

Summer Planning--July 2010

GFWC Headquarters Information

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

GFWC Florida Federation Headquarters is located in Lakeland, FL. After being located on Lakeland's Lake Mirror for 33 years, the new headquarters was built in 1990 on a small business cul-de-sac. The office is a repository of the organization's archives dating back to its inception in 1895. Furnishings and art objects have been donated by clubs, members and businesses.

With over 100 years of service to the communities of Florida, GFWC Florida holds a cherished position in the history of the state. Women of Florida have cared for the sick; hugged the lonely; fed the hungry; read to the children; built playgrounds; saved beaches; cleaned up landscapes; planted trees; built libraries; dressed up in costumes; made bears; informed the public of WHALE; learned of health issues; encouraged one another all the while having a great time and feeling good about being of service.

Headquarters in Washington, D.C., GFWC leaders and staff offer support and guidance to more than 100,000 members and more than 4,000 clubs, who collaborate on projects that touch lives in their own hometowns and around the globe.

GFWC is distinguished from other service organizations by the breadth of our outreach. There programs span all areas of the lives of our members, their families, and communities: arts, conservation, education, home life, public affairs, and international affairs.

In all 50 states and more than a dozen countries, members work locally to create global change. GFWC clubwomen are mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, doctors, teachers, and community leaders who are dedicated to enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Since it was founded in 1890, the General Federation of Women's Clubs has been a unifying force, bringing together local women's clubs from

around the country and throughout the world. Although there is considerable diversity in the ages, interests, and experiences of GFWC clubwomen, all are united by a dedication to community improvement through volunteer service.

Accomplishments during GFWC's first century include: establishing 75 percent of the country's public libraries, developing kindergartens in the public schools, and working for food and drug regulation.

During its second century, the Federation has pledged to maintain its commitment to working for a better world. With "Unity in Diversity" as its motto and a strong umbrella of programs that clubs may adapt to suit the needs of their communities, GFWC encourages the flexibility that has enabled it to expand its reach in a rapidly changing society.

In addition, GFWC has earned a reputation as a powerful force in the fight against domestic violence.

In 1994, GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, N.Y. For her work in founding GFWC, Croly was said to have "set in motion the power of a vast, previously untapped and unorganized sisterhood of capable American women that would reshape American society."

GFWC is a community service organization with many levels of membership. Specifically, GFWC is comprised of six membership levels: national, regional, state, county, district, and local.

The first level of GFWC membership is national. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors are considered members on a national scale. GFWC members involved with these directorial committees are chosen by the GFWC International President at the beginning of her two year administration. During her administration, the GFWC International President lives at GFWC International Headquarters in Washington DC.

The Board consists of region officers, state presidents, state directors of junior clubs, committee chairmen, committee members, and special appointments. GFWC members involved with directorial committees are

chosen by the GFWC International President at the beginning of her two year administration.

The GFWC Junior Clubs continue to focus on a variety of projects related to children through the "ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN" program. The objective of this Special Program is to promote awareness of safety, emergency education and positive parenting. Other programs support child assault prevention and urge parents to learn about helpful resources in their communities, which can assist them in assuring that their children live healthy and safe lives.