

# 2016 GFWC Florida Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention

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- 1. Safety Bears 4 Kids:** This organization ([www.safetybears4kids.com](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 Junioresettes, GFWC Temple Terrace Woman's Club, GFWC Temple Terrace Junior Woman's Club and GFWC Temple Terrace Junioresettes** 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 were placed at every turn lane along the landscaped portion of the median. The signs were original designs of the Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club and had the caption "*Recognize, Report, Stop Domestic Violence*" and listed the GFWC Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club, along with their logo, as sponsors.
- 3. Mexican Dinner:** **The GFWC Temple Terrace Junioresettes** 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 Junioresettes 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 Junioresettes 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, their local domestic violence shelter. And WOW did everyone come through! They ended up with 44 purses and so many toiletries and jewelry left over after filling those purses, that they had a box with "extras" they could give to other groups in need of donations. They gave a total of \$880 worth of merchandise to Peaceful Paths. They were told afterward that over half of the purses were gone within two days and that the women loved them!!
- 5. Mother Daughter Luncheon for Domestic Violence Awareness:** One of their signature fundraisers each year is this luncheon to help raise awareness of domestic violence. This year the **GFWC Woman's Club of Hialeah** combined this luncheon with their officer installation and an art competition for the most creative hat. They raised \$3,800 to support both their Club's activities as well as a domestic violence shelter but no dollar value could be placed on the experience of their speakers on each other. Their two speakers that day were a mother and daughter who had each experienced firsthand the horror of domestic violence. For the mother it was the knowledge that her daughter had

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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 her husband 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. Brenda adjusted her angry attitude to gratitude and started a support group while in prison "*Sin by Silence.*" She also studied law and worked to change legislation to protect domestic violence victims. The law was passed in 2002!! After 26 years in prison she appealed her conviction and it was overturned. The bad news is the appeal took five years. Those beatings led to a stroke and MS confining her to a wheelchair. She also established a 501(c)3 organization "*Every Nine Seconds*" to help domestic violence victims. The members were so moved after listening to Brenda they collected \$340 on the spot for her charity.
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. Members filled zippered plastic bags which were available for members to fill with socks and added a label with the following, 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. They still preserve it as a Memorial Library. 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. The Foundation Director of the Shelters sent a thank you letter of appreciation, sharing the impact this project made. This was a very special project for club members, as well as for all the children, babies to teens, for whom they collected the books!
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 then presented their information, which resulted in 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. Over \$500 worth of pajamas were donated by members.