

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention

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GFWC of Tennessee Fall Conference 2018 Presentation:

GFWC IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN THE FIGHT TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THIS SOCIAL ISSUE. The goal of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse and violence against women in communities across the nation.

Domestic Violence is something that many people don't want to talk about. Instead of addressing this devastating issue, some would rather stay away from such a heavy topic and claim it doesn't happen in their community. But the truth is domestic violence can happen anywhere and to anyone, regardless of age, financial status, race, religion, or education.

We need to talk about domestic violence, not only in October, but every day of the year. We owe it to survivors of domestic violence whose stories need to be told. We owe it to the women who are currently experiencing physical, emotional, sexual, or financial abuse. And we owe it to those victims of domestic violence who were tragically killed by an intimate partner.

GFWC is not afraid to be a loud voice in the fight to end domestic violence. We've made that clear by making Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention our Signature Program, giving clubs across the country the resources they need to create change. Whether sending notes of encouragement and care packages to women at local domestic violence shelters, writing letters to the editor, or planting purple flowers around town, members are committed to spreading awareness and ending violence against women.

On both a local and national level, GFWC supports victims of domestic violence. The GFWC **Success for Survivors Scholarship** provides funds for women who have experienced abuse, allowing them to attend college and continue their journey of recovery. Through the **GFWC Legislative Action Center**, members advocate for laws that protect victims of domestic violence.

Sadly, domestic violence will continue if we don't speak up. That's why we refuse to back down and will show the world that we as GFWC members are united in the fight to end domestic violence. Use Domestic Violence Awareness Month as a platform to begin talking about this issue in your community. Encourage members to wear purple during the month of October.

There is still so much work to do and our members are up to the task of showing the world that domestic violence can be diminished or eliminated.

The GFWC Signature Project: The GFWC Signature Program Committee is challenging our State Federations to raise awareness and benefit domestic violence shelters in our states by having a "purse contest" at their annual state conventions. We will fill and distribute gently used purses, filled with things survivors will need. Many may leave the situation they were in with only the clothes on their back and they have to leave behind even basic items. There will be more news to come to complete this project during our spring convention.

P – Purses U – Uniting R – Resources to S – Successfully E – End violence against women!