



EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

“EDUCATION IS NOT JUST ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL AND GETTING A DEGREE. IT’S ABOUT WIDENING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND ABSORBING THE TRUTH ABOUT LIFE.” — SHAKUNTALA DEVI

Education is one of the most important investments that can be made. Across the world, it has proved to be transformative, advancing society as well as self. When individuals acquire knowledge, they assimilate pieces of information into a larger understanding. On a personal level, this understanding provides perspectives that form the basis of ideas and opinions. Interpersonally, it provides the insight and judgement that facilitates relationships and ensures the ability to succeed in and beyond local communities, which, in turn, progress with the growing intellect of their citizens.

In the U.S., the goal of education has historically evolved with the needs of society, from teaching religious values and principles of democracy, to the assimilation of immigrants and the training of workers for an industrialized nation. Now, we hold a broader view. Jonathan Cohen, cofounder and president of the National School Climate Center has noted, “The purpose of education is to support children in developing the skills, the knowledge, and the dispositions that will allow them to be responsible, contributing members of their community—their democratically-informed community. Meaning, to be a good friend, to be a good mate, to be able to work, and to contribute to the well-being of the community.”

During its history, GFWC has advanced education, in part, through the establishment and support of public libraries. In the 1930’s, the Federation was credited by the American Library Association for establishing 75 percent of America’s public libraries. Today, as a key factor in how Americans learn and connect with local communities, they continue to be a top priority of members.

As clubwomen, GFWC members promote education in both children and adults. We aim to help others, while we also continue to learn. Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities, and to promote libraries, literacy, and the love of a good book. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.



**2020-2022
EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

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**CHALLENGE PROJECT:
SUPPORT STEM
PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES
FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

Nearly one out of ten U.S. families is raising a child with a disability. Legislation passed in 1975 ensures that children with disabilities are accommodated in public educational programs, but these students are less likely to earn a conventional high school diploma. As adults, a large majority will be underemployed or unemployed. Students with special needs, like most of their peers, learn best in active, hands-on, problem-solving classroom environments. Additionally, some special needs students, particularly those with autism spectrum disorder, gravitate to courses and careers involving science, technology, engineering, and math.

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Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Education and Libraries Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

Embrace the Education Challenge Project by:

- Organizing a STEM day camp, workshop, or unique activity for special needs students.
- Supplying special needs teachers with STEM lesson plans, ideas, and/or supplies.
- Volunteering in a special needs classroom to assist with STEM activities.
- Donating books about STEM careers, such as *Her STEM Career: Adventures of 51 Remarkable Women*, to special needs classrooms.



SUMMER COOKING AND SEWING CLASSES

GFWC Glendale Woman's Club (AZ) developed and offered cooking and sewing classes four days a week during the summer. There were 17 cooking students and 15 sewing students including boys and girls. Those in cooking learned about table manners, kitchen cleanliness, and nutrition, in addition to cooking, and received a children's cookbook. Students in sewing made a tote bag, personal pillowcase, and mug rug, and received an owl pincushion made by members and a tape measure.



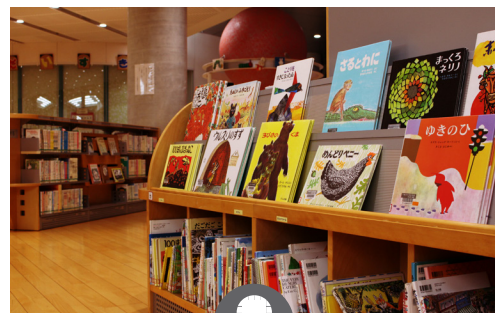
LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

Woodbine Woman's Club (GA) worked with the city for three years to establish a library. Members obtained an old fire station and HVAC system. They worked on the building with Habitat for Humanity and the high school Skills USA team. The school district committed to providing \$10,000 a year for operating costs. Club members applied for grants to make the building ADA compliant and partnered with the library and Lions Club to raise \$7,000 for library renovations.



