

General Federation of Women's Clubs Virginia

Unity in Diversity



Fran Edwards, President
"Dare to Dream"

Joy Matkowsky,
Director of Junior Clubs
*"Virginia Juniors Imagine the
Possibilities"*

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A COLLECT FOR CLUB WOMEN

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding
and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other
face to face, without self-pity
and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment
and always generous.

Let us take time for all things;
make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
straightforward, and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things in life
that create differences,
that in the big things in life we are at one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great,
common human heart of us all,
and, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!

Mary Stewart

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS VIRGINIA

GFWC Virginia was organized in 1907 to bring into closer unity the women's clubs of Virginia, in order to promote through their common interests the cultural, educational and environmental welfare of the Commonwealth.

Members of GFWC Virginia are members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), the largest women's volunteer organization in the world. GFWC, an international organization, has a membership of approximately 100,000 with 4,000 clubs in the U.S. plus additional international members.



WHO ARE WE?

We are a volunteer organization uniting 158 clubs in eight districts with 4,434 members willing to help meet the needs of today, and whose purpose is to work cooperatively giving service in our local communities, state and world. Members are at least 18 years of age and participate through both General and Junior Clubs.

Juniorette Clubs are comprised of high school students and sponsored by a federated club who attends their meetings as an advisor.

The Virginia Clubwoman is the official publication of GFWC Virginia with up to 4 issues published yearly.

A Yearbook, published annually, is a handbook for clubwomen – an indispensable tool and source of information to clubs.

2016-2018 GFWC Virginia State Project: Dare to Dream of No Hunger

Since its inception, GFWC Virginia has worked to address the most pressing needs of our communities and our nation. Opportunities for service are provided in the following six community service programs:

THE ARTS

Art for Youth, Community Art, Literature, Photography, Performing Arts

CONSERVATION

Community Beautification, Resource Conservation/Litter Prevention, Environmental Education

EDUCATION

HOBY, Lifelong Learning, Literacy, Libraries, School Issues, Scholarships

HOME LIFE

Financial Planning/Responsibility, Helping Hands to Improve the Lives of Others (Easter Seals UCP, Canine Companions, Habitat for Humanity), Health Issues

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Reaching Out Internationally to Support Organizations such as CARE, Operation Smile; Cultural Exchange, United Nations Program (UNICEF, UN Education)

PUBLIC ISSUES

Veterans Affairs, Citizenship, Historic Preservation, Safety

GFWC Signature Project:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Victim advocacy includes spouses, children and the elderly.

SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Development of public libraries
- Support of Operation Smile
- Provided scholarship and student loan funds
- Sponsorship of Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Foundation
- Advocates for children
- Supported Canine Companions for Independence by purchasing dogs for the handicapped
- Funded programs and facilities for people with disabilities, with major support for Easter Seals
- Provided guides for school children at State Fair of Virginia
- Established nation's first art mobile
- Stressed leadership development for members and youth

WHAT CAN FEDERATION DO FOR YOU?

Through their volunteer service, GFWC members have an opportunity to develop leadership skills, exchange ideas and form lifelong friendships. There is a unique opportunity for community service in an organized group which derives much of its strength from "Unity in Diversity". As members of a federated club, women can join forces with others to have a major impact on their community, state and nation.

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Contact GFWC Virginia Headquarters at (804-288-3724) or visit our website at

www.gfwcvirginia.org

Headquarters is staffed by

Heather Craven, Executive Secretary