition. GFWC’s continued support of Heifer International by providing the donations of livestock is still very needed and much appreciated.

Please note donations given to the milk project will be used towards launching the program in 5 new countries. More information will be shared with you as soon as we are made aware of which countries will be part of the Milk Project.
You may continue to donate to provide the livestock of your choice as before by writing in the memo line of your check your choice of livestock and GFWC.

SHOT@LIFE

Look for the Race to Erase Toolkit in September GFWC News and Notes. To learn more about Race to Erase activities and how to get involved sign up for the kickoff webinar to be held (separate to two words) Thursday, September 12 at 1:00pm EST. Use this link to register for the webinar: https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED59D989844C3B

OPERATION SMILE

Operation Smile has found a way to address the rising costs of shipping. Learn about their new Amazon Wishlist.
For those who enjoy sewing the items for Operation Smile, currently the most needed are blankets, afghans and Smile Splints. Follow these links for the patterns.

Please note there is an urgent need for Child Life Therapy Supplies and the items can be found on Operation Smiles’s Amazon Wishlist.

UNICEF USA

As you will read in the article from Unicef USA, their Trafficking program was sunset. Given this change has occurred in the middle of an administration, at this point in time there is not a specific focus for clubwomen. You may continue to support ending trafficking by continuing to raise awareness and contribute to Unicef USA, designating the Child Protection Fund on your check.

Other suggestions of program areas to support include the WASH program, girls education, refugees, and more. Or simply support the general fund and your contributions will be used as needed. I suggest you go to Unicef.org to learn more about this organization. Please be sure to write GFWC and your club name in the memo line and indicate where you would like the money to go. Even better, include a note too.
Heifer Celebrates GFWC Women for Funding School Milk Feeding Programs

During the GFWC’s 2018 Annual Convention in Saint Louis, Missouri, Heifer International boldly asked clubs across the country with a specific focus, to raise funds for the School Milk Feeding Program in Tanzania. Tanzanian school children had no access to food during their school day; as a result, many did not attend school daily.

GFWC embraced the challenge and this program grew substantially in a short period of time once GFWC started supporting it. At its inception, the program was responsible for feeding 4,280 students with a target of 10,000 students. With GFWC’s support, School Milk in Tanzania reached over 15,000 students at 25 elementary schools! With milk intake on a regular basis, teachers reported an increase in their students’ daily attendance and concentration. The students have been more eager to go to school and are performing better in class because of this unprecedented access to nutrition.

Two years since the milk program’s inception and just one year since the GFWC began raising funds for school milk, Heifer International is pleased to announce that the Tanzania School Milk Feeding Program has been funded in full! It is with the gracious giving of GFWC Clubwomen that made this possible. Heifer is extremely grateful to each club that raised money, helping the next generation of school children in Tanzania work towards their dreams of becoming teachers, nurses and doctors instead of worrying about hunger.

Because of the incredible success of Milk Money in Tanzania and GFWC’s extraordinary commitment, Heifer can replicate this model in other countries and focus on balanced child nutrition through dairy development. Milk Money has become a larger effort that is currently in progress in 5 additional countries helping children in Ecuador, Kenya, Nicaragua, Senegal and Rwanda.

Heifer International commemorates its 75th Anniversary this year as GFWC approaches its 130th year of enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Heifer is grateful for the dynamic collaboration of GFWC clubs across the country. It is truly the unwavering dedication and support through club efforts that have propelled Heifer forward with a shared vision of ending hunger and poverty. For more information on how GFWC works with Heifer collaboratively, please visit www.heifer.org/gfwc to download resources or complete a gift transaction.

Heifer and GFWC have an excellent cause for celebration by exceeding expectations in a two-year challenge as we continue to evolve this effort into a larger one to benefit thousands of children everywhere. Thank you and congratulations, GFWC!
Before we jump into Shot@Life’s upcoming activities in the Fall, let’s celebrate the impact your clubs had on children around the world in 2018! GFWC clubs collectively raised a total of $26,000 that went directly into programs fighting for increased access to lifesaving vaccines in the hardest to reach areas of the world. If you were unable to attend the Awards presentation at the GFWC Convention this year, you can view all the 2018 Awards Program winners here: https://shotatlife.org/2019/07/02/honoring-gfwcs-fundraising-efforts/

**RACE to ERASE**

Every 20 seconds, a child dies from a vaccine-preventable disease – but we can change that! Through advocacy and fundraising, GFWC clubs can continue to make a difference in 2019. For six weeks, running from October 1 - November 12, 2019, your club can help combat diseases like polio and measles by supporting great programs that are on the ground doing this important work, such as UNICEF, Gavi, and the CDC.

