

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SAFETY & CRIME PREVENTION

- Hold an in-house club program on Disaster Preparedness. Contact AARP for the bulletin (www.aarp.org/emergency/preparedness) on the essential items in a toolkit. Prepare a pamphlet (including the club's information) for free distribution to town residents.
- **Nation Fire Prevention Week** is observed during the week in which October 9 falls. Cosponsor, with your local fire department, community programs on fire safety. The International Association of Fire Fighters (www.IAFF.org) is a resource that will help.
- Work with the local police department for observing **National Night Out**, which is held the first Tuesday in August. Register, free of charge, at www.natw.org. They will send out the necessary information and resources for the year.
- December is **National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month**. Support the Red Ribbon Campaign – Mothers Against Drunk Drivers [MADD] or the Texting Kills thumb band program – Students Against Destructive Decisions [SADD]. Their websites: www.madd.org or www.SADD.org have additional information. For a speaker on the AARP Driver Safety Program for Mature Drivers, contact AARP at www.aarp.org.
- **The National Safe Kids Campaign** (www.safekids.org) works to help families and communities keep kids safe from injuries. There are a multitude of hints for children of all ages. Events held during Safe Kids Week (May 5 – 12) are listed on their website. Consider having the club become a partner.
- Become a mentor to a Boy Scout in earning their merit badge in *Crime Prevention* or in *Emergency Preparedness*.
- **National Police Dog Association:** nationalpolicedogfoundation.org.

CELEBRATE CITIZENSHIP AND PATRIOTISM

- Contact area schools or houses of worship to ask if there are student volunteer service requirements. Have club members initiate ways to fulfill those requirements.
- Promote student education in United States heritage and history. In conjunction with other organizations (such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution or local Rotary chapters) encourage high school/college participation in available scholarship or grants. For younger students a coloring contest or essay contest would be interesting and informative.
- For local residents studying for the U.S. Naturalization test, providing guidance or materials would be helpful. Attend a naturalization ceremony and welcome those graduating with a U.S. flag or other memento of the event. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (www.uscis.gov) has available resources which are used to 'help newcomers assimilate into American civic society'.
- Celebrate patriotism by holding a National Issues Forum, encouraging qualified local women to seek office or by helping a Boy Scout or Girl Scout earn their merit badges in *American Heritage*, *Citizenship in the Nation*, *Behind the Ballot*, or *Celebrating Community*.
- Preserve historic sites, monuments and homes within the community – the refurbishing of signs noting these can be, according to New Jersey regulations, done by residents. Try making a map of these within your community, visit the Historical Marker Database website (www.hmdb.org) or the New Jersey Historical Commission to learn about those in your area. **Don't forget 2026 will be the 250th Anniversary of the United States!**

ASSIST THE IMPOVERISHED

- Food pantries: Support, or continue to support, food pantries by donating cash, food or volunteering to work at the site or to provide rides to the site. Have a year-long collection from club members. When dining out, save the change from the tab – rounding it up to the nearest dollar (i.e.: \$19.72 becomes \$20.00 or 27 cents saved). At the end of the club year, these funds can be donated to a local food pantry or homeless shelter.
- Homeless shelters: Contact a **homeless shelter** and see what donations they may need. Why not hold a knitting/crocheting/sewing party that makes needed items for a shelter, or hold a clothing drive for an agency that distributes to the needy, especially those shelters for homeless women veterans. Mentor a Girl Scout in obtaining her *Simple Meals* badge at the local shelter, or sponsor a meal.
- Securing economic security along with women’s empowerment and environmental sustainability is at the center of **Heifer International’s mission**. Holding a “Quarters for Quackers” or a “livestock auction” (cupcakes decorated with animals) will raise funds for Heifer International (www.heifer.org). If club members wish to help Heifer within the United States, funds can be earmarked for the USA program in Arkansas and Appalachia.
- **“Free the Girls”** (www.freethegirls.org) enables former women and girls held as sex slave to earn a living while going to school and becoming healthier. Hold a town-wide event where new bras (with \$1 for postage) are collected.
- Partner with a **“Days for Girls”** (www.daysforgirls.org) chapter to construct part of or entire DfG kit. The increased access to menstrual care and education helps to shatter stigmas and limitations of women and girls worldwide.
- Contact other international non profit groups that serve the community as a whole. Some examples are: Habitat for Humanity (www.habitat.org), Plan USA (www.planusa.org), Pedals for Progress (www.p4p.org) and No Kid Hungry (www.nokidhungry.org). Each of these organizations would be pleased to provide a speaker or program for a club or community meeting.

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

- **Canine Companions for Independence** is a GFWC partner. Their Northeast Region, serving New Jersey, is located on SUNY Farmingdale Campus in New York. Help with an existing DogFest event or start one in your area. OR become a puppy raiser.
- Contact one of the three veteran’s nursing homes (Menlo Park, Paramus, Vineland) or the Veteran’s Affairs New Jersey Health Care Campuses (East Orange and Lyons) to see if there is any items needed. Can they use books, puzzles, volunteers for bingo or for sing-a-longs? Check with an **assisted living facility** to see if there are veterans in residence and what could they use.
- The **USO** – United Service Organization works in more than 200 locations and keeps active service members connected with their families, provides care packages, hold entertainment events and provides transitioning resources for service members, military families and veterans. The many areas in which they help the military are on their website (www.uso.org), which entails programs and projects for clubs.
- Honor our military by observing Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the National Day of Remembrance.
- Support **Wreaths Across America**. www.wreathscrossamerica.org, Support **The Women In Military Service For America Memorial**. www.womensmemorial.org.
- Promote the hiring of returning veterans, advocate for and assist other programs that support returning veterans and retired military personnel and their families.
- **National Police Dog Association**: www.nationalpolicedogfoundation.org