EARLY LITERACY EMPHASIS

As part of Smart Start's Park-Time Reading Campaign, GFWC South Brunswick Islands (NC) dedicated a Little Free Library at a beach park and maintained a steady book supply. To aid in maintenance, the club received a \$1,000 community grant from the electric membership corporation. They partnered with "Raising a Reader" and connected with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Ninety-six Dr. Seuss books, 57 toddler board books, and 32 Christmas books were purchased from Dollar General.



CHILDREN'S BOOK NOOK

GFWC Tuesday Club (MO) members assisted with the Book Nook at their local food pantry to encourage children to read while their parents were shopping. The nook was equipped with children's books, child-sized shelves, a small table and chairs, and some educational toys. Children could take one book with them per visit. Club members visited the Book Nook twice a week, adding books to shelves and cleaning and tidying the area.



PROJECT IDEAS

Be inspired by this list of ideas of how GFWC clubs can support the Education and Libraries Community Service Program. Find further information about organizations named here under Resources.

EDUCATION

- Establish a scholarship for a local student using these steps:
 - ∅ Determine the purpose of the scholarship (reason for awarding it and the target audience, for example—the scholarship could be in honor or memory of a club or community leader, or it might help a student with a special need).
 - ∅ Set a timeline (including development, fundraising, advertising, application evaluation, award presentation).
 - ∅ Create the application (incorporating components that fit the purpose of the scholarship, such as essay, resume, transcripts, financial need information, letters of recommendation).
 - ∅ Determine the duration of the award (one or multiple years).
 - ∅ Determine the funding source.
 - ∅ Select the recipient and plan the award presentation.
- Advocate for and assist children and adults with special needs by:
 - ∅ Researching learning disabilities on the website of the Learning Disabilities Association of America and subscribe to their newsletter, or follow them on Twitter, for news on advocacy efforts and how you can help.
 - ∅ Volunteering in the Special Education Department of a local school.
 - ∅ Sponsoring events for children with special needs such as holiday parties, proms, or athletic events
 - ∅ Adopting a special needs teacher for the school year, providing class incentives, teaching or craft materials, and other needed support.
 - ∅ Initiating a reading program or book club for children and adults with special needs, and/or donating books to special needs groups.
- Support schools, educators, and students with donations:
 - ∅ Obtain a supply list from a local school and organize a club or community drive to supply book bags, notebooks, binders, and other recommended items to underserved students.
 - ∅ Provide local teachers with supplies for their classrooms, including “treasure chest” stickers or small items that can be used as incentives for positive behavior.
 - ∅ Consider and provide for the needs of local preschool, toddler reading programs, and/or Head Start Programs.
 - ∅ Replace or add to playground equipment, including a buddy bench.
 - ∅ Provide reading software, other materials, or funds for after-school enrichment programs.
 - ∅ Fund fieldtrips for underserved students.
- Support first-year teachers by providing welcome messages and snacks for their teacher orientation. Consider providing books for their classroom library or supplies such as Band-Aids, tissues, a sewing kit, small hand lotions, and other useful items.
- Host a special event on Teacher Appreciation Day (the first Tuesday in May), such as a celebratory breakfast or lunch, or provide thank you cards or other expressions of gratitude.
- Organize a group of members who would like to work together to support a local school by volunteering to help a teacher or several teachers set up their classroom at the beginning of the year. Stay connected by volunteering in the classroom(s) and providing other assistance as needed.
- Become a partner in education with a Title 1 school by volunteering one-on-one time with students, providing take-home snacks for weekends, supplying toiletries that can be distributed as needed, and assisting or donating to special programs where children can flourish, such as music, art, and athletics.
- Sponsor recognitions, such as student of the month. Provide goody bags, ice cream tokens, or books.
- Partner with the local PTA/PTO on an important issue, such as raising awareness about internet safety.
- Work with school counselors to support an anti-bullying campaign in October, during National Bully Prevention Month. PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center offers free classroom resources.
- Assist GED candidates by tutoring or establishing a fund to pay for tests and/or babysitting.



