



JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL



GFWC
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GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

**2024-2026
JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM**

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"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHAMPION; AN ADULT WHO WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM, WHO UNDERSTANDS THE POWER OF CONNECTION AND INSISTS THAT THEY BECOME THE BEST THEY CAN POSSIBLY BE." RITA PIERSON

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is designed to encourage all Woman's, Junior, Juniorette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The program was envisioned as a way for clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level.

The definition of child advocacy is "support for children who are in a vulnerable position in society or in a vulnerable situation." We aim to honor our roots and be a voice for children.

Clubwomen can be an advocate by working to:

- Ensure that children are protected from harmful situations.
- Encourage healthy physical and emotional lifestyles.
- Impact policy to improve children's lives.

Children also depend on the advocacy of others, especially their parents and caregivers, to protect and promote their interests in an emergency or long-term health situation. First-rate children's healthcare should be available to everyone, and family voice and choice are essential in providing the best healthcare plan for each unique situation. Educate yourself and others about medical resources and organizations that will help you be the best advocate possible for children.

The Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children encourages advocacy and projects that will assist and protect children in crisis, including those experiencing:

- Child abuse
- Cyberbullying
- Depression and suicide
- Foster or residential care
- Homelessness
- Human trafficking
- Life-threatening illness
- Limits on screen time
- Cyber Predators
- Poverty
- Texting while driving

Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Juniors' Special Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE: BE A CHAMPION IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



Encourage clubs to work with your local police and social services agencies to determine what they most need to spruce up their children's waiting room areas. Sponsor a room and make it kid-friendly, and cozy. Clean, paint, and add children's-size furniture items to the room to bring warmth and caring into the surroundings. Create a book nook and art area and keep items stocked.

GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK

Sunday, October 20, to Saturday, October 26, 2024

Sunday, October 19, to Saturday, October 25, 2025

During Advocates for Children Week clubs and members are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement or child protective service agencies to identify their needs for children or families. In addition to responding to their determined needs, clubs can create "busy bags" that may be filled with items such as books, coloring books, crayons, art supplies, fidget toys, stuffed animals, and so much more. These bags will be immensely helpful in occupying children's minds during challenging experiences.

