**INFORMATION TO START PLANNING**

The **General Federation of Women’s Clubs** **(GFWC)** is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The GFWC National Day of Service (GFWC NDS) is a day in which all of GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address the need, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs are encouraged to join in and organize community service programs (CSPs) in their communities as part of the GFWC NDS. It’s also a great opportunity to invite guests to participate in your GFWC NDS activities and introduce them to the benefits of belonging to a GFWC club.

This year’s GFWC NDS issue of focus is food insecurity. To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local food banks and food pantries — wherever people go for food — to find out how best to be of service. For example, a club can sponsor a food bank, pantry, or food program to organize a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends. Ask every member of your club to invite a friend who is not presently a member to participate and experience GFWC in action. Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friends to join. The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Here are a few suggestions for GFWC NDS activities:

* **Volunteer at a Local Food Bank**
* **Food Drives:** Connect directly with the local food bank to determine how your club can be of service. They will welcome the support and donation of time and food.
* **Raise Awareness About Hunger:** Reach out to your local media to introduce GFWC NDS and the cause being promoted. Ask the reporter to mention GFWC NDS and how people can participate and donate. Also, use social media to discuss food insecurity with members of your community, clubs, schools, church groups, and others.
* **Advocate to End Food Insecurity:** Use GFWC’s Legislative Action Center (LAC) to interact with your federal and state elected officials to advance a bill or introduce legislation that helps to end hunger by funding programs specific to the issue.

Information and updates about GFWC NDS will be in the weekly electronic newsletter *GFWC* *News & Notes*, Facebook, Instagram, and website, www.GFWC.org. Every week until September 28, GFWC will make announcements, provide project ideas, and discuss food insecurity.

**To Register for GFWC NDS**

Registration for the GFWC NDS is in the new GFWC Member Portal To register for the 2024 GFWC NDS members must create a profile in the GFWC Member Portal first, (new profiles are approved within 1 to 2 days), and then go to the EVENTS page to register their group.

The GFWC NDS Tool Kit and the GFWC NDS Press Kit resources are available in the new GFWC Member Portal Digital Library and on the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service event page. See instructions for registering for the GFWC National Day of Service here.

Look in *GFWC News & Notes*, GFWC’s Facebook page and website for information and updates.

**CREATE A NEW PROFILE IN THE NEW GFWC MEMBER PORTAL**

All users will need to complete a one-time registration using their existing email on the new portal.

Please read this [SUPPORT GUIDE](https://memberportal.gfwc.org/resources/member-portal-support/262/member-portal-registration-support) for assistance in creating your profile, downloading files from the Digital Library, and updating your profile information.

It can take 2-3 business days for GFWC staff to approve your profile. We thank you for your patience, as we are experiencing a high volume of requests during this transition.

\*If you do not see your club listed under your state federation during registration, please email gfwc@gfwc.org with your official club name and state federation so we can add it.

**For more information, contact Melanie Gisler, Director of Membership Services, at** **MGisler@GFWC.org****.**

**Start planning today!**

**Locate your local food bank and food services at the following links:**

Second Harvest - [food near me - Second Harvest (2-harvest.org)](https://2-harvest.org/food-near-me-wa/)

Feeding America - [Find Your Local Food Bank | Feeding America](https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank)

Type “food banks (your state)” into your search engine

Find churches with food banks in your state - <https://save.lovetoknow.com/Churches_with_Food_Pantries>

Find information about food insecurity at the following links:

US Department of Agriculture - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fact-sheet/usda-support-for-food-banks-emergency-food-system>

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion - <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>

National Public Radio, Food Insecurity in the US By the Numbers - <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/27/912486921/food-insecurity-in-the-u-s-by-the-numbers>