



EDUCATION

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

 Visit www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/ for updates and more information.

“EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE.”

- WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS



How often have we read this quote and wondered how we can light a fire? Education opens doors to a new life of opportunities for our youth as well as those returning to school, whether it is in a degree program or a self-improvement course. Aren't we learning and expanding our knowledge our whole life? Each time we pick up a book to read, we are acquiring some insight into another step into the world of knowledge and learning. This is one huge way we may eventually make a difference in our lives, communities, and the world.



2014-2016 EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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With this thought in mind, our goal should be to assist in the goal to improve others through higher education. And, how do we do that? Scholarships! The more scholarships we give, the more opportunities others have to make a meaningful contribution to their communities. Education can assist in the goal to end poverty, attain a better job, improve their quality of life and create a better world.

We are asking that clubs through their State Federations report every scholarship or donation they have made to improve Education. We know that there are many clubs that don't realize how much of an impact we can make when we share how we give back in our community. Most GFWC Club gives scholarships, big or small. Please share that with us. Size doesn't matter because when we add this to the grand total across the country, you will be amazed at how much it can accumulate. Combining the amount we give through scholarships is one of the goals in the Education Program area. GFWC clubs do not toot their horns enough. We need to brag and share. That means share some of the creative ways you raise those funds to give the scholarships as well.

There are many organizations in your states that have definite ways to donate and share. Some of these that come to mind are "School on Wheels", "Room to Read", "City Year", "Books on Tape", "Cradles to Crayons" and the list can be endless. Please share these unique opportunities you have to involve your clubs and states in learning. Schools on Wheels and Cradles to Crayons give school supplies to children of all ages. Backpacks filled with necessary supplies are one way to give back. Often these are homeless children living in shelters. School on Wheels will also assist children with scholarships and college applications. Room to Read is an International organization, supplying books to school libraries in impoverished countries. Can you imagine not having the opportunity to borrow a book from a library, but looking at in an office with supervision? Books on Tape is a program for the learning disabled student who would love to read the classics or understand their class assignment but just can't read it on their own. There are many states who have taken this on and must be commended for what they have given back to this program. Books on Tape is affiliated with the Library of Congress and is touted through the Perkins school for the Blind.

The key to assisting any of these and other such programs is money, man power and in-kind donations (books, school supplies, back packs, iPads). Now, that we have emerged as a totally computerized generation/ world, supplying iPads and other such products may become a common request. Think about how you can make a difference to others. In the end, the rewards will be many and imagine the joy you will feel when a recipient comes back to say, "Thank you, you have made a difference in my life."

Remember that, "A mind is like an umbrella, it is only useful when open" (Unknown). Please help open those minds and when we do, change for good is possible everywhere.

IDEAS

Program ideas are endless. Consider projects that help people overcome learning disabilities; support your library; promote literacy; mentor young people; and encourage lifelong learning. Below is a comprehensive list of ideas on how clubs can support the Education Community Service Program.

- Examine the factors in your community that may affect literacy levels, such as:
 - Existence of learning disabilities
 - Prevalence of English as a second language
 - Formal education terminated early
 - Visual difficulties, or physical or mental conditions that inhibit learning.
- Educate your club and community on the local and national literacy levels.
- Hold a “How to Use the Library” program for local students and English as a second language (ESL) and English as a foreign language (EFL) students.
- Offer scholarships to local high school students.
- Host events at and in conjunction with your local library and/or literary council, including sponsoring a speaker or author, holding craft sessions, or planning read aloud experiences for children.
- Celebrate library card sign-up month annually in September by encouraging community members to apply for library cards.
- Identify and recruit qualified adults as potential tutors from among club members and the community at large. Pair them with tutor training opportunities in your community.
- Recruit tutors by distributing brochures at libraries, grocery stores, malls, athletic clubs, and other community locations.
- Start a local book club for club members and community members.
- Apply for a *GFWC Focus on Literacy Grant* to fund a literacy program in your community.
- Hold a fundraiser, with proceeds benefitting the GFWC Disaster Relief—Library Replenishment Fund.



The **GFWC Hot Spring's Woman's Club** (New Mexico) provided a voucher system for fourth grade students to be able to “purchase” a book at the school’s book fair. With the programs buy-one-get-one free voucher, the students were able to purchase \$6 worth of books. 74 fourth grade students participated in the project.



Direct any questions regarding donations to GFWC partners to GFWC Education Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs department at Programs@GFWC.org.

GFWC PARTNERSHIPS

GFWC partners are the organizations with whom GFWC has established a formal relationship and mutual understanding. Our partners offer unique and customized services: materials, speakers, kits, and/or additional information specifically designed for GFWC clubs. They are aware of GFWC clubs’ specific needs, our organizational structure, and have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with GFWC.

