



## 2026 Spring



Dear GFWC – NH Clubwomen,

There are reports that the crocus are popping thru and the daffodils will soon be popping thru as well.

It has been a cold and snowy winter but as true New Englanders we have made it through and spring is here

Thank you to the GFWC – NH Chairman for their work in reviewing all the GFWC – NH reports and completing their reports on time.

I am excited to report that the 2025 GFWC – NH Reports are all submitted to the respective GFWC Chairman. What amazing work each club has done and continues to do.

I am saving the reveal of the final totals for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Come to hear about the award-winning projects and CELEBRATE all the accomplishments of your and fellow clubs.

TRULY AMAZING

The reporting for 2026 is open, so don't miss reporting of your projects. Start now.

APRIL

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



NH Children's Trust would like these new yard signs with their new logo out there. If you would like new yard signs contact Jennifer Paveglio at NH Children's Trust [jpaveglio@nhchildrenstrust.org](mailto:jpaveglio@nhchildrenstrust.org)



## GFWC NH Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

It's happening! GFWC NH is the host of two events in April to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month, along with NH Children's Trust (NHCT).

First, on April 10, 2026, Friday, 11:30am-12pm we will be planting pinwheels at the State House, by the Christa McAuliffe statue (picture below), the address is 107 N. Main St, Concord.

April 10 is the 2026 Wear Blue Day. NHCT will bring pinwheels and signs, you just have to show up wearing blue! Also, GFWC NH President Denise Raisanen has organized a tour of the State House that same morning, April 10, 10:30am. The tour should finish by 11:30 for the Pinwheel Planting.

**RSVP TO [draisanengfwc@gmail.com](mailto:draisanengfwc@gmail.com) to reserve for the State House Tour**

**All attendees must read the Rules.**



Event #2, on April 23, Thursday, 11am-2pm 'A Community Commitment to Family Well-Being', also on the State House grounds. We hope this event will bring together families, community leaders, and partners to highlight the importance of child abuse prevention, connection, and the supports that help children and families thrive.

**Click on this link:** <https://www.nhchildrenstrust.org/prevention>

for the Save the Date, please share with your community members and families. GFWC NH will have a table at this event, along with other partners who work to prevent child abuse every day.

Email Denise Raisanen, [draisanengfwc@gmail.com](mailto:draisanengfwc@gmail.com) if you can volunteer for the April 23<sup>rd</sup> event.

I am so happy and so proud of this collaboration with NHCT to continue increasing awareness in our communities.

Tina

Tismith12@comcast.net  
603-491-4240

**JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**  
Gale Stanley Chairman

Thank you to all those who donated and participated in the CASA Barstool Sitting Fundraiser. It was a success, raising over \$70,000.

Thank you Gale for organizing the GFWC – NH Team.



Eric Hammershoy



Amy Hammershoy

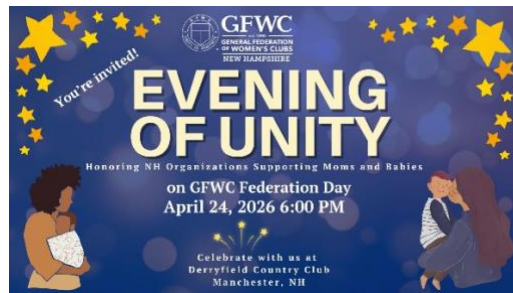


Lynne Abt and Friend



The Lazotts

*GFWC – NH President’s Project:  
GFWC Clubwomen Supporting Moms and Babies*



Join us at the Derryfield Country Club for the Evening of Unity/ Federation Day April 24<sup>th</sup> 6 PM.

Honorees:

Elliot Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Exeter Hospital Family Center

Lamprey Health Care

Women & Children Center at Wentworth Douglass Hospital

NH Women’s Veteran’s Program

Invitation can be found on the GFWC – NH website. Deadline is April 10.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Donna Maskwa, GFWC President-elect**

State Meetings: A Powerful Membership Tool for NH Clubs

We often talk about the Benefits of Belonging to GFWC. Develop Leadership Skills, Build Friendships and your network, Influence your elected officials to effect Positive Change, Access to Worldwide Connections, Connections with other volunteer motivated members and, my favorite, Satisfaction in knowing your time spent helping others has an immediate positive impact. What’s your favorite benefit of belonging?

