

GFWC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Volume 1/ Issue 3 November/December 2022

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Welcome to the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP! I am excited to serve as your chairman for the 2022-2024 Administration. My goal is to provide information for you to be able to pass on in your state and assist you in this area. Please feel free to share this newsletter with clubs in your state.



www.GFWC.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

GFWC members are reminded that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for addressing issues of public concern. We advocate because there is a need, we volunteer because we are needed. Our focus is on our community and looking for better ways to make an impact.

UNDERSTANDING THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Civic Engagement and Outreach are highlighted and encouraged. Many areas are emphasized and identified, however, your projects and programs are most important in reaching out and preparing for community outreach and impact. You will make the difference.

Essential Workers

Citizenship

Crime Prevention

Safety and Disaster Preparedness

Needy, Hungry and Homeless

Military Personal

Veterans

Women Veteran Support and Outreach

shot
@life

advocate
to vaccinate

SPRING SUMMIT

February 27 – March 1, 2023



Come to Washington, D.C. to gain advocacy skills and meet with your congressional offices!

APPLY TODAY:
bit.ly/2023summitapp

This year the SHOT AT LIFE Summit will be held in person. Great opportunity for you to be a part of a great affiliate of GFWC.

“Those that have the ability to take action, have the responsibility to take action.” Nicholas Cage

Discussion Items FOR YOUR CLUBS –Be Thankful and Give Thanks

I have been a bit under the weather the past month. It has really had me think about priorities and directions as a volunteer. Do you have those days that you just can't get motivated, or get going? I think I really put things in to perspective when I couldn't do something. We need to take care of us, and that is hard. So the next few months, take some time for self-care. Do things with others who motivate you and you will not feel so overwhelmed. Let others help or be the one who helps! Let's remember our service members overseas and essential workers. Just think of the sacrifice they make each day to take care of others.

Brainstorm Ideas:

Ask your members how they are doing, really. Take time to listen, and take notes. If we don't take care of us, then we can't take care of others. Do many of your members have the same needs?

Collaboration Ideas:

Work together. Make a list of things that need to be done. Do you have a member that loves to decorate for the holidays and just can't? Have a day to show up and decorate. And maybe downsize those decorations and take them to a local VA hospital or police station or fire station. Do you love to bake and just don't have the financial means to do it anymore? Get together and exchange favorite recipes. Everyone pitch in \$20.00 and bake away at a member's home. Again, take the extras to essential worker! Put 6 cookies in a zip lock and a note of thanks. Recipe for kindness is to say Thank You!

Accomplishment Ideas:

It is in the small stuff. Together you can make a difference. When we work together, we feel better and who knows that card or note has made someone else feel better too. Make a list of things that make you feel good.

Financial Ideas:

Pitch in! Instead of gifts for everyone on your list, tell your friends and family you would like to donate a gift card to a family in need. You would like to cater a meal for those working over the holidays. Buy a tank of gas for a teacher or refuse worker! Don't overlook a gift that can make someone smile, those who are serving over the holidays. Celebrate accomplishments by telling the story.

Media Ideas:

Unfortunately we see so many needs-we can be a part of that solution. Partner with another group and work together to make a difference. In our neighborhood we have a Food Box, it is already established. Put out a flyer to your neighborhood, put on Facebook or Instagram that you would like to collect one item per household. Pick a date to go door to door with a decorated wagon to pick the items up. Stock that Food Box. We have 165 homes, can you imagine if 1/2 donated one item? Make it a competition with another neighborhood-and then publish your efforts. Make it an annual event.

USO—Sending Military Mail Deadline is December 9.

1-Troopster.org is a nonprofit with a mission to support troops overseas with care packages of food and supplies. You can purchase packages for different branches of service and different deployment situations. The charity makes it easy to send packages to troops you don't know. When they receive donations, they send out free care packages. Each year, their volunteer packing events prepare thousands of boxes to be shipped overseas to units that need them most. Visit their website to learn more about making donations, volunteering, or purchasing a package directly for your service member.

2-[Hero Care Packages](#): Founded by a former Navy officer, this company fixes care package struggles by offering selections of items that troops actually want and need while overseas. Choose from themes like the Meat Snacker, the Workout Package, or Choco and Coffee.

