

**GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC and
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION SUPPLEMENT 2022-2024**

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Support the GFWC Domestic Violence Survivor Scholarship Program

Initiate and Support Community Activities

- Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey –www.preventchildabuse.nj.org
Pinwheels for Prevention-Purchase pinwheels and plant a Pinwheel Garden in your community in April-National Child Prevention Month, to raise awareness.
- Contribute to the New Jersey Diaper Network, themed “Get Behind the Cause”
- Publicize shelter hotline numbers in addition to websites. National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799 SAFE (7233) or www.ndvh.org.
- **Observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month** in October. Publicize shelter hotline numbers and websites. Wear purple, the color designated for domestic violence awareness. Distribute flyers or palm cards with hotline numbers at Doctors’ offices, movie theatres (place in Ladies Room), dentist offices and nail salons, to name a few places.
- These can be downloaded from the website of the NJ Division of Women at www.state.nj.us/dcf/women or call them at 1-855-463-6323. On this site you will find links to NJ’s Displaced Homemaker Programs and Domestic Violence Programs by county.
- Encourage local businesses to display purple lights in storefront windows.
- Make and distribute purple ribbons during October in your community and ask for donations to further your cause.
- Print and distribute a list of community resources available for women. Place them in a public place, i.e., the library, the local super market etc. See list below of centers for help:
 - National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: www.NCADV.org
 - National Network to End Domestic Violence: www.NNEDV.org
 - New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women: www.njcbw.org or 1670 Whitehorse, Hamilton Square Rd. Trenton, 08690 609-584-8107
 - National Resource Center on Domestic Violence: www.NRCDV.org.
 - Futures without Violence: www.futureswithoutviolence.org
 - National Center on Elder Abuse: www.NCEA.AOA.gov
 - New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence: NJCEDV.org
 - Partners for Women and Justice: www.pfwj.org
 - National Sexual Violence Resource Center. www.nsvrc.org

Sexual assault crisis hotlines in NJ:

Morris County (located in Morristown) Sexual Assault Center Hotline: 973-829-0587
Sexual Abuse and Assault Program (located in Beach Haven) of St. Francis Counseling Service:
609-494-1090

Shelters and Victims

ALWAYS CALL THE SHELTER FIRST TO DETERMINE THEIR NEEDS

- Adopt a shelter or a room at the shelter. Donate bedding, curtains, lamps, etc. You can paint the room and donate furniture.
- Adopt a family for the holidays. Ask a shelter for number of women and children in the shelter and provide gifts. Arrange for a Holiday luncheon by bringing food with the gifts for a celebration.
- Make First Night Kits, Hygiene Bags, Bedtime Snack Sacks, Birthday Bags and Anger Kits and donate to a local shelter. Donate items for a “Movie Night” at the shelter by providing popcorn, soft drinks and movies or donate tickets for a children’s performance such as a play, circus, movie, etc.
- Collect paperbacks for adults and children and/or buy used books from garage sales and libraries. Donate books for a shelter library, if they have no library, start one.
- Donate prepaid phone cards and gift cards to a shelter.
- Plan a collection of personal items for women in the shelter such as sanitary supplies.
- Make up Activity Bags for the children, using child appropriate tote bags, fill them with books, coloring books, crayons, small games, etc. Work with your members to make tote bags for this project.
- Call your local shelter and ask what holidays they celebrate, how many children and their ages.

- For Mother's Day - Collect gently used handbags from your members, fill them with items like a small wallet, makeup, mirror, hair brush, etc. Hold a workshop to fill the donated bags with the items. Include a card with encouraging words and a little about your club and this project.
- Provide child care services while victims go to court or job interviews.
- Donate clothing, toys, sleeping bags, fleece throws, school supplies etc. for children at the shelter.
- Check with your local Police Department and see if they are collecting used cell phones. These will be re-wired to automatically dial 911 and will be given to women in danger from domestic partners. Information can be obtained from your local police department or from "Call to Protect" Organization at 202-736-3200 or www.wirelessfoundation.org.
- Donate suitable women's interview attire along with shoes, purses and jewelry to a Dress for Success program in your area contact www.dressforsuccess.org for a location in your county.
- Collect and donate to your shelter new bras, pajamas, socks. Contact Distributing Dignity, jbalderson@istributingdignity.org, rmcintire@istributingdignity.org, 609-217-5002 to donate new bras and personal hygiene products.
- Initiate a "Cut It Out" program with local hairdressers to educate their clients about domestic violence and where to get help in the community. Salons Against Domestic Violence: www.CutItOut.org
- **Contact Participate in Denim Day in April.** Every year since 1999, Peace Over Violence, which is a rape prevention education campaign, has organized Denim Day in LA & USA. Ask community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement and on this day wear jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault. Shirts, pins, poster are available at www.denimdayusa.org several months prior to the event.
- Hold a club program on Domestic Violence Awareness and prevention. Invite the community to attend. Write an article or co-ed piece for your local domestic violence shelter to provide additional information.
- **Sponsor a Candlelight/Luminary Vigil** during Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (October). Luminaries can be designed by a shelter's residents. Present each attendee with a purple ribbon upon their arrival. Speakers may include survivors, shelter directors, public officials, and/or police officers. Poetry, messages, and contact information can be printed on a pamphlet that is handed to the participants.
- **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.
- **I Support The Girls – (isupportthegirls.org)** collects and distributes essential items, including bras, underwear, and menstrual hygiene products, allowing women and folx experiencing homelessness, impoverishment, or distress to stand tall with dignity.

Make Young People Aware of the Warning Signs of an Abusive Relationship

- Sponsor a program at the local high school on teen dating violence
- Design and distribute fliers about domestic violence, dating abuse, and resource organizations. Arrange to have them displayed in your community's doctors' offices and school nurse's or guidance counselor's office.
- Partner with your school district to promote awareness of abusive relationships.

Elder Abuse Information and Projects, etc.

Refer to the National Center on Elder Abuse website, www.ncea.aoa.gov for information and suggestions that include elder abuse aware and prevention, a calendar of events and resources that provide opportunities to raise awareness.

Projects for Elder Abuse Awareness

- Organize a candlelight vigil in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (held in June).
- Distribute elder abuse public awareness materials at a local event, concert, or fair.
- Be a friendly visitor to an elderly person or make telephone reassurance calls.
- Volunteer transportation to doctor visits, grocery stores etc.
- Volunteer for pet sitting or pet walking.
- Organize events and programs to honor elders.

Review the GFWC Club Manual, 2022-2024 GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Program for additional information and resources.