- Advocate for and support STEM for Her in local schools. STEM for Her is an organization that encourages girls to pursue STEM-related careers. Visit the website to learn more about STEM for Her programs.
- Organize literacy events to “get your school reading.” Organize book-themed events, such as a book walk, book fair, book bingo, book drive or swap, book reading challenge, book club of “reading buddies,” or a book report contest on “My Favorite Book.” Donate or solicit prizes for awards.
- Promote summer reading by providing books to be given to children at the close of the school year along with a flyer or calendar of summer reading events scheduled at local libraries.
- Organize a Read Across America event in March during National Reading Month. Consult the Read Across America website for suggested books, event ideas, and promotional materials.
- Create nooks for reading at welfare offices, health departments, doctor clinics, shelters, children’s hospitals, laundromats, and other places children might visit, and stock them with a variety of books. Add a club sticker with the message, “If you read a story while you wait, the less time it will take.”
- Promote reading among older students by sponsoring a Reading Bowl or Global Reading Challenge.
- Invite an author to speak at a school or community event, or a club meeting.
- Provide books for a VA hospital or Veteran’s home, a local nursing home, a Habitat for Humanity home, or other places where books would be a special treat.
- Celebrate Children’s Book Day/Día de los Niños on April 30. Donate books in English and Spanish to local Head Start programs.
- Promote DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Day, by posting photos on social media of community leaders, such as the mayor, police chief, and your club president, with their nose in a book. DEAR Day, celebrated on April 12, reminds families to make reading a priority in their lives by setting aside at least 30 minutes that day to enjoy books together.
- Plan a pajama and book drive for Pajama Program, an organization that promotes and supports a comforting bedtime routine for all children to help them thrive. Visit the Pajama Program website for information on contributing pajamas and/or books, fundraising, and volunteering.
- Support local English as a Second Language (ESL) programs by tutoring students and/or funding their classes or materials.
- Plan or sponsor a “Books Alive” program for your community, bringing a favorite children’s book to life as a play or puppet show.
- Learn more about established reading programs such as Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, Reach out and Read, Reading is Fundamental, Reading Rockets, Room to Read, and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, and see if your club can get involved in, donate to, or sponsor an event in your community.
- Celebrate World Read Aloud Day, a program sponsored by LitWorld, on February 5. Celebrate at schools, work, and a club meeting. Create and wear reading crowns that illustrate what you are thinking as you read. Visit the LitWorld website to register, gather ideas for community engagement, and find other resources.

LIBRARIES

- Support your local public library (or school library if appropriate). Club projects could include:
 - ◊ Donating books, books on tape, movies, music, and other resources.
 - ◊ Providing exploratory tours for children that enable them to navigate the facility and use its electronic search tools.
 - ◊ Sponsoring materials and programs for the underserved, disabled, and/or non-native speakers
 - ◊ Funding online education classes.
 - ◊ Promoting library history, events, and services on social media or through alternate means.
 - ◊ Encouraging the selection of a mascot and then help develop a publicity/public-relations plan.
 - ◊ Making and wearing promotional buttons or pins for the library.
- Establish a group of club members who would like to offer volunteer assistance at the library, such as:
 - ◊ Assisting library patrons.
 - ◊ Assisting with library programs, such as children’s story hours and craft projects.
 - ◊ Shelving books or tidying library shelves.
 - ◊ Creating a bulletin board or other educational displays.
 - ◊ Decorating for various holidays.
 - ◊ Repairing and cleaning books.
 - ◊ Sorting book donations.



