



CHILDREN are our most important members of society. So go the children, so goes the world as they grow up.

Advocates for Children is the GFWC Juniors Special Program for 2020-2022, however as members of GFWC Florida, State President, Dianne Foerster, has asked me to be the State Chairman for the General Division and Michelle Cerchio Peragine to be the Junior State Chairman.

GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is designed to encourage all Woman's, Junior Woman's, Juniette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The Program was envisioned as a way for clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level. The definition of child advocacy is "support for children who are in a vulnerable position in society or in a vulnerable situation."

There are many ways we can advocate for the children. I encourage each club to designate a chairman for this special project. I invite any, and all, ideas as to how we can advocate for children in our community.

Often times, the younger children get the attention, and the older ones may be ignored. Some of the project Michelle and I were discussing include care packages for middle school/high school age girls. Presented in pretty gift bags, they would include personal care items, like toothpaste and toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer, lip balm, combs and /or more items. These little packages would be given to the school nurses to pass out to those in need. Gift boxes may be created for the boys as well with perhaps shave cream and razors along with deodorant soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste. How important is it for children to be accepted by their peers. These type items for those in need may be critical to that acceptance.

Arts and physical activities are encouraged. Club members could adopt a school and plan an art show, could be a sponsor for a set of races working with the proper school employees. How about working on an outdoor scavenger hunt with young children asking them to find/identify various items in nature, for example, a feather, a certain tree leaf, a bird, a grasshopper, a gecko, certain animals(they can take pictures) . You get the idea. Something fun and different to get the kids out and talking about perhaps a new experience.

Now off the GFWC site comes this :

CHALLENGE PROJECT: SERVICE PROJECT FOR ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is initiating a challenge for clubs to "**stick their neck out**" by undertaking a service project that directly benefits children during GFWC Advocates for Children Week. GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK Sunday, October 25, to Saturday, October 31, 2020

