

# **GFWC Signature Project – Domestic Violence Awareness**

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### **Program Principles**

The aim of the GFWC Signature Project, Domestic Violence Awareness, is to increase member understanding about and involvement in programs to decrease domestic violence in communities and across the nation.

Domestic violence, or intimate partner violence (IPV), is a serious epidemic in the United States that affects individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. IPV is a pattern of coercive behavior that is used by one person to gain power and control over another. It may include the use of physical and sexual violence, verbal and emotional abuse, stalking and economic abuse. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

Consider the following:

- One in every 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime and 85% of domestic violence victims are women.
- One in 4 teens reports verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse each year and about one in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- 1 in 9 of Americans over the age of 60 have experienced some form of elder abuse. For every one case of elder abuse reported to authorities, at least five more go unreported.
- Each year, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner related physical assaults and rapes. Men are the victims of about 2.9 million intimate partner related physical assaults.
- IPV resulted in 1,510 deaths in 2005. Of these deaths, 78% were females and 22% were males.
- The medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity (e.g., time away from work) cost of IPV was an estimated \$5.8 billion in 1995. Updated to 2003 dollars, that's more than \$8.3 billion.

GFWC will make a positive change in families and communities through the GFWC Signature Project, Domestic Violence Awareness, concentrating on the areas of partner abuse, child/teen abuse, and elder abuse by leaving a legacy of change in our communities.

### **Overall Program Goal and Objectives**

Goal 1. To make a positive change in families and communities through a Signature Project on domestic violence awareness (DVA)

Objective 1. To increase DVA among GFWC membership via an education and advocacy campaign

Objective 2. To impact domestic violence policy

Goal 2. Increase the positive visibility of GFWC via culturally sensitive domestic violence awareness (DVA) projects

Objective 1. To design and implement a multi-faceted DVA Signature Project that includes, teen and child, elder and spousal abuse

Objective 2. To create and/or strengthen partnerships with 3-5 national or international DVA organizations

Objective 3. To design and implement the first phase of a DVA Scholarship Program

### **Call to Action**

#### **EDUCATE YOURSELF**

Investigate resources available in your community regarding domestic violence: Is there a shelter for battered women? A hotline? Is there awareness among community leaders and law enforcement? The community in general? Are there educational efforts in local schools, places of worship, community service organizations, and local area businesses?

- What are the statistics regarding domestic violence in your community? Check with your state Domestic Violence Coalition, Social Services, law enforcement, local government, hospitals, and health departments.
- Learn more about intimate partner violence through GFWC's Programs Resource Center
- Find out if there is local shelter for survivors of intimate partner violence; what efforts could they benefit from?

#### **INFORM OTHERS**

- Educate your club and community members by presenting programs, workshops, and speakers and distribute materials provided by GFWC partner organizations.

- Provide press kits and encourage newspaper articles/write letters to the editor about domestic abuse and teen dating violence.

#### CREATE CHANGE

- Donate prepaid phone cards to shelters.
- Host a Pajama Party, raising funds and collecting pajamas for women and children in local shelters on Make a Difference Day, October 24
- Donate books and teddy bears to your local shelter. Volunteer to tutor victims and their children, if needed.
- Contact local veterinarians, kennels, or animal shelters and arrange for housing for pets while victims are in shelters.
- Donate professional attire to battered women seeking employment; visit [www.DressForSuccess.org](http://www.DressForSuccess.org).
- Assemble First Night Kits, Birthday Bags, Anger Kits, or Bedtime Snack Sacks and donate to your local shelter. Visit [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).
- Encourage local businesses to display purple lights in storefront windows and provide purple ribbons along with local and national domestic violence hotline numbers during October.
- Wear purple, the color designated for domestic violence awareness, during October, National Domestic Violence Awareness month.

#### **Important Dates**

January, National Personal Self Defense and National Stalking Awareness Month

February International Boost Self Esteem Month and Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

February, 14 Valentine's Day

March, March 2 Read Across America Day

March 8, United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, United Nations

March 10 International Woman's Day

March 23-25, 2011, National Youth Violence Prevention Week, National Youth Violence Campaign

March 19-23, 2012, National Youth Violence Prevention Week, National Youth Violence Campaign

April, National Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month

May, Older Americans Month, National SAFE KIDS Month

June, 15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

July,

August, 26 Women's Equality Day

September, 8 International Literacy Day

September 13 2010 Grandparents Day  
September 11, 2011, Grandparents Day  
October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month,  
October, 24 Make a Difference,  
November, National PTA Child Safety & Protection Month  
December,

## **Collaborations**

In this section one will find examples of what clubs have done around the country to implement projects related to conservation issues in their own communities. For more information about any of the following GFWC club projects, please contact the GFWC Signature Project, Domestic Violence Awareness Chairman Beverly Lassiter or the GFWC Programs Director Sydney West.