Candy Cane Day December 26



Ingredients

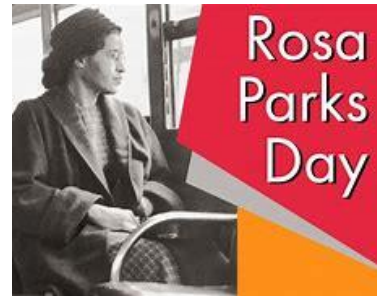
- 1cup sugar
- 1cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1/2cup milk
- 1teaspoon vanilla
- 1teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1egg
- 3 1/2cups Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
- 1teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4teaspoon salt
- 1/2teaspoon red food color
- 2tablespoons finely crushed peppermint candies
- 2tablespoons sugar

Steps

- 1** Stir together 1 cup sugar, the butter, milk, vanilla, peppermint extract and egg in large bowl. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt. Divide dough in half. Stir food color into 1 half. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours.
- 2** Heat oven to 375°F.
- 3** Stir together peppermint candy and 2 tablespoon sugar; set aside.
- 4** For each candy cane, shape 1 rounded teaspoon dough from each half into 4-inch rope by rolling back and forth on floured surface. Place 1 red and white rope side by side; press together lightly and twist. Place on ungreased cookie sheet; curve top of cookie down to form handle of cane.
- 5** Bake 9 to 12 minutes or until set and very light brown. Immediately sprinkle candy mixture over cookies. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

November 21 Dignity and Freedom Day –Ukraine
November 21 World HELLO Day
November 23 Eat a Cranberry Day
November 23 National Espresso Day
November 24 Thanksgiving
November 25 Family Day or Black Friday
November 26 Small Business Day
November 27 First Day of Advent through December 24



December 1- Rosa Parks Days
December 3-International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 5-International Volunteers Day
December 6-National St. Nicholas Day
December 7-Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 10-Human Rights Day
December 10-Jane Addams Day
December 10-17 National Human Rights Week
December 11-UNICEF Day
December 15-National Wear your Pearls Day
December 17-National Wreaths Across America Day
December 18-26 Hanukah
December 19-23 National Cookie Exchange Week
December 25-Christmas Day
December 26-January 1 Kwanzaa
December 31-New Year's Eve Day

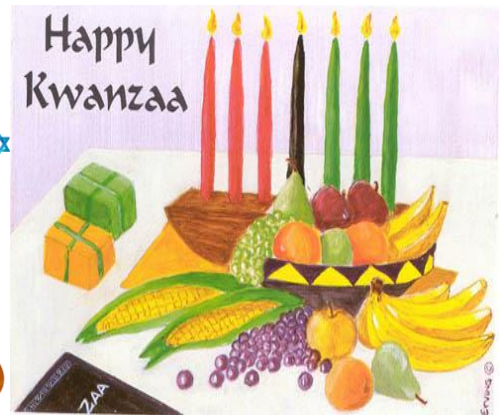
December 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor is attacked

- Pearl Harbor was attacked on Sunday, December 7, 1941 at 7:55 a.m.
- This attack would thrust the United States into World War II and changed history forever.
- Over 2,400 American soldiers died and 1,178 wounded were treated at hospitals in Pearl Harbor alone.



Have a safe and wonderful HOLIDAY CELEBRATION SEASON.



➤ **General Federation of Women's Clubs**

❖ **Give**

❖ **Serve**

❖ **Love**

COMING SOON---AWARD ENTRIES

Many states are preparing their end of the year award entries.

This is the time to SHINE and GLITTER!



Why are award entries important?

They are the spark to recognize and acknowledge outstanding work.

Provide statistical information for Legislative efforts.

Assist with the promotion of Affiliate Organizations and potential funding.

Help create a history of GFWC volunteer efforts.

Remember award entries are a product of the work of the state federations and an historical gathering of each state and each club's projects. All volunteer efforts are beneficial and worth the time put in to completing the award entry.

You need to emphasize the Community Impact. All of the community awareness and community support that address the needs in the community, including all communications, publicity, legislation, media and/or social media coverage.

Achievement of Program Area Goals. How was the success of the project achieved? Did you measure the long term and short term goals? Does it impact GFWC program area goals?

