What is Advocates for Children? Advocates for Children has been and is the GFWC Juniors’ Special Program designed to encourage clubs to make a difference by protecting children from harmful situations, encouraging healthy physical and emotional lifestyles and impacting policies to improve children’s lives. GFWC partners are the March of Dimes and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. In NJSFWC clubs are asked to look for ways to make a difference in children’s lives in their communities, in New Jersey, and in the world.

Did you purchase sunscreen or visors for children at a local daycare? Did you put change in a baby bottle to purchase supplies for babies or purchase pediatric equipment for a local rescue squad? Did you partner with local law enforcement or schools for teen awareness of safe driving habits? If you did, you were an advocate for children. For more information and suggestions, consult the Supplement distributed to all club presidents, the Advocates for Children section in the Yearbook or njsfwc.org website or monthly ALMANAC articles.

Among the suggested projects last year was a pajama party themed meeting, where club members were asked to bring new children’s pajamas to donate to local programs or to deliver at the NJSFWC State Fall Conference for donation to the Children’s Home Society of New Jersey (CHSNJ), an organization serving at-risk infants, children, youth and families. Year-end reports from 76 clubs and affiliates reported 805 pairs of pajamas collected. Ninety-eight pairs were delivered to Children’s Home Society of NJ, where volunteers were waiting to distribute them to meet the immediate needs in the community. Asking if there were other items clubs could help to collect, the staff said that they would like to be able to wrap toys and gifts donated or purchased for children at birthday and holiday time, but that paper and ribbon can get costly. They suggested even a roll of paper or a bag of bows purchased at a dollar store would be helpful.

The joy of a child receiving a birthday or holiday gift is increased when it is wrapped, and they experience the excitement of opening it to see what is inside. Organizations that collect gifts for children can use wrapping supplies: paper, tissue, ribbons and bows. Consider purchasing these supplies to add to your donations. For those attending the NJSFWC Fall Conference on October 21, donations of gift-wrapping supplies are being collected and will be delivered to CHSNJ.