



GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

# GF WC SIGNATURE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## WALKING THE WALK OF A SURVIVOR

*No woman has to be a victim of physical abuse.*

*Women have to feel like they are not alone.*

Salma Hayek

We are excited to welcome our GFWC friends to the GFWC Signature Program workshop on the morning of Sunday, June 11th. This unique workshop will help you gain perspective on the experiences of crime victims.

Attendees will receive a victim profile and you will walk their path and discover both the services available to them and the barriers to receiving those services. We hope that this experience will help you see that each victim is unique and that the road to survivorship is often complicated and difficult. We also hope that this information will both inspire our members to help victims and victim services providers in new and creative ways.

## UPCOMING AWARENESS DATES

### MAY

NATIONAL SAFE KIDS MONTH

NATIONAL TRAUMA AWARENESS  
MONTH

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK, MAY 10-14

WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK, MAY 14-20

NATIONAL TRAUMA SURVIVORS DAY,  
MAY 17

NATIONAL EMS WEEK, MAY 21-27

### JUNE

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

NATIONAL SAY SOMETHING NICE DAY,  
JUNE 1

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY,  
JUNE 3

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS  
DAY, JUNE 15

### JULY

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

BE LOVE DAY, JULY 16

INTERNATIONAL SELF-CARE DAY,  
JULY 24

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP,  
JULY 30



2023 GFWC  
ANNUAL CONVENTION  
LOUISVILLE

CELEBRATE. COLLABORATE. COMMUNICATE.

# HOPE FOR CHILDREN

BY FLORENCE DIEDE  
(WESTERN STATES REGION REPRESENTATIVE)

HOPE is about thriving not just surviving. Each of us has the ability to bounce back when things go wrong physically, emotionally, and even economically.

Creating HOPE for our children and ourselves is not an easy task. Hope is a practice involving the act of setting goals and then working to achieve them with focus. While optimism is a belief or dream in what one wants to have as an outcome, HOPE requires working diligently to achieve an outcome. So, optimism lets one be passive for the outcome and HOPE requires action on our part or goal setting and achieving. Thus, we have to find ways to work around difficult situations without solely depending on others.

Children in neglectful or/and abusive situations often seem to be without hope or even optimism that they will ever see a different life. How can we, club members, help with this? Let's become the ONE who touches a life for good. Let's be the ONE who provides a warm meal, a fuzzy blanket, or a kind word. Giving dollars, yes, the dollars supporting educational, afterschool, and other programs is a step in the right direction. BUT reaching out and physically interacting with children creates a bond, creates trust, and creates an opportunity to create hope. Become a tutor or a reader at the public library, at the shelter after-school program, at the YMCA, or at the youth center. Don't just read the words but choose books to provide discussion opportunities for growth and goal setting.

Every child is capable of success. Be aware of each child. You will see the happiness in their actions and their eyes. You will see the pain in their actions and their eyes. Reach out, when you have the feeling something may be wrong, report. Don't let it slide. Abuse and neglect does not only happen in low-income families. Abuse and neglect does happen in wealthy families, too.

Work with your children and grandchildren to set achievable/realistic goals. Guide them and coach them to achieve their goals. Set goals for yourself and share with the children how you plan to achieve these goals.



## U.S. NATIONAL PLAN TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

Have you seen the recently released National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV)? The [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#) noted, "The National Plan is being launched at a time when survivors' needs are at an all-time high and are outpacing the capacity of domestic violence shelters and direct service providers." The plan identifies seven pillars for ending gender-based violence: 1) Prevention; 2) Support, Healing, Safety, and Well-Being; 3) Economic Security and Housing Stability; 4) Online Safety; 5) Legal and Justice Systems; 6) Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Response; and 7) Research and Data. Here are links to check out the plan and explore how your club can get involved.

White House Release: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/gpc/briefing-room/2023/05/25/release-of-the-national-plan-to-end-gender-based-violence-strategies-for-action/>

PLAN: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/National-Plan-to-End-GBV.pdf>