In a recent issue of News and Notes, Kim Fulcher, a member of GFWC’s Membership Committee, shared a twist on this idea with her thoughts on the value for members attending state meetings beyond your local club. For me it was a fresh eye opener and captured the greater purpose of WHY members should take the opportunity to attend state meetings.

In short form, here are Kim’s ideas:

- Inspire Current Members..see the bigger picture of GFWC
- Welcome Prospective Members...new members and others ~ with ideas to embrace.
- Showcase Leadership Opportunities...hear from Speakers, our Chairmen and others.
- Make Conventions/State Meetings Intentional for Membership... WE DO!

**Come see.**

We have two more BIG state meetings for this administration coming up this spring. All meetings are for all our members. Our Evening of Unity is on April 24. Our Annual Meeting will be on May 16. The Call for the Evening of Unity arrived in all your inboxes, available online at <https://gfwcnh.org/> . I hope to see you there!

WHY should you attend? We often talk about the importance of sharing our stories to encourage others.

I'd like to share my story of attending my first state meeting.

One of my first meetings, that I still clearly remember, was actually a District Meeting.

I attended by myself. My club was really small and I was learning about what this bigger GFWC- NH organization and this meeting was all about ...and I probably wanted a peek inside the fabulous GFWC Portsmouth Women's City Club historic clubhouse too. It didn't disappoint!

Before sitting down, I was talking to a woman from Somersworth. It was Sue McCoy, their Club President. I asked if I could sit with her. In true GFWC fashion, she took me right under her wing and made me feel connected. She shared stories from her club and I realized how very different and wonderful our clubs all are. I heard about their club's dictionary program giving dictionaries to every 3rd grader in the city. I was so impressed. Our speaker that day was from End 68 Hours of Hunger. She was so inspiring and her own very real stories I still remember today – why they used to pack can openers because kids didn't always have can openers at home, picking foods easy for the youngest kids to open because a helping adult wasn't guaranteed, allowing higher calorie foods because these kids need more calories. Some of the stories still shock me but packing for End 68 is still one of my favorite volunteer activities. I heard Chairman sharing info and ideas from categories I didn't know existed. Legislative Action that was also Non-Partisan!? YES! And I saw a room FULL of smiling faces of women CONNECTING to each other. They all looked like potential friends. I was hooked.

I hope you will take a moment to read Kim's article on State Conventions. Here's the link: <https://memberportal.gfwc.org/news/membership/113/113-State-Conventions-A-Powerful-Tool-for-Membership-Growth> See you at our next State Meeting!

## **Leadership Rachel Kingston Chairman**

### **CATCH THE LATEST WAVE**



Please join me and the NH State Leadership Committee for exciting and informative Mini Zoom Meetings featuring Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS).

This year we have opened our zoom meetings to include club women from the New England Region States, and beyond. Our first 3 meetings were met with much enthusiasm. We will have seasoned speakers, power point presentations, breakout sessions and of course much fun. It's a great chance to meet club women from around the New England Region, form lasting relationships and learn from each other's experiences.

These Zoom Meetings are open to all club women; it is our sincere hope that you will consider joining us. I ask you to please share this invitation to your club page, Facebook, Instagram and anyone you encounter as this is not an opportunity to miss!!

The dates and times are as follows:

April 16, 2026, 7-8:30

Our speaker will be Tara Levine who is the Development Director at Bridges, a Non-profit agency dedicated to helping victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

May 21, 2026, 7-8:30

Our speaker will be Katherine Challis who is the Development Director of the New Hampshire Children's Trust, a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America.

Please RSVP to Rachel Kingston, Dolores VanBlarcom, Mary Ryan or Donna Maskwa to reserve your spot!

**rachelkingston92599@yahoo.com**

**davan1@aol.com**

**mary27ryan@comcast.net**

**donna.maskwa@gmail.com**

## GFWC MY STORY

From Leslie Capps, Founder, Wild Woman Marketing,  
and GFWC Communications and PR Honorary Chairman

Throughout the coming year, we want to share the stories of GFWC members from across the country—grassroots members, new members, long-time leaders, and women whose service quietly changes lives every day. These stories will help us honor who we are, preserve our history, and inspire both current and future members. They will also help us show the public the depth, diversity, and character of the women who make up this Federation.

