



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

Jane Cunningham Croly (NY) was a pioneering journalist, one of the first women to write a syndicated column and the first woman to teach a college journalism course. In 1868 she attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

Jane was refused admittance based on her gender. She left deciding to start her own club and called this club "Sorosis", a Greek word meaning "a sweet fragrance of many fruits".



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In 1889 Jane Croly invited women's clubs to come to New York City to pursue the cause of federation. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

Ellen Curtiss Demarest (NY) was a founding member of the Sorosis Club and helped to revolutionize the fashion industry in the 1860s with her invention of paper patterns for dressmaking.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1890 - Julia Ward Howe was the first GFWC MA President and one of the GFWC Constitution's authors. Julia wrote the lyrics to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic".



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1900

*A program of **Traveling Libraries** began with small rotating collections sent to rural communities, the beginning of the GFWC's ardent support of libraries.*





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In 1901 Chicago clubwoman and social reformer Jane Addams headed GFWC's Child Labor Committee to advocate for legislation restricting child labor so companies could no longer employ children as young as eight in their mills and businesses.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1930

The American Library Association credited GFWC clubs with establishing 75% of America's Public Libraries. Doesn't this make you proud?!



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In 1904 Clubwoman Alice Lakey initiated a letter-writing drive to advocate for pure food legislation. GFWC promoted a nationwide awareness campaign that led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In 1921 through the efforts of clubwoman Julia Lathrop, the Sheppard -Towner Maternity and Child Protection Act was passed authorizing federal aid for maternity, child health & welfare programs to reduce maternal and infant mortality





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1910s

GFWC supported legislation for the Eight Hour Workday, Workplace Safety and Inspection, Workmen's Compensation, and Prison Reform.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1943

Supporting our country's efforts during World War II, GFWC's "Buy a Bomber" campaign generates funds to purchase 431 planes for war service.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1950

During the Korean War, GFWC began a partnership with CARE, distributing relief shipments to Korea in support of families. The GFWC President was decorated by the Korean Government.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did you Know?

1960

“Brighten the Night” was a nationwide GFWC campaign for street lights to prevent crime and improve women’s safety after dark.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1961

GFWC partnered with the Automotive Safety Foundation in the “Women’s Crusade for Seat Belts” campaign, which resulted in the installation of one million seat belts that year.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In 1965, Operation Little Bells, a CARE special project, was adopted by GFWC's Junior membership. Juniors raised more than \$40,000 and built five schools in rural Mexico.

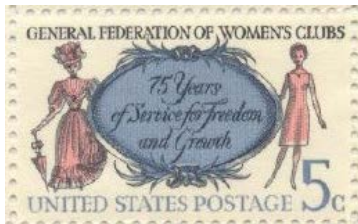


Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1965

The United States Post Office awards GFWC
a stamp in honor of the Federation's 75th
Anniversary.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1990s

GFWC actively supported the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1994 GFWC Founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame for mobilizing "the previously untapped and unorganized sisterhood of capable American women that would reshape American society".





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1997-2002

The GFWC President pledged over \$12 MILLION on behalf of GFWC to America's Promise for Libraries. GFWC exceeded the promise, donating \$13.5 MILLION by the year 2000.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

2000

The GFWC Outreach for Children Program raised \$204,000 for an Operation Smile Mission to the Philippines.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In 2004 GFWC Members contributed \$180,000 to purchase a fully equipped ambulance for the New York City Fire Department, replacing equipment lost during the terrorist attacks on 9/11.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In 2002 GFWC Clubwomen contribute thousands of dollars to the National World War II Memorial Fund.





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

2008

GFWC Board of Director Members participated in a Day on the Hill to advocate for the Bipartisan Pay Equality Bill, based on the discrimination case of clubwoman Lilly Ledbetter (Alabama).

President Barack Obama signed The Lilly Ledbetter Act into law in 2009.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

2010

GFWC established the SUCCESS FOR SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP to award education scholarships to survivors of domestic violence, giving them hope for a better future.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

2011

GFWC established the GFWC DISASTER RELIEF—LIBRARY REPLENISHMENT FUND to assist GFWC clubs in rebuilding libraries destroyed by manmade or natural disasters.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

*GFWC ADOPTS THE PENNY ART FUND
collecting one cent per member and used the
money to mount traveling exhibits and
award Arts Scholarships.*





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

1932

The Junior Department is established in response to an increasing number of younger women participating in volunteer community service.



Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

*GFWC formally ADOPTED THE RED ROSE
as the Federation's official flower.*





Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Did You Know?

In the midst of World War II, GFWC members, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, donated their wedding gowns to British service women.