To ensure that donations to GFWC partner organizations at the individual, club, district, or state level, are reflected toward GFWC’s collective impact, make sure to write GFWC in memo line on your donation check.





HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP (HOBY)

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Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) inspires and develops our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. For over 55 years, HOBY has empowered high school students of all ages with educational, life-changing programs. Every year, more than 4,000 committed volunteers plan, fundraise, and produce HOBY programs for more than 10,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world.

These programs truly change lives! Here is a brief description of the HOBY programs and ways for your club to get involved:

Community Leadership Workshop (CLeW) is HOBY's introductory one-day leadership program for high school freshmen. It is a free program that focuses on leadership as a discipline to be explored and learned. CLeWs are attended by 50 to 100 students and can take place anytime during the school year.

The State Leadership Seminar (LS) is HOBY's flagship program. Its unique curriculum cultivates leadership skills that prepare high school sophomores for a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. Selected students attend a three- or four-day seminar to explore their own personal leadership skills while learning how to lead others and make a positive impact in their community. Registration opens in September, and State Leadership Seminars take place between April and June of each year.

The World Leadership Congress (WLC) brings students together from across the globe for a unique, week-long international program. Upon completing a State Leadership Seminar, U.S. high school rising juniors have the opportunity to convene with international students, representing up to 20 countries, to discover their potential as the next generation of leaders. The WLC takes place in July in Chicago, Illinois.

The Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA) is a five-day practical and experiential program where high school juniors and seniors deeply examine their own leadership capabilities. The curriculum explores how students can use their specific individual abilities to organize and lead a service project to create meaningful change. The ALA has two sessions and takes place November 6-11, 2014 near Asheville, North Carolina.

Get Involved!

- Spread the word about HOBY programs to your local high schools
- Sponsor students to attend a HOBY program
- Plan and produce a Community Leadership Workshop with local HOBY Alumni
- Help schools select and register sophomore students for the State Leadership Seminars
- Select and sponsor a deserving high school Junior or Senior for the Advanced Leadership Academy
- Connect sponsored students with your club by inviting them to speak at your meeting
- Volunteer at the events
- Provide gifts-in-kind
- Volunteer with HOBY as a speaker or at a seminar
- Think of a unique way your club can help!



We are continually working to develop partnerships with organizations whose missions and scope of work are germane to GFWC. Look for updates from the GFWC Education Community Service Program Chairman, in *News & Notes* and *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and online at www.GFWC.org.



GFWC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

All programs and projects that relate to Education should be reported here, whether they are club initiated, involve other members of the community, other organizations or work with any GFWC partners.



Epsilon Sigma Omicron

Epsilon Sigma Omicron is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita paying GFWC members. ESO provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. ESO materials are available online at **www.GFWC.org/ESO**.

There are a number of ways to support ESO activities and membership within your club, including:

- Verify the charter of an ESO chapter in your state by contacting your State President or the GFWC Education Community Service Program Chairman. If one does not exist, establish a state ESO chapter and start reading.
- Select one or two books from the reading list to discuss at club meetings.
- Establish reading groups for study and discussion.
- Organize a book fair.
- Sponsor a book-signing event.
- Promote local authors and their works.
- Promote reading at all age levels.
- Work with your local library or book store in reading to children events.



**2014-2016
ESO CHAIRMAN
MARIANNE POTTER**

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AWARDS

GFWC recognizes state federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Education Community Service Program projects and partnership projects, as follows:

- Certificates to one state federation in each membership category
- Certificates to one state federation in each membership category for ESO
- \$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Awards Program. Each state federation may submit one State Award Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Education Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

GFWC partners will recognize state federations and clubs for their efforts. Contact the GFWC Programs department for information.

GRANTS

FOCUS ON LITERACY CLUB GRANTS

Literacy club grants of up to \$200 are available to GFWC clubs and funds may be used for purchasing books for tutors to use, providing books to children and/or a variety of other literacy needs. Refer to the application for a number of other suggestions, available at **www.GFWC.org/membership/awards-contests-and-grants/**.



Refer to the Reporting section of the *Club Manual* for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.





GFWC Cosmopolitan Woman's Club of Albuquerque (New Mexico) participated in *The Magic Bus* program, which provides free educational field trips to the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History. Nine thousand students between second and eighth grades were able to participate, and two busloads of students were sponsored by the club.



GFWC Sand River Woman's Club (South Carolina) continued its "Bookcase 'n Books" project to encourage reading for new residents of Habitat for Humanity homes. The club purchased bookcases, and members gave books appropriate to the ages and sexes of the new owners to fill them. Members attended the dedication ceremony of each of the four newly built Habitat homes, where each of the new owners found a bookcase full of books for the children and the parent(s) inside.



GFWC Goddard Woman's Club (Kansas) continued to provide story time experiences to groups in their area with Story Time with the Puppet Ladies. The club received a GFWC Literacy Grant to support the project