If you have ever wondered whether your story is “big enough,” “interesting enough,” or “important enough,” let me reassure you: it is. Some of the most powerful narratives come from ordinary moments—your first project, the woman who invited you to join, the moment you realized your contribution mattered, or the experience that taught you something about leadership, service, or resilience.

Your story does not need to be polished. It does not need to follow a specific structure. It just needs to be true.

If you feel called to share, or if you would like to nominate a fellow member whose story deserves to be told, we invite you to reach out. We have created a dedicated email address for submissions to [MyStory@GFWC.org](mailto:MyStory@GFWC.org). A member of the Communications team will follow up with simple next steps.

As we move into 2026, let us honor what has always made GFWC extraordinary: the women who show up, serve boldly, and lead with heart. By sharing your story, you help preserve our legacy—and you help spark the next generation of GFWC who are searching for a place to belong and a purpose to live out.

Your voice matters.

Civic Engagement and Outreach  
Co-chairmen Mary Ryan and Nancy Greenberg

9th Annual Baby Shower for Veteran Families  
Saturday, May 9, 2026  
Contact: 603 624-4366 ext. 205930 or  
[stacy.nolin@va.gov](mailto:stacy.nolin@va.gov)

To Our GFWC-NH Clubs and members,

The NH Veterans' Medical Center in Manchester is able to hold a Baby Shower each year due to the donations from the community. GFWC-NH is an essential part of the showers.

For multiple years, our clubs have donated an amazing array of items needed for a new little one. Those donations have enabled the VA to continue to hold their baby showers, as they receive no additional funds for this endeavor. We want all families to have what they need as they begin their journey with a new baby.

Suggestions: car seats, strollers, clothing, blankets, bathing sets of lotions and shampoo

Our NH President Denise has been celebrating "GFWC Clubwomen Supporting Mamas and Babies" as her President's Project. Collecting pajamas has been one wonderful objective. All pajamas have been forwarded to the Pajamas Project's NH coordinator and then passed on to shelters to add night-time comfort to those children. Pajamas for the babies of our NH Veterans will also be welcomed!

If your club budget is running low in the spring, maybe there is just enough for some pajamas!

Thank you! Nancy, Mary and our Veteran Families

## **GFWC – NH GRANTS**

Time is running out on the opportunity to apply for the GFWC – NH Grants.

### **GFWC NH Visibility and Branding Grant Application**

#### **Purpose and Vision Statement:**

To create a responsive system for allocating charitable funds available for distribution throughout the GFWC NH organization made available through partnership with the NH Racing and Charitable Gaming Commission.

**Funds will be used for promoting and boosting the overall health, growth and branding of the organization.**

**Grant money will be available until funds are depleted. Clubs may apply multiple times.**

**Total grant funds to one single club may not exceed \$1,500.00 per fiscal year.**

**Mini-Grants** will be available until funds are depleted from this account. Please check all of the items you are requesting for this grant application, not to exceed \$250.00 total.

Clubs may apply multiple times during the fiscal year as long as their grant requests do not exceed \$250 during the course of the year.

Go to GFWC – NH Library for full application.

# GO FORTH WITH CONFIDENCE SCHOLARSHIP

*Congratulations on 5 years of awarding scholarships to survivors*

*PLEASE SHARE*



## **Celebrating 5 Years of the Go Forth With Confidence NH Scholarship!**

For five years, this scholarship has supported survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, or human trafficking as they pursue education and career training.

🌟 **8 Recipients**  
🌟 **\$16,000 Awarded**

Each scholarship represents courage, resilience, and a step toward independence.

We are proud to continue empowering survivors across New Hampshire with opportunity, hope, and confidence.

Open to New Hampshire residents  
visit [gfwnh.org](http://gfwnh.org) for application

Because every survivor deserves the opportunity to  
**Go Forth With Confidence.**

## DISMAS HOME

“We offer justice-involved women with a substance use disorder a safe, supportive home where they can heal, grow, and prepare for a brighter future. Dismas Home of New Hampshire is the only program in the state with this unique two-phase approach that supports recovery and restores physical, emotional, and mental health. Dismas prepares them with life skills and workforce education to reclaim their lives with purpose and stability.”

