

# 2016 GFWC Florida Public Issues CSP Report

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1. “Kids Vote” is a joint project of the **GFWC Capital Woman’s Club, the GFWC Woman’s Club of Tallahassee, the GFWC Tallahassee Junior Woman’s Club, and the GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Midtown.** The “Kid’s Voting Leon County” organization facilitates voter education and a real life voting experience for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade on Election Day. GFWC Capital City Woman’s Club contributed \$125 to be “Kids Vote” sponsor. Then, members helped to staff a polling precinct from 7 AM until 7 PM. They helped over 800 students from a local middle school cast their ballots as well as helped any students who came out to vote with their parents. Members also counted votes at Kids Vote Center and made the results available at the school for the kids to see.

2. **GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman’s Club** actively supports the Honor Flights of West Central Florida, which is an official Regional Hub of the National Honor Flight Network. On the evening that Veterans returned from one of their visits to Washington, DC, the airport fills up with well wishers, and supporters to cheer them on. Members of this club and other GFWC clubs in the area, attend with signs and smiles to greet the returning veterans and their guardians after a long and powerful day. With funds the club raised, they covered the cost of \$400 for each of their three member escorts to be trained. The trained escorts met up with their veteran, flew to DC with them and escorted them around Washington, particularly to the WWII Memorial. As they returned, they were greeted with a USO show and singers, heartwarming handshakes and hugs and lots of flag waiving!

3. The “Field of Heroes” project of the **GFWC Woman’s Club of Port Charlotte** takes place in November. Prior, each member and community is asked to remember their heroes. Heroes included are police officers, first responders, veteran, husbands, wives and everyone who is a hero to someone...most are those who served in the military. Flags are posted and displayed on Veterans Blvd in front of the Liberty Church (a prominent location in town) for one month. Members prepare the posts, purchase the flags and install them into the ground. Fees are collected for this service. In 2016 there were 51 flags displayed of which 16 were new and 35 were repeat flags.

4. “Adopt a Precinct” is a project of the **GFWC Cocoa Beach Woman’s Club.** The Brevard County Elections Office has implemented a partnership that encourages civic participation in the elections process. By adopting a polling location on Election Day, community service organizations with a current 501©3 raise money for their special projects. This club was assigned for three elections. Twelve members attended training and then each worked for 15 hours on Election Day. They served as clerk, precinct tech, precinct deputy, operators, ballot box inspectors, and ballot distributors. The amount that would normally be paid to each individual was instead paid directly to the club. The club received \$5500 for carrying out the responsibility. 730 volunteer hours were given. Other club members supplied food and goodies to help keep working members productive.

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5. The “Yellow Dot Project” is a **GFWC Coral Springs Woman’s Club** project that assists first responders after auto accidents. Each car owner completes a form with medical information and places it in their glove compartment along with a yellow dot displayed on the rear window. The Coral Springs Fire Department sponsors the program so that responders know how to treat the injured, especially if there are any special needs of the occupants. All Club members also filled out forms and are participating with the yellow dots on their rear windows to help spread the word.

6. **GFWC Melbourne Woman’s Club** had 10 members attend “Heroes on the Water” kayaking event. The club supplied and served lunch to 37 veterans, volunteers, and some family members. Club members solicited for donations of food to make this happen. The **GFWC Viera Woman’s Club** assisted with this and are committed to helping with future outings held by “Heroes of the Water”.

7. The **GFWC Temple Terrace Woman’s Club** had previously received a grant from the Fireman’s League. It was determined that they would use the dollars to purchase one “Knox Box” each year, for the Fire Department to give to a person in need. A Knox box is actually a lock box that the resident places on the front door of their home. It contains a key inside and only emergency personnel can obtain entrance, in case of an emergency.

8. **The GFWC High Springs New Century Woman’s Club** strongly support their local police department. To show their support, members came up with the idea for “Cop Candy Kits.” They assembled the kits and then delivered them to the High Springs Police Department. The police personnel enjoyed a good laugh when they opened their “kits” and read the comments about the candy that was contained within. Some of the descriptions were: “Lifesavers to remind you of the many times you have been one”, “Peppermint Patties to help you keep your cool”, and “Hershey Kisses, to show our appreciation to you”!