**GFWC of Alabama** covered the issue of domestic violence top to bottom by ensuring victims fleeing domestic violence situations had clothes and supplies to transition into their new lives with. One club sponsored a project called “Cover Our Bottoms”. Since many children coming into shelters must leave their homes in a hurry they often only have the clothes on their back. Over 3200 pieces of underwear were collected during this project and they were sorted and distributed to places that housed abused women and children. In addition clothing, cell phones, gift cards, household cleaning products, toys, and feminine hygiene products were donated to local shelters and second hand stores which serve to meet the needs of Domestic violence survivors.

**GFWC Buckeye Woman’s Club, Arizona**, worked towards a noble goal of opening a Domestic Violence shelter in their own city. They had several members on a committee put together fund raisers in order to accomplish this goal. They helped at a “Casino Night” that raised over \$4000 for the shelter. They also sponsored a gold tournament at which they sold hot dogs to the golfers. With all their hard work at fundraising they were able to supply furniture for interview room and the children’s playroom. The club members are happy to report that the shelter is up and running and serves Avondale, Goodyear as wells as their own city Buckeye.

**GFWC Florida Federation of Woman’s Clubs** instituted two special projects dedicated to raising awareness and volunteering for domestic violence. The first project transported one hundred and fifteen members to Tallahassee, their state capital, so they could talk to their representatives and senators about domestic violence and child advocacy concerns. The women wore all purple which advertised to the public their dedication to ending domestic violence and gave them a chance to start conversations with others about why they were there. The second project was a statewide initiative

called “X Out Domestic Violence---- Gimme X (ten)”. This project gave club members the opportunity to either give ten hours of community service or ten dollars to a local domestic violence shelter. This project encouraged participation from club’s statewide and gave a way for all women to be involved in the fight to end domestic violence.

**GFWC of Montana** addressed domestic violence by becoming proactive and aiding communities that do not have resources to combat domestic violence. Smaller clubs around Montana traveled considerable distances to ensure that the rural communities around them had resources to address domestic violence issues. They delivered supplies and support to safety houses and rescue missions. In addition, one club joined other organizations in 2008 to communicate the domestic violence message. One club member is on the board of the Are Domestic Violence Task Force, which coordinates community resources, program development, and education of service providers and the general public. Each year the Task Force puts on a 2-day McGuire Conference on Family Violence with nationally known speakers. The club participated in this conference by facilitating the attendance of their Domestic Violence Chairwoman plus three elementary school counselors who committed to sharing information with their school staffs.

GFWC of Rhode Island took time to ?dedicate a day of service to the important issue of domestic violence. **GFWC Bristol County Women’s Club, Rhode Island**, planted and dedicated a memorial garden in tribute to those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. This brought awareness to the seriousness and dangerousness that domestic violence presents for women in domestic violence situations. With help from the community at large and a GFWC grant, the club members were able to plant two butterfly bushes, which symbolize freedom, and to purchase a bench and other flowers. At the dedication of these symbolic plants the president of the Bristol Club president was presented with a resolution from a state Senator. The club also went above and beyond and sold 200 domestic violence awareness bracelets at their meetings.

I think it would be better to have something more project oriented...

## **Partners**

In this section you will find GFWC National Partners. These are organizations that operate at the national or international level and have developed programs specially designed for GFWC clubs.

### **National Coalition against Domestic Violence (NCADV)**

1120 Lincoln ST | STE 1603 | Denver, CO 80203

E: [mainoffice@ncadv.org](mailto:mainoffice@ncadv.org) | P: 303/839-1852 | F: 303/831-9251 | W: [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)

The Mission of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is to organize for collective power by advancing transformative work, thinking and leadership of communities and individuals working to end the violence in our lives.

- Donate used cell phones, enlist a local store as a drop-off point, collect phones, and then mail using prepaid shipping label found at [www.NCADV.org](http://www.NCADV.org).

### **National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)**

2001 S ST | NW STE 400 | Washington, DC 20009

P: 202/543-5566 | F: 202-543-5626 | W: [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org)

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), a social change organization, is dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists.

- Assist with or institute job training, career skills, or internet safety programs. Visit [www.NNEDV.org](http://www.NNEDV.org) for information.

### **National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)**

6400 Flank DR | STE 1300 | Harrisburg, PA 17112

P: 800/537-2238 | F: 717/545-9456 | W: [www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org)

The NRCDV works to improve societal and community responses to domestic violence and, ultimately, prevent its occurrence. They provide a wide range of free, comprehensive, and individualized technical assistance, training, and specialized resource materials and projects designed to enhance current intervention and prevention strategies.

