



General Federation of Women's Clubs
Massachusetts Junior Membership
Donna Shibley, President
Katie Robey, Director of Junior Clubs

Information Please 2020

GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program
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In the book, *The Vanishing Neighbor* by Marc Dunkelman (2014), the author identifies a shift in American life that takes the social landscape away from neighbors meeting neighbors in everyday activities: shopping, crossing the street, or running errands. There are just not enough opportunities to get to know our neighbors, talk over issues, and find local solutions. The social institutions that once built our local communities have lost their focus on personal relationships and deep friendships. The civic institutions that built the townships have been weakened.

At the crossroads between technology, the realities of modern life, and American exceptionalism the General Federation of Women's Clubs Massachusetts Juniors (GFWC MA Juniors) stands ready to recognize that the lives of people from different economic backgrounds, education levels, or age groups have unmet needs. We stand ready to serve our neighbors, spur innovations, and care for those in need.

The Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Programs offer guidance as our clubwomen reconnect, build new circles of influence, and foster healthy dialogue. We want to engage the community on key issues, identify positive solutions, and stimulate public policy initiatives. Our role is not to make judgments as to what is good or bad. Our role is to help communities understand the trade-offs and meet the needs of their neighbors.

GFWC has highlighted four areas of Civic Engagement and Outreach:

- Citizenship
- Crime Prevention, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness
- The Needy, Hungry, and Homeless
- Our Military Personnel and Veterans

The Civic Engagement and Outreach section of the GFWC Manual offers examples for these areas so I will not replicate them here.

GFWC Challenge Project Civic Engagement and Outreach

SUPPORT AND AID WOMEN VETERANS-

Connect with women veterans to support health needs, reduce isolation and depression, and provide comfort and encouragement, with the assistance of a Women Veterans Program



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Manager at your VA Medical Center. Check out the MA Department of Veterans' Services for help in finding a local center-[Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services](#)

GFWC has several Affiliate Organizations that offer volunteer opportunities to clubwomen:



[Heifer International: Ending Hunger and Poverty While Caring for the Earth](#) has resources for you to learn about their work in economic development, environmental sustainability, food security and nutrition, risk management and resilience, and women's empowerment and social capital.



[Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership \(HOBY\)](#) offers information on the program offered to high school sophomores.



[Home | March of Dimes | Healthy Moms. Strong Babies.](#) will connect you with the information on this organization dedicated to fighting premature birth.



[Operation Smile: Home](#) provides free, safe surgeries for thousands of children born with cleft lip/cleft palate.



[Prevent Child Abuse America's](#) sole mission is "to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children."



[St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) is leading the way the world understands, treats, and defeats childhood cancer another.



[Homepage - Shot@Life: Shot@Life](#) helps ensure children around the world have access to lifesaving vaccines.



[Humanitarian Aid for Children in Crisis | UNICEF USA](#) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first by providing health care and immunizations, water and more.