

**GFWC OF CT**  
**2016 – 2018 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CHALLENGE**

The 2016 – 2018 Community Improvement Program Challenge was voted on and approved at the 2015 Fall Conference as an adaptation of the traditional State Project for the 2016 – 2018 administration. Club projects will focus on a central theme selected by the State President in accordance with her area of interest. The program will operate as detailed below. Award amounts will be approved as part of the 2016 budget process.

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As one of the largest community service organizations in the world, GFWC has, since its inception over 125 years ago, focused on the needs of our local communities by promoting a myriad of community service programs. GFWC of CT has followed this concept of local focus through its 40 plus locally based clubs. Each of our clubs has worked within its own community to undertake projects that meet the very specific needs of that community.

The 2016 -2018 Community Improvement Program Challenge is a 2 year program intended to provide you and your club with a platform to focus your efforts and to obtain support from GFWC of CT. Your participation in this challenge will benefit your club by increasing membership, developing leadership skills, and creating public awareness of your club and of GFWC. By aiming to meet the needs of your individual community, this Challenge will enhance your relationship with your community.

Here's how it will work:

1. Early in 2016, the club will assess the needs of its community and select a project to meet those needs. The project may be related to education, domestic violence awareness, civic needs, etc. – whatever needs the club wishes to address.
2. The club will then contact the GFWC of CT Community Improvement Program Challenge Chairman who will assist the club to map out a project plan. The end date will be December 31, 2017. The plan will address timing, resources, finance, publicity, involvement of other civic groups, etc.
3. The Community Improvement Program Challenge Chairman will consult with the club throughout the process.
4. Periodically, the club will provide an update on its project at GFWC of CT meetings.
5. In January 2018, the club will submit its project report for judging. The report format and the judging process will tie into the GFWC Community Improvement Program.

6. 3 winners will be selected with the following awards presented by GFWC of CT at the May Convention: 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$500, 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$200. These awards will be used to benefit the winning projects.
7. These winners will also receive GFWC Int'l awards as outlined in the GFWC Community Improvement Program, with the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner going on to compete for a national award.

The GFWC of CT Community Improvement Challenge is a way for clubs and their members to generate enthusiasm and to learn new skills while benefiting their communities.

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2016 – 2018 State President Helen Barakauskas has selected “Empowering Women” as the common theme for the Community Improvement Program Challenge. Helen is pleased to announce that Sara Newell will be the State Chairman for this exciting new program.