

GFWC Virginia Conference

August 9-10, 2014

Fredericksburg, VA

Education Community Service Program Workshop Notes

What are some challenges we see in Education?

How can we, as clubwomen, meet those challenges?

Challenges	Solutions
Application of knowledge to other situations	Professionals sharing how they use what they learned in school
Lack of parental involvement	Conduct parent workshops
Lack of meals outside of school	Backpack drive for food
Lack of proper clothing	Supply drives - especially need underwear for elementary students Provide gently used prom dresses for high school girls
Lack of supplies for teachers	Ask teachers what they need and provide it
Lack of supplies for students	Provide some school supplies for students
Idolization of sports and celebrities	Be a tutor, especially for adult education
“One size fits all” education	Volunteer in the classroom to help with reaching each child
Lack of students’ focus in the classroom	Volunteer in the classroom to help engage each child individually
Overcrowding of schools	
Safety of students and teachers	
English as a second language	

As you can see, there are challenges that we as clubwomen cannot directly affect. But we can still support initiatives that will help to overcome these identified challenges.

Identified Club Goals Shared at Workshop - including some good project ideas that clubs in Virginia already engage in:

- ❖ Establish a library at the local women and children shelter
- ❖ Create programs to educate parents of children enrolled in programs for needy children
- ❖ Educate parents concerning children’s needs in education such as providing books, a place and time to do homework together,
- ❖ Help children in need get access to warm winter clothing

- ❖ Pick up lost and found items at the school and clean and fold the clothing
- ❖ Provide funds for school children who have unpaid cafeteria accounts
- ❖ Read to nursing home patients
- ❖ Book drive for kids in need
- ❖ Get books in the hands of children early - before pre-school
- ❖ Share BEAR (Be Excited About Reading) ideas through use of teddy bears.
- ❖ Initiative to read to students on a monthly basis
- ❖ Have more members tutor adults or children
- ❖ Develop mentoring/tutoring program
- ❖ Expand the volunteer base to then expand the number of Headstart programs that can be reached.
- ❖ Help children with learning to read Take puppets and books to classrooms
- ❖ Support school readiness programs already in place through community action agencies
- ❖ Work at local school to develop and support programs to encourage 4th and 5th grade students.
- ❖ Support teachers by providing needed classroom supplies
- ❖ Provide schools supplies for the start of the year, perhaps backed in book bags
- ❖ Provide supplies for an “elf shelf” - an area in a school of donated school supplies that can be given by a teacher to a child in need of these supplies
- ❖ Provide supplies for a school ‘treasure house’
- ❖ Collect Box Tops for schools
- ❖ Buy a drum set for a school
- ❖ Provide money for after school snacks
- ❖ Encourage members to use donorschoose.org to fund teachers’ projects
- ❖ Provide a (set dollar amount) scholarship to a graduating high school senior
- ❖ Make GFWC and GFWC VA scholarship opportunities available to local high school seniors.
- ❖ Begin a scholarship for adults continuing their education
- ❖ Change club scholarship so it goes towards teacher recertification
- ❖ Help with finances and advocacy for the expansion of the local 100-year-old library
- ❖ Sponsor and support a county-wide spelling bee
- ❖ Engage with HOBY in more than sending money
- ❖ Have more club members volunteer at the Virginia State Fair
- ❖ Get club involved in ESO (see membership information and form in the GFWC VA Club Manual)

Personal Goals Shared at Workshop:

- ❖ Participate in mentoring/tutoring program
- ❖ Increase training for tutoring
- ❖ Increase the hours spent volunteering in schools
- ❖ Take time to *listen* to a child read
- ❖ Read more
- ❖ Do be a DO BEE!

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