Description of the work effort. Unique, interesting, failed, accomplished, and achieved? Did you include partnerships with community organizations, non-profits, other businesses, or GFWC Affiliate Organizations? Was it creative and involved your members?

Engagement of Club Members. How was it accomplished? The project activities, did they raise awareness and achieve goals? Were members involved and excited to be a part of the project? Did everyone have a role?

Public Exposure. The awareness of the project. Was it shared on social media, was it published, did you pay for advertisement? What was done to make the community aware of the event or project?

GFWC Affiliate Organization Highlight – Canine Companions



- **2,702 Active graduate teams nationwide**
- **257 Teams graduated in 2022 to date**
- **517 People currently on the waitlist**
- **444 Dogs placed supporting veterans since founding**
- **1292 In-person and virtual follow up visits in 2022 to date**
- **1,053 Puppies currently being raised**
- **133 Breeder dogs**
- **4,700 Volunteers nationwide**
- **51 Volunteer chapters nationwide**
- **7,364 Teams graduated since founding in 1975**

Several hundred Canine Companions released dogs are currently functioning in human services roles such as search and rescue, border patrol, customs, therapy, medical alert and guide dogs, which are not reflected in the above numbers.

One in four Americans live with a disability and Canine Companions is here to help. As the leader of the service dog industry, Canine Companions enhances independence for children, adults and veterans with disabilities through expertly trained service dogs. Our service dogs assist people with a wide range of disabilities, including multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, stroke, hearing loss, developmental delay, veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and more. Established in 1975, Canine Companions is the largest non-profit provider of service dogs in the United States. With our cutting-edge research and training programs, we can achieve our industry-wide goal of providing service dogs to all eligible applicants and reducing wait times for individuals who would benefit from a service dog.

Canine Companions Puppies

Canine Companions breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and crosses of the two breeds. Puppies are raised by volunteer breeder caretakers who provide permanent homes to Canine Companions breeder dogs and nurture newborn puppies until they are about 8 weeks old. Then the puppies are placed with volunteer puppy raisers for a year and a half, where they receive lots of socialization, love, attention and experiential activities to prepare for their future.

Canine Companions Professional Training

Now dogs are ready for their next step — professional training at one of six training centers across the country. Our dogs complete a six month training program where professional instructors teach them to respond to more than 40 commands, including retrieving items, pulling wheelchairs, interrupting nightmares and anxiety, opening and closing doors, alerting to important sounds, and much more. After successfully completing professional training, the dogs enter Team Training. Team Training is a two-week intensive training where recipients are matched with their new service dogs and learn to work together as a team. Team Training culminates in an uplifting graduation ceremony, signaling the beginning of a new life together. For some graduates, it means returning to work, reducing medication or their dependency on caregivers. Others gain confidence and security to leave their homes and maximize their potential in the community. But for all Canine Companions graduates, one of the greatest rewards is the unconditional love and unique relationship they experience through partnership with a Canine Companions service dog. Canine Companions service dogs take their work seriously and are recognized for their high level of training. When not on the job, a Canine Companions dog enjoys off-duty time just as a pet dog would.



About Canine Companions

Canine Companions does not charge for service dogs or the lifetime of ongoing support we provide. As a result, we depend on private funding through donations from individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations. Our professional staff is supported by a national network of thousands of volunteers and donors, all committed to enhancing the independence for people with disabilities. Canine Companions service dogs help clients overcome physical, psychological and social barriers, helping them lead lives with greater independence. Canine Companions is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and founding member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI), a coalition of non-profit service dog organizations that are committed to the highest standards in the training, placement, utilization and education around service dogs.)

- National Headquarters & Northwest Training Center 2965 Dutton Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95407 707-577-1700
- Southwest Training Center 124 Rancho Del Oro Drive Oceanside, CA 92057 760-901-4300
- Northeast Training Center 286 Middle Island Road Medford, NY 11763 631-561-0200
- North Central Training Center 7480 New Albany Condit Road New Albany, OH 43054 740-833-3700
- Southeast Training Center 8150 Clarcona Ocoee Road PO Box 680388 Orlando, FL 32818 407-522-3300
- South Central Training Center 7710 Las Colinas Ridge Irving, Texas 75063 214-259-4700

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