As they continue with progress on opening their new facility in Rochester, here is their AMAZON WISH LIST. Lots of items in all price ranges.

[https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/37M6F0HWHH4JY?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_ud\\_ggr-subnav-sha16re\\_C1SFWECVAH6R65R152DF\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/37M6F0HWHH4JY?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-sha16re_C1SFWECVAH6R65R152DF_1)

GFWC Dover Area Woman’s Club is planning a new home shower.

*GFWC – NH ANNUAL MEETING*

Save the Date May 16. Honored Guest Mary Beth Williams, GFWC Second Vice-President, will be joining us. The day is full of celebration of all the work your clubs have reported.

The day will end with the installation of the GFWC – NH Executive Committee and Nomination Committee.

Official Call to Annual Meeting to follow.

All are invited if you would like to join us for dinner with Mary Beth Williams at the Coach Stop Restaurant at 6 PM on Friday evening at the Coach Stop, Londonderry email Denise [draisanengfwc@gmail.com](mailto:draisanengfwc@gmail.com)

### HONOR ROLL

#### **GFWC – NH Honor Roll Deadline April 15**

The Honor Roll is a long-standing annual tradition (since 1939) in recognition of GFWC- NH clubwomen who have contributed and made a positive difference in their club and in their communities. This recognition is presented at the GFWC - NH Annual Meeting. Each Honoree will receive a specially designed GFWC - NH Honor Roll pin and a Certificate of Achievement. Honor Roll recipients will be noted for 2 years in the GFWC - NH Yearbook which is a permanent record of GFWC - NH history.

Please select exceptional women in your club with a minimum of 2-year membership in the GFWC organization that you would like to acknowledge and honor. Below is a form for you to outline a brief summary (3-4 sentences max) of accomplishments.

Please mail this form and \$10.00 per honoree (made payable to GFWC-NH). Also be sure to register for the meeting and luncheon *separately* per the instructions on the GFWC-NH Annual Meeting Call.

**GFWC – NH is excited to offer complimentary lunch for one Honoree per club. Clubs may honor more than one Clubwomen. Look for the special registration with the GFWC – NH Annual Meeting Call.**

## *Salem Area Women's Club - GFWC*

This event celebrates the 100th Anniversary of our Club becoming federated with GFWC, is reminiscent of what our founding sisters did in their first year, features Wendy Carriker, GFWC President-Elect, and is a day-time event with a lower ticket cost.



With pride and joy  
The Salem Area Women's Club-GFWC  
requests the pleasure of your company at a

~ CENTENNIAL ~  
*Afternoon Tea*

The celebration of a century of service  
and sisterhood continues. Steeped with the history of SAWC,  
GFWC, and the magic of Searles Castle, enjoy an afternoon of  
spring gardens in the courtyard, tours of the castle,  
and music in the air. Savor the champagne, conversation,  
and Tea with all its delectable accompaniments.

*Guest of Honor: Wendy Carriker*  
GFWC PRESIDENT-ELECT

Tuesday, May 5, 2026  
1:30 to 4 pm  
Searles Castle, Windham NH

*Garden Tea Attire Welcomed*  
Tickets: Minimum Donation \$35

RSVP on Web:  
[salemareawomensclub.org](http://salemareawomensclub.org)  
Or Call 603.548.5418

### LOST AND FOUND

Left at Mid-Year Meeting

Email [draisanengfwc@gmail.com](mailto:draisanengfwc@gmail.com)



*Salem Area Women's Club – GFWC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



## CLUB ACTIVITY AROUND THE STATE



Exeter Area GFWC donated to Room of Love and organization that does room make overs for children



Exeter Area GFWC celebrated Lunar New Year



**GFWC Dover Area Woman's Club held a successful Dress A Girl Sewing Workshop**



**GFWC Nashaway Woman's Club  
Last year's pinwheel garden**



**GFWC Candia Community Woman's Club very successful and delicious  
Annual Loaf and Ladle**



**GFWC Brookline Women's Club selling snacks at their town meeting**



**GFWC Hudson Area Woman's Club Bake Sale at Town Voting**



**GFWC Greenland Woman's Club used GFWC – NH mini grant for a yard sign**