

Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention

Domestic violence or intimate partner violence is a serious epidemic in the United States that affects individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality, or educational background. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, verbal and emotional abuse, stalking and economic abuse. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has taken on this cause as their Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.

Clubs will be increasing member awareness and understanding as well as involvement in programs to decrease violence in communities throughout our nation.

GFWC/CT will be sharing important information:

- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, 8% of domestic violence victims are women.
- One in four teens report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse each year. About one in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- One in nine Americans over the age of 60 has experienced some form of elder abuse.
- Each year, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner related physical assaults and rapes.

GFWC will make positive changes in families and communities through GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence and Prevention—concentrating on the areas of partner abuse, child/teen abuse, and elder abuse by leaving a legacy of change in our communities.

Clubs are being encouraged to:

- Recognize September 13th Grandparents Day as a day to raise awareness of elder abuse.
- Hold programs/events to highlight October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. wear purple.
- Host a Pajama Party—raising funds/collecting pajamas for women/children in local shelters on Make a Difference Day. October 24th.

Jo Ann Bruno
GFWC/CT Public Relations Chairman
203-445-1599
bruno1968@sbcglobal.net