### **Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA)**

228 South Wabash AVE | 10th FL | Chicago, IL 60604

E: [mailbox@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:mailbox@preventchildabuse.org) | P: 312/663.3520 | F: 312.939.8962 | W:

[www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

Since 1972, Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) has led the way in building awareness, providing education and inspiring hope to everyone involved in the effort to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.

### **Saving Promise**

1425 K ST, NW, STE 350 | Washington, DC 20005

E: [info@savingpromisecampaign.org](mailto:info@savingpromisecampaign.org) | 800/774.5760 | W: [www.savingpromisecampaign.org](http://www.savingpromisecampaign.org)

The Saving Promise Campaign is a national grassroots movement to put Domestic Violence Awareness on the map by making it a national priority, changing public perception, and heightening awareness.

## **Resources**

Resources are organizations, at either the national, regional, or local level, that GFWC has partnered with in the past, and/or recommends in terms of information or materials.

### **National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA)**

c/o Center for Community Research and Services | University of Delaware

297 Graham Hall | Newark, DE 19716

[ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov) | 302-831-3525 phone | 302-831-4225 fax | [www.ncea.aoa.gov](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov)

The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) serves as a national resource center dedicated to the prevention of elder mistreatment. To carry out its mission, the NCEA disseminates elder abuse information to professionals and the public, and provides technical assistance and training to states and to community-based organizations.

## **Additional Information**

These are organizations, agencies, and that GFWC clubwomen may find helpful in researching information and creating programs.

## **Governmental**

### **Office on Violence against Women**

Office on Violence against Women (OVW)

800 K ST, NW, STE 920 | Washington, DC 20530

P: 202/307-6026 | TTY: 202/307-2277 | F: 202/305-2589 | W: [www.ovw.usdoj.gov](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov)

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Created in 1995, OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

## **Nongovernmental**

### **CUT IT OUT: Salons Against Domestic Abuse**

Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund

15825 N. 71st ST, STE 100 | Scottsdale, AZ 85254

P: 866/871-0656 | W: [www.cutitout.org](http://www.cutitout.org)

Cut it Out is a program of the Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund dedicated to mobilizing salon professionals and others to fight the epidemic of domestic abuse in communities across the United States. CUT IT OUT builds awareness of domestic abuse and trains salon professionals to recognize warning signs and safely refer clients to local resources.

- Initiate a “Cut It Out” program with local hairdressers to educate their clients about domestic violence and where to get help in the community.

### **Dress for Success Worldwide**

32 East 31st ST, 7th FL | New York, NY 10016

P: 212/532.1922 | F: 212/684.9563 | W: [worldwide@dressforsuccess.org](mailto:worldwide@dressforsuccess.org)

Founded in New York City in 1997, Dress for Success is an international not-for-profit organization offering services designed to help promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

- Donate professional attire to battered women seeking employment; visit [www.DressForSuccess.org](http://www.DressForSuccess.org).

### **Family Violence Prevention Fund**

383 Rhode Island ST, STE #304 | San Francisco, CA 94103-5133

P: 415/252-8900 | TTY: 800/ 595-4889 | F: 415/252-8991 | W: [www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org)

The Family Violence Prevention Fund works to promote leadership within communities to ensure that violence prevention efforts become self-sustaining, and transforming the way health care providers, police, judges, employers and others address violence

- Distribute Connect, a resource that will help parents engage teens and adolescents in discussions about violence against women.
- Visit [www.coaches-corner.org](http://www.coaches-corner.org) for information on Coaching Boys into Men, which contains helpful tips and advice to stop patterns of violence.

### **Violence Against Women Online Resources**

W: [www.vaw.umn.edu](http://www.vaw.umn.edu)

Violence Against Women Online Resources (VAWOR) is a collaborative project between the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA), a center within the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against

Women. It is designed to operate as an information dissemination tool to provide resources to the general public, researchers, criminal justice practitioners, advocates, and social service professionals with the latest in research and promising practices regarding issues on violence against women.

## **Awards**

### **CLUB**

A \$50 award is given annually to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing an effective Domestic Violence Awareness Program. The award is based on narrative reports. State GFWC Domestic Violence Awareness Chairmen should forward the winning state entry to the national GFWC Domestic Violence Awareness Chairman by March 15 of each year.

### **STATE**

GFWC certificates are awarded to one state federation in each membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in the GFWC Domestic Violence Awareness Program. Award presentations are made annually in honor of junior and general membership participation.