- Providing clerical services or helping with newsletters.
- Maintaining outdoor displays and/or beautifying flower beds.
- Assisting at fundraisers and book sales.
- Organize and/or sponsor public service or community enrichment programs at your public library (or a school library if appropriate). Programs could include:
 - Tutoring and/or homework assistance for students.
 - Supporting summer reading events and classes for students.
 - Hosting children's events such as a Book Character Parade or Literary-themed poster contest.
 - Assisting with English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.
 - Presenting creative endeavors such as book readings, film screening, or art displays.
 - Promoting classes in Art or Art History, Creative Writing, Gardening, and other creative pursuits
 - Hosting a murder mystery event.
 - Offering "Library Lunches" that examine and/or problem-solve local issues.
- Celebrate National Library Week and National Library Workers Day in April by saying #ThankYouLibraries on social media with photos and stories about the library. Or, organize a special event for library patrons and staff, such as a book reading by an author.
- Establish a Little Free Library in your community, choosing an area where books are scarce. Find free plans, plus tips on stewardship and other helpful information on the Little Free Library website. Consider partnering with a local scout troop or carpentry class to build the library.
- Organize a mobile book program to serve rural or underserved areas of your community.
- Encourage club and community members to become a member of Friends of the Library (or organize a group if none exists), to serve as a Library Trustee, and to advocate for library funding and other important library concerns. Find more information on these initiatives and others on the I Love Libraries website.
- Establish or support an existing service to deliver books to homebound library patrons.
- Celebrate Library Card Sign Up Month in September with an event such as a Fall for Books Funfest for children with games, face painting, prizes, and a library card sign-up table.
- Organize a display for Banned Book Week, held the last week in September, which highlights the value of free and open access to information. For other event ideas and a list of restricted books, visit the Banned Book Week website.
- Work with the library to establish a teen advisory board to form a teen book review, develop teen services, and recommend additional library resources for teens.
- Sponsor a photography contest for teens that features the library, with winners receiving gift certificates or cash awards. Use the winning photos as screensavers on library computers and display them on club and library social media.
- Work with the library to organize a homework help line or a term paper clinic.
- Collaborate with other groups, such as the local Chamber of Commerce, to develop small business services at the library, such as information centers that include a video conference room, staff training workshops, and other resources.
- Consider supporting a library in another part of the world. Check the websites of The Library Project (rural Asia) and the African Library Project. Or donate books to Books for International Goodwill.

ESO

Epsilon Sigma Omicron is an honorary educational society open to all GFWC members. ESO provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is both educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. ESO materials are available on the GFWC website. Support ESO in your state with these activities.

- Verify the charter of an ESO Chapter in your state by contacting the State President or GFWC Education and Libraries Chairman. If none currently exists, work with your State President and the State Education and Libraries Chairman to establish a State ESO Chapter.
- Refer to the ESO Reading List on the GFWC website and then select one or two books from the reading list to discuss at a meeting and/or highlight through your club newsletter. Any books not listed may be deemed eligible by the State ESO Chapter.
- Establish an ESO reading group for study and discussion.
- Maintain a reading log, which is provided to the State ESO Chairman to achieve ESO levels.
- Participate in the online GFWC ESO reading book club. The online reading book club has selected one book per month from various categories. Search for the Facebook page: GFWC 2020 2022 ESO Book Club.



CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILATE ORGANIZATIONS

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

- Encourage the educational resources that Heifer offers to schools at the elementary and secondary levels (www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/schools/home-school-activities.html).
- Publicize the books and reading resources as well as the virtual field trips for children who are homeschooled (www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/schools/home-school-activities.html).

HOBY

- Coordinate a Community Leadership Workshop (CLeW), 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 (www.hoby.org/programs/community-leadership-workshop).
- Get your school, community, and service club involved with HOBY's mission to inspire and prepare future young leaders for a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation (www.hoby.org).

OPERATION SMILE

- Organize a community event to bring awareness to the work of Operation Smile.
- Request a local medical volunteer speaker from Operation Smile Speakers Bureau to share their stories of medical missions and the patients whose lives are changed through our work (www.operationsmile.org/content/community-fundraising-and-service-projects).

