

**GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC and
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION SUPPLEMENT 2024-2026**

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GFWC Community Connection Initiative: Become a Champion: Be the Voice for Those Who Have No Voice

- Teach safe and healthy relationship skills to our youth and adults.
- Advocate and support legislation that provides stricter laws in your States against abusers and rights for victims.
- Work with your local shelters and find out how you can help and what they need.
- Encourage your club to support victim-centered services, which could include therapy, housing programs, teen dating violence prevention, and legal assistance.

INITIATE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- 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.
- Links to NJ's Displaced Homemaker Programs and Domestic Violence Programs by county can be found at www.state.nj.us/dcf/women or call them at 1-855-463-6323.
- 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 supermarket 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.NRC DV.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
 - Women's Right Info Center of Englewood
 - **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
- Participate in Denim Day in April. Every year since 1999, Peace Over Violence, a rape prevention education campaign, has organized in LA 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.

HELPING 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 to a shelter library.
- 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, new women's underwear
- 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.
- 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, ibalderstone@distributingdignity.org, rmcintire@distributingdignity.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
- Collect and distribute flashlights to domestic violence shelters or human trafficking programs. Victims can use these flashlights when they decide to leave an abusive situation.
- **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 folk experiencing homelessness, impoverishment, or distress to stand tall with dignity.

CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

- Sponsor a program at the local high school on teen dating violence
- Design and distribute fliers about 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.
- Organize or participate in public awareness initiatives:

It's on Us – An initiative through the American Association of University Women that reframes sexual assault in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it. (itsonus.org)

Take Back the Night – Take part in an after-dark march on a college campus and make a statement about women's right to be in public at night without the risk of sexual violence

- Sponsor a door-decorating contest or art contest at your local middle and high schools about healthy relationships/dating abuse/domestic violence and have the winning entry made into a poster to distribute.
- Assemble safety kits for high school seniors entering college in September. Include personal alarms and door and window alarms for dorm room personal safety. Add pamphlets and other information that discuss sexual assault.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

Learn the indicators of human trafficking and report suspicions to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888).

- January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Participate in awareness campaigns in your community. Educate yourself about human trafficking. Take this quiz to learn how social media is used by traffickers: www.polarisproject.org/human_trafficking_recruitment_quiz. Advocate to stop legislation that decriminalizes pimping, brothel-keeping, and sex buying. Help unmask human trafficking networks and urge Congress to pass legislation that will help find traffickers and hold them accountable.
- Partner with an advocacy group to bring education to school-age children alerting them to how traffickers work online to grow relationships and earn the trust of unsuspecting youth.

ELDER ABUSE

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.

- Organize a candlelight vigil in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15).
- Support and plan projects during Older Americans Month in May. Distribute elder abuse public awareness materials at a local event, concert, or fair.
- Volunteer transportation to doctor visits, grocery stores, etc.
- Provide resources and support materials in nursing homes, such as 'Pass It On' materials available at ftc.gov/PassItOn.
- Organize a 'Letter to the Editor' writing campaign to raise awareness of elder abuse and local resources in your community.
- Organize a collection of robes, socks, pajama, sweatpants and shirts that can be donated to senior centers or nursing homes.
- Organize a 'Respect Your Elders' essay or poster contest in your community.

Review the 2023-2026 Manual: GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Program for additional information and resources.