

**Domestic Violence Prevention  
& Awareness**  
Spring Convention 2017  
Bulletin 2



Kay Taylor & Kathleen Hudson  
5612 Sea Turtle Ct  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
727-842-8624  
[kaytaylor13@verizon.net](mailto:kaytaylor13@verizon.net)

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse in communities across the nation by supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC is a powerful voice for those who have no voice.

We are asking all clubs to make a difference for 2017 in the lives of domestic violence survivors around the country by supporting the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship. You may download the donation form from <http://www.gfwc.org/support-gfwc/gfwc-signature-project-fund>. Thanks to all of our clubs who reported. We had so many awesome projects to choose from. After much deliberation, we finally narrowed it down to our Top Ten Projects!

- 1. Safety Bears 4 Kids:** This organization ([www.safetybears4kids](http://www.safetybears4kids.com)) provides the materials for volunteers to sew & stuff soft teddy bears to comfort children who are facing frightening situations, such as a court appearance. The GFWC Woman's Club of New Tampa, GFWC New Tampa Juniors, GFWC Temple Terrace Woman's Club, GFWC Temple Terrace Junior Woman's Club and GFWC Temple Terrace Juniors all joined together making 167 bears for this program.
- 2. Tie a Purple Ribbon 'Round the Old Crepe Myrtle:** During the month of October, deep purple ribbons with a large bow were tied around the 42 crepe myrtle trees in the median in front of the South Okaloosa County Court Annex in Fort Walton Beach, FL. In addition to the ribbons, GFWC Ft Walton Beach Woman's Club members purchased signs making passersby aware of domestic violence. The signs, original designs of the Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club had the caption "*Recognize, Report, Stop Domestic Violence*".
- 3. Mexican Dinner:** The GFWC Temple Terrace Juniors had a Mexican dinner for the GFWC Temple Terrace Junior Woman's Club at their November meeting as a fundraiser for *The Spring*, a local domestic violence shelter. The Juniors served tacos, beans with rice and refried beans. They decorated the room in a Mexican theme and even played Mexican music: Ole!! They provided a photo booth for guests to pose in sombreros and even fake moustaches. Each guest made a donation to pay for their dinner and the Juniors raised \$100 for *The Spring*.
- 4. Purses with a Purpose:** Oh what fun it is to clean out our closets!!! Prior to the GFWC High Springs New Century Woman's Club's October meeting, members were asked to gather gently used (or new) purses, along with new toiletries and "girly things" to be given to Peaceful Paths, our local domestic violence shelter. They ended up with 44 purses and so many toiletries and jewelry left over after filling those purses, they had a box with "extras" they could give to those who needed the items. They gave a total of \$880 worth of merchandise to Peaceful Paths.
- 5. Mother Daughter Luncheon for Domestic Violence Awareness:** One of their signature fundraisers each year is a luncheon to help raise awareness of domestic violence. This year the GFWC Woman's Club Hialeah combined this luncheon with their officer installation and an art competition for the best created hat. Their two speakers that day were a mother

and daughter who had both experienced firsthand the horror of domestic violence. For the mother, it was the knowledge that her daughter had been in an abusive relationship which also affected her granddaughter. For the daughter, it was the story being told of learning to value herself enough to escape the relationship and create a safe environment for herself and her child. This speech was the first time that the daughter heard her mother speak about what had happened; something that took courage and great love.

6. **Bake sale in pinwheel garden:** GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club not only supported Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention by planting a pinwheel garden, they also had a bake sale. This gave the members a double opportunity to inform the public about preventing domestic violence.
7. **Every Nine Seconds:** Every nine seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten. The GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club's April meeting focused on Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention by inviting Brenda Clubine to speak about her severe beatings during her marriage. During one of these beatings she feared for her life so in self-defense she hit him over the head with a bottle. He died from his injury and since he was a police officer the courts found her guilty of involuntary manslaughter and she spent 26 years in prison. She adjusted her angry attitude to gratitude and started a support group while in prison "*Sin by Silence.*" She studied law and worked to change legislation to protect domestic violence victims. The law was passed in 2002!! She established a 501(c)3 organization "*Every Nine Seconds*" to help domestic violence victims. The members in attendance that day agreed her charity deserved their \$340 donation.
8. **Cold feet, warm heart sock collection:** At the September GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club meeting members were asked to bring socks for the CARE (Center for Rape and Emergencies) Shelter. Zippered plastic bags were available for members to fill with socks. A label with the following was attached to each bag: "As you begin your new life and step away from abuse, we hope you will find comfort and warmth as you walk into you newly found freedom," the members of the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club.
9. **674 HAPPY CHILDREN - 4 LIBRARIES - 1 CLUB:** The GFWC Miami Springs Woman's Club's clubhouse is home to the original City of Miami Springs Library which housed over 5,000 reams in its heyday. In that spirit, combined with the initiative of helping children through the Domestic Violence experience, they collected **674 children's books and magazines** that were delivered to start two Children's Libraries for residents of Safe Space North and Safe Space South, Domestic Violence Shelters in Miami for Women and Children. They collected enough books to start **FOUR Libraries** at both sites as well as for Safe Space North TRANSITIONAL home and Safe Space South TRANSITIONAL home, progressive shelters for battered women and children to get back on their feet.
10. **Program-Domestic Violence Awareness:** During the Lake Butler Woman's Club meeting members split into three discussion groups with each being given different information regarding Domestic Violence: definitions/types of domestic violence; related facts/figures; how domestic violence affects teen dating; signs of an unhealthy relationship; names and contact information for groups that help. Each group presented their information which created great discussions among all the members. Members were then asked to bring children's and adult's pajamas to their Christmas party to donate to Peaceful Paths.

Thanks for all your hard work in 2016!!! Looking forward to another Great Year!