

JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



As GFWC women across the nation are preparing to return to meetings and jump back into action let's not forget the children!



Here are some standout project ideas that club women can implement to advocate for children in their communities:

Fall Fun with Purpose

- **Pumpkin Patch Pop-Ups:** Organize mini pumpkin giveaways at local farmers markets or host your own and include educational games and child safety tips.
- **Costume Closet Drive:** Collect gently used Halloween costumes and distribute to shelters or foster care children so every child can participate in fall festivities.
- **Harvest of Hope Festival:** Host a fall-themed event with hayrides, crafts, and booths offering child advocacy information. Ask your local pumpkin farm if you can host a booth during their festivities.
- **Hold an Art Contest:** Have children voice their wants and needs through art. Display the artwork in public spaces to raise awareness and celebrate youth voices. Partner with local businesses to display on their store fronts.

Warm Hearts, Warm Hands, Happy Communities

- **Coat & Sock Drive:** Collect warm clothing for children as temperatures drop, ensuring no child goes cold this season.
- **Fall Family Resource Fair:** Partner with local agencies to provide information on food assistance, healthcare, and educational support.
- **Safe Spaces:** Work with local officials to improve playgrounds, parks, and community centers, ensuring they are safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all children.

Literacy and Libraries

- **Create Mini Libraries:** filled with age-appropriate books. These "take one, leave one" stations promote reading and literacy while encouraging community engagement.
- **Create mentorship programs:** that connect club women with children and teens for guidance, tutoring, and emotional support. These relationships can be life-changing for both mentors and mentees.
- **Storytime with Seniors:** Bridge generations by organizing story time events where seniors read to children, either at libraries or local book stores. Why not host a story time at a local fall festival. This fosters intergenerational bonding and promotes literacy in a fun, engaging way.

Children's Advocacy Workshops

- **Host Workshops:** that educate parents and caregivers on children's rights, mental health awareness, and navigating local support systems. These sessions empower adults to better advocate for the children in their care.
- **Healthy Kids Campaign:** Partner with local health professionals to offer free wellness checks, nutrition education, and fitness activities. This initiative promotes physical and emotional well-being among children.

Advocacy Through Legislation

- **Encourage Club Members:** to write letters, attend town halls, and meet with lawmakers along with joining our legislative action center to support policies that protect and uplift children.

Remember to always proudly display the GFWC logo and your Club name

These projects not only celebrate the season but also serve as powerful tools for advocacy. By combining creativity with compassion, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, one project at a time.

Let's make this September and October all about action, advocacy and awareness!

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Advocates for Children Week is observed during the last full week of October (Oct. 19th through the 25th).



Back to school

It's a great time for clubs to start advocating for children by getting involved and making sure all children have the tools needed for a successful year.

- **Provide Classroom Care Kits:** include tissues, hand sanitizer, pencils, and encouraging notes for teachers to distribute to students.
- **Healthy Hardy Breakfasts:** Host a morning meal for students and families to celebrate the new school year and share resources.
- **Homework Help Hubs:** Set up after-school tutoring stations at libraries or community centers staffed by club volunteers.
- **Organize a Drive:** fill backpacks with school supplies, hygiene items, and snacks for children in need. Not only is it important that children have the tools at the beginning of school but also to continue throughout the year. Work with the schools, the school districts and counselors to find the needs and resources necessary.

The GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club of Montana volunteers and teaches an afterschool cooking class. This club not only teaches the art of cooking but it incorporates basic education like, math, science and reading.