



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

**"OUR TROUBLE IS THAT WE DO NOT DEMAND ENOUGH OF THE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT US. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES... WE MUST SPUR THEM TO MORE IMAGINATION AND ENTERPRISE IN MAKING A PUSH INTO THE UNKNOWN; WE MUST MAKE CLEAR THAT WE INTEND TO HAVE RESPONSIBLE AND COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP." ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**

In the Preface of *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, an authoritative work edited by Thomas Ehrlich and published by Oryx Press in 2000, it is noted that "Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political processes."

More generally, according to The Center For Civic Leadership at the Alfred State School of Technology of the State University of New York, civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of your community. It involves action by individuals or groups to engage with issues of public concern by taking action, being a problem solver, and working to address the root cause of community challenges. What a perfect description of the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program!

The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each member is part of a larger society and we are responsible for taking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. GFWC focuses on addressing issues of public concern.

Volunteering is one of the best ways to put civic duty into action, and it is often the first step in building a stronger connection to community. However, there are other ways to contribute, such as advocating, fundraising or donating, and problem-solving. Locally, even supporting small businesses and keeping an eye on your neighbor can play a part in improving the community. The possibilities are endless. We advocate because there is a need; we volunteer because we are needed. GFWC's focus continues to be addressing issues impacting our local, state, and national communities.

Citizenship, Crime Prevention, Safety, Disaster Preparedness, the Needy, Hungry, and Homeless, and Military Personnel and Veterans are just a few suggestions for areas of concern impacted by GFWC Clubwomen during its history. What is needed in your community? Look around your own community and to the wider world for ways to make a positive impact.



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Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org).