

NATIONAL volunteer week

April 19 to 25. Catch the spirit of volunteerism throughout central Virginia

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GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

GFWC VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT OTHER VOLUNTEERS

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is one of the largest women's service organizations in the world. The Federation has groups in every state in the U.S. as well as over a dozen foreign countries. In Virginia, GFWC numbers 212 with almost 7,000 members of all ages. Clubs focus on needs in their communities and also provide services on the district, state, regional and international level.

GFWC has an ongoing relationship with the State Fair of Virginia. Members from across the state lead educational tours of the State Fair every year. GFWC also focuses on a special state project each year. This year GFWC's project will provide a new rescue vehicle at Virginia Tech.

"First responders at Tech are all student volunteers," explains Emma Jean Wise, president of the Virginia state affiliate of the GFWC. In support of



Kathryn Sowers of Vinton, immediate past president of GFWC Virginia, washes the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad's ambulance. Sowers is chairwoman of a GFWC fundraising effort to purchase a new vehicle for the squad.

these young volunteers, GFWC members all across Virginia are raising money — \$172,000 in all — to provide Tech with a new Trauma Hawk.

Emma Jean says the new rescue vehicle is "a cut above" the standard ambulance and that

is as it should be. The Trauma Hawk will be a living memorial to the victims of the tragedy. She adds, "The mother of one of the victims is a GFWC member. That makes it personal for us."

Info: www.gfwcva.org