Fall is a critical time in the Congressional budget process, so please join other GFWC clubs as they take advocacy and fundraising actions - no action or donation is too small to make a difference! Shot@Life has all the tools and templates you need to make it as easy as possible – and as always, you can visit shotatlife.org/GFWC for more information or email Rebecca Maxie at Shot@Life (RMaxie@unfoundation.org).

**GET A SHOT. GIVE A SHOT September Launch**

Get your flu shot this September and give a shot! Walgreens and Shot@Life have teamed up since 2013 for Get a Shot. Give a Shot®, a campaign that has helped to provide more than 50 million lifesaving vaccines to children in developing countries. For every flu shot or other immunization administered at a Walgreens, including Duane Reade or Walgreens-owned Rite-Aid stores, Walgreens will help provide a vaccine to a child in need through the UN Foundation’s Shot@Life campaign.
At Operation Smile we love feedback from clubwomen! One of the most common concerns we have been hearing around supplying Child Life Therapy & Medical Record Supplies are the increasing cost for shipping these items following a supply drive. One solution we were able to come up with is our Amazon Wish list. This list was carefully curated to ensure they include the items needed for our missions as well as being eligible for FREE shipping through Amazon Prime.

You can see our list here:

www.operationsmile.org/amazon-wishlist

In order for your club to get credit for the donation please be sure to include a gift receipt. Doing this is easy. At checkout simply select the option to include a gift receipt.

Once you have selected this option it will open a box where you can include a gift message. Simply type your Club Name in the box and we will take care of the rest. Please note there currently is an urgent need for Child Therapy Supplies.

Please Note: For those who enjoy sewing the Operation Smile items, currently the most needed are blankets, afghans and Smile Splints.
GFWC CLUBWOMEN HAVE DONE AN AMAZING JOB PROVIDING GOWNS, BLANKETS, SMILE BAGS AND SO MUCH MORE TO OUR PATIENTS BEFORE AND AFTER SURGERY.

If your club is interested in pursuing any of the projects below with Operation Smile, please also consider that financial support is crucial to allow us to get these supplies to our patients and to provide the safe surgical care that they need.

Needs for our medical missions are constantly evolving, so if you haven’t been in touch with us in a while, please reach out to learn about some of the exciting changes we have made to our service projects!

MEDICAL RECORD SUPPLIES
Operation Smile medical professionals provide health care assessments to determine which children can safely undergo surgery. We bring everything we need to help with our screenings – from pens to staplers and many other items that may be unavailable at the medical mission site. These donated items will help us serve more children around the world.

CHILD LIFE THERAPY SUPPLIES
The Operation Smile child life therapy room is the last stop for a patient before the operating room. Licensed therapists facilitate therapeutic play and activities by explaining and demonstrating every aspect of care to our patients.

New! To ensure that our therapists have the best possible tools, we have updated our child life therapy donation list. Please contact us before your club begins collections to ensure that your items can be used in our child life therapy rooms! (Want an easier way to shop for these much-needed supplies? Shop our Amazon Wish list at operationsmile.org/amazon-wish list to provide these mission-critical items).

SMILE BAGS
After receiving surgery, each child receives a Smile Bag filled with small personal care items, toys and a mirror to see their new smile. Clubwomen can sew the cloth bags or collect the items that go into each bag.

New! We’ve updated our Smile Bag inventory list. Please contact us before your club begins collections to ensure your items can be used in Smile Bags!

SMILE SPLINTS
Proper healing is essential for a healthy new smile. Smile Splints prevent a child from bending their arms and touching their stitches. A sewing pattern and instruction sheet is available:
https://www.operationsmile.org/content/smile-splint

CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL GOWNS
A clean, fun hospital gown will bring joy to a child’s face before and after surgery. Yet hospitals in low-and middle-income countries may have few or no resources to provide them. A gown pattern is available from Operation Smile. Contact us for more information.

QUILTS, BLANKETS & AFGHANS
Few things give more comfort to a child in a hospital than a warm, soft blanket. Clubwomen can help provide blankets for children receiving an Operation Smile surgery. For some children, this will be the first blanket they’ve ever owned. Use this link for a sewing pattern and instruction sheet. https://www.operationsmile.org/content/quilts-blankets-and-afghans

operationsmile.org   1-888-OPSMILE
UNICEF USA’s End Trafficking Program unfortunately has been sunnetted. UNICEF USA will be focusing their resources and needs on other UNICEF programs and priorities. From June 2019 onwards, all funds for the End Trafficking program will be directed to UNICEF’s Child Protection work (which encompasses preventing human trafficking on a global level).

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children’s lives than any other humanitarian organization by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more.

UNICEF USA supports UNICEF’s work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes, and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

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