PCAA

- Utilize the Chapter network across all 50 states to promote awareness and provide educational programs and resources that help prevent all types of child abuse and neglect – from bullying to shaken baby syndrome.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

- Bring awareness to Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and how St. Jude provides an opportunity to educate communities and supporters about what they can do to help these kids fighting for their lives.
- Mention Childhood Cancer Awareness Month at your club meeting. Visit www.stjude.org/September for current information.

UNF SHOT@LIFE CACPAIGN

- Contact GFWC members who have attended the Shot@Life Summit and invite them to present what they learned about the importance of global vaccines and the impact The Summit had on their lives.
- Register for one of Shot@Life's training sessions or webinars. Make it a club program!

UNICEF USA

- Partner with local organizations to educate the community about the growth of human trafficking. Use information provided by UNICEF USA to plan a Fair Trade luncheon and show the Robert Bilheimer film, "*Not My Life*" (www.unicefusa.org/mission/protect/trafficking/end).
- "Shop for a Cause" to provide educational materials for children around the world. Prepare educational items for display and donate them to a local school (www.market.unicefusa.org/inspired-gifts).



GFWC RESOURCES

Before Kindergarten www.1000booksbeforekindergarten.org

American Library Association www.ala.org

African Library Project www.africanlibraryproject.com

Banned Books Week www.bannedbooksweek.org

Books Alive www.books-alive.org

Books for International Goodwill www.big-books.org

ESO www.gfwc.org/what-we-do/community-service-programs/epsilon-sigma-omicron

Global Partnership for Education www.globalpartnership.org

I Love Libraries www.ilovelibraries.org

Imagination Library www.imaginationlibrary.com

Learning Disabilities Association of America www.lidaamerica.org

Little Free Library www.littlefreelibrary.org

LitWorld www.litworld.org

For information on Read Aloud Day go to www.litworld.org/worldreadaloudday

National Education Association www.nea.org

PACER Center—Champions for Children with Disabilities www.pacer.org

For information on the National Bullying Prevention Center go to www.pacer.org/bullying

Pajama Program www.pajamaprogram.org

PTA www.pta.org

For information on Safer Internet Day go to www.pta.org/home/events/safer-internet-day

PTO www.pto.org

Reach Out and Read www.reachoutandread.org

Read Across America www.readacrossamerica.org

Reading is Fundamental www.rif.org

Reading Rockets www.readingrockets.org

For information on DEAR go to www.readingrockets.org/calendar/dear

Room to Read www.roomtoread.org

STEM for Her www.stemforher.org

The Library Project www.library-project.org



GFWC LIBRARY REPLENISHMENT FUND

In order to assist GFWC communities affected by man-made and natural disasters, GFWC established the GFWC Library Replenishment Fund. GFWC clubs have a long history of founding, maintaining, and promoting libraries. Grants will be provided to GFWC clubs to help replenish affected libraries in their communities.

AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Education and Libraries Community Service Program projects and Affiliate Organization projects as follows:

- Certificates to one State Federation in each membership category
- \$50 Award to one club in the nation for project creativity
- Certificates to one State Federation in each membership category for ESO
- \$50 Award to one club in the nation for project creativity for ESO

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



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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current Resolutions for the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text of each in the 2019 Resolutions document.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 012-010 | Basic Education |
| 012-020 | Community Colleges, Vocational/Technical Education Institutions |
| 012-030 | Educational Equity |
| 012-040 | Enforced School Busing |
| 012-050 | English, Official USA Language |
| 012-070 | Humanities Education |
| 012-080 | Libraries |
| 012-090 | Lifelong Learners |
| 012-100 | Literacy |
| 012-110 | Quality Education |
| 012-120 | Digital Media in Education |
| 012-120 | Youth Employment |

