

**Public Issues
Partnership**
Fall Board 2010
Bulletin 1



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By now, most of you have read the description of partnership and collaboration, within each of the Community Service Programs . And to reiterate what Linda Ferris stated, clubs will report all Public Issues information to both Linda and myself. You should separate partnership and collaboration on the same report, the same format as used last year. This assists us in reading the reports.

The national and international organizations that have partnered with GFWC, will have project materials, kits, speakers and information specifically designed for GFWC clubs. Each of the organizations have a website available for requesting such items. Take advantage of these items and distribute them to the appropriate community buildings.

*Partnerships
2010-2012*

You will NOT find Domestic Violence listed in the GFWC manual under Public Issues but as per President Hulse, GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs will be reporting all Domestic Violence projects and programs to Public Issues . Therefore, the following should be added to Public Issues/partnerships:

**National Center on Elder Abuse
National Coalition against Domestic Violence
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Prevent Child Abuse America
Saving Promise**

Did you know that there is a grassroots organization that has a single mission to prevent the increase in truck size and weight? Surely, we have all experienced the "suction" of speed when a tractor trailer truck passes you on the interstate. **Coalition against Bigger Trucks** www.CABT.org is legislating for better laws.

National Disaster Search Dog Foundation www.SearchDogFoundation.org has partnered with firefighters and first responders to find people buried alive in wreckage of damage. In the state of Florida, we have four "partners" available for duty. This would be a very interesting program for your club.

After we have had that huge tractor trailer truck pass us, best we learn defensive driving, the proper seat belt safety and how to keep our children safe in the car. Also to be aware of safety at work. **National Safety Council** www.NSC.org has been an advocate of teaching and educating to save lives on the roads, at home and at work.

I don't think there is a day that goes by without a newspaper article or TV segment about a child that has been injured or killed. This is usually an unintentional injury but possibly avoided with proper education at home, schools and playgrounds. **Safe Kids USA-National Safe Kids Campaign** www.SafeKids.org has a constant update of recalls and information to promote safety in our communities. Bike safety, pool safety, travel safety, this website is a wealth of information.

This next project is no stranger to our clubs, thanks to the heartfelt dedication and unconditional devotion of Joy Campbell, who brought this project to Florida. Joy has moved to Tennessee but **Sew Much Comfort** www.sewmuchcomfort.org will continue with the same enthusiasm of the many volunteers that sew the adapted clothing and the generous donations. Our clubs have been very generous and unfortunately with the increased number of wounded servicemen and women, the need continues.

The last partnership with GFWC is another project that some clubs supported in the last two years, **Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.** www.WomensMemorial.org also known as WISMA. With the two million women having served our country, only 15% are registered. Clubs could sponsor a registration drive, research their archives for deceased members that might have been in the military; inquire as to your family members that may have served. With the planned salute to Women in the Military at Fall Boards, make sure that all these women are registered.

Now that you have read these partnerships, you will see that they do cross over into collaboration, but the difference will be when Linda and I read your reports. GFWC will be monitoring the participation in the partnership organizations but we will use all statistics in judging your club reports.

Public Issues is a Community Service Program that involves we as citizens that protect our country, our children and the safety of the battered and abused. Reach out and touch the hand of someone in need.