

2016 GFWC Florida Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman's Report



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In the 70's and 80's, GFWC Florida clubs contributed funds to build three homes for abused and neglected girls at Hacienda Girls Ranch, Melbourne. Hacienda named the cottages, Perkins, Pratt and King-Harris after our state presidents when each was built. Hacienda girls experience greater challenges than ever including: Sexual Exploitation (Human Trafficking), psychiatric diagnosis, PTSD due to years of abuse and exposure to domestic violence, and many other issues. Clubs have continued to contribute funds, time and resources to the girls at Hacienda, as our only ongoing statewide project. GFWC FL President Mary Powell's vision was to establish a GFWC Florida Fund earmarked solely for Hacienda Girls Ranch to cover needs: "Safety and Security," "Comforts of Home," "Girly Things," and "Into the World" (activities promoting healthy living, social skills, and positive relationships in the community). We reviewed past projects, needs and interactions between Hacienda and GFWC Florida, and brainstormed ways to help spread the vision of our President. We created a brochure to give a brief history and explain the four targeted fundraising areas. We used this brochure to introduce our President's Project at all State meetings, and posted it through our state website for all members. At our Summer Planning Session, we presented a President's Project overview video the team created, conducted a mini workshop for all, and gave a thumb drive with the video and the brochure to each of the 14 District President's Project Chairmen. Forty two clubs reported having watched the video. We identified many fundraising opportunities including merchandise with the President's Project logo and with the Hacienda Logo. We held opportunity drawings for a limited edition set of Hummel Figurines representing four decades of the GFWC woman's fashion, "quarter races" (clubs and Districts compete), drawings for gift baskets, and "pay to vote" contests on Hacienda type paper houses decorated by each District. We created the "Birthday Club fund" for clubs to contribute money to provide a Hacienda resident's birthday cake, personalized gifts and party supplies, which our State PP Chairman would purchase and deliver. This was sometimes the girl's first birthday celebration in many years. We encouraged and helped coordinate opportunities for Clubwomen to visit the Hacienda campus...twelve Clubs reported visiting the campus in 2016. We began planning a 2017 "Day of Service" at Hacienda, where 60 members statewide will assist with a range of projects, including painting walls, sewing curtains, landscaping, and crafting with the residents. We began plans for a 2017 "Sisters at Sea" Cruise. Clubs have renewed their enthusiasm for Hacienda Girls Ranch as a statewide project, renewing interest, caring for "Our Federation Girls" and for making this "A Better World for Every Girl."

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