

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN SUPPLEMENT 2020-2022
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Projects in this Community Service Program provide support and advocate for youth all over the world.
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:

- CASA NJ: Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children: CASANJ.org.
CASA Affiliates recruit and train community volunteers to be a "voice in court" for children removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect. Contact your local affiliate for donation items needed and how you can volunteer.
- The Children's Home Society of New Jersey-www.chsofny.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 - provides emotional, material and financial assistance to NJ families who have a child with cancer. There are 4 centers across the state. Ways to get involved include volunteering (throughout the year or at special events), fundraising (much-needed), spreading the word (to families that have a child with cancer, to referral sources and to potential donors), food drives, etc. See their website for more information.
- 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, www.prayerstoaction.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, call (973) 643-0400 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.
- EMBRELLA supports programs for foster children. Check www.embrella.org to see how you can help in your area. You may be able to sponsor a child aging out of the foster care system with donations and supplies for independent living. Support other county and local foster care agencies.

- 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 www.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 September 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. www.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.
- AutismNJ.org. <https://www.autismnj.org/>
- Go to www.foodallergy.org to learn about allergies and the Teal Pumpkin Project.
- Ronald McDonald House www.rmh-cnj.org or www.ronaldhouse-snj Collect aluminum tabs, items on wish list or other volunteer opportunities.
- Hugs for Brady-www.hugsforbrady.com dedicated to helping children with childhood cancer. Raise funds toward a **Brady Buggy Wagon**, a safe, familiar form of hospital transportation. It includes a trailer to tow an IV pole for chemo treatments.

Focus on Safety:

UNICEF- www.unicef.org works in 190 countries (including the US) to save children’s lives defend their rights and fulfill their potential. Participate in Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign.

- Hold programs that raise awareness about bullying and cyberbullying, partner with PTA/PTO.
- Promote responsible driving habits – ask local police department, and the local high school how to be involved.
- Create a child safety zone in your neighborhood. Go to www.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 www.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 www.drugfreenj.org or call 973-467-2100. Contact your local Municipal Alliance or Prevention Coalition to promote youth drug awareness.
- 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 2020-2022 GFWC Club Manual – Advocates for Children Section for additional project ideas and resources.