

Top 10 Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Projects for 2025

This year, GFWC Iowa had 16 clubs reporting on Domestic Violence with a total of 36 projects, 592 volunteer hours, \$3,038 in monetary donations and \$5,006 in In-Kind Donations.

The top ten projects are as follows:

1. **Maquoketa Woman's Club**, NE District, 30 members – This amazing project included a documentary film featuring the stories of three young Iowa women who were trafficked, followed by a program presented by Stacy Besch on human/sex trafficking. Through the efforts of the club, they presented this program to 104 community members. The next day, a program adapted specifically for High School and Middle School students was presented in the Maquoketa Schools, reaching 425 high school students and 217 middle school students. In addition, 232 district teachers, staff and board members attended the session at the high school. This club worked with the superintendent of the Maquoketa Community School District, local newspapers to advertise and follow-up on the presentation, had an interview on local radio, made and distributed posters to Jackson County, and created postcard size information cards for the event, asking local merchants to either place them on their counters or add them to bags when a purchase was made. In all, 978 people were reached, 68 volunteer hours were logged and \$185 of in-kind donations were made.
2. **Walker R.A.R.E Club**, SE District, 19 members – This club worked with Central Furniture Rescue, a nonprofit that provides furniture/household items to people transitioning out of homelessness, including victims of domestic and sexual assault. They posted notices in area businesses requesting items, had an article placed in the local newspaper, worked with the local Lions Club to procure donations, and placed posters around town and in area church bulletins. The community neon sign was used to direct donation drop-offs. They then sorted the items and took them to Central Furniture Rescue. Seventy-eight volunteer hours were spent on the project and 30 boxes were distributed to victims. Donations came from the entire community, with an in-kind club donation of \$80.
3. **Solon Women's Club**, SE District, 25 members – Members took the opportunity of the GFWC International Day of Service to provide a “tailgate” luncheon to the local domestic violence shelter in Iowa City. They served 70 residents at the shelter with a meal including appetizers, sandwiches, bars, cookies, chips, dips, beverages and paper projects. Twenty members spent 30 volunteer hours, \$170 in cash and \$500 of in-kind donations to make this project a success.
4. **Maquoketa Woman's Club**, NE District, 30 members – Club members added to their Gridshock program by donating new and gently used items for the domestic violence shelter in Dubuque. After three trips to the shelter with a packed SUV, this club spent 30 volunteer hours and donated \$1,500 in in-kind donations.
5. **Creston Bancroft History Assembly**, SW District, 7 members – This tiny club has remained so dedicated throughout the years that it is impossible not to mention their efforts. They donated six paper bags filled with enough nonperishable food for a family of 4 to the Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center and then donated six purses to the Center, filling them with

hygiene, personal care items, journals, gift cards, books, gloves, scarves and notes of encouragement. In all, they donated 12 hours with \$349 of in-kind donations.

6. **Adel Women's Club**, SW District, 44 members – This club gathered to assemble teddy bear washcloths holding personal care items that were donated to the local Crisis Intervention Center on two separate occasions and additionally adopted a family from that same center. Members volunteered 42 hours with an in-kind donation of \$700.
7. **Akron Friendship and Service Club** – NW District, 41 members -- This club works on a yearly basis with the SAFE PLACE Crisis Center in LeMars. Two club members contact the center to determine needs, sharing that information at the November meeting. Then 13 club members donated gas cards, gift cards, grocery store cards, personal hygiene and clothing items and games and toys. Their efforts resulted in 5 volunteer hours and \$300 in in-kind donations.
8. **Creston Progressive Chautauqua Circle Study Club**, SW District, 8 members – This small club consistently works with the Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center in Adel, corresponding with them on a regular basis and collecting monthly donations. This year, the club had 2 volunteer hours and \$323 in monetary donations were given.
9. **Jesup Rural Woman's Study Club** – NE District, 14 members – This club touched on a very worthwhile but often overlooked topic in the DSVAP area – Elder Abuse. The club partnered with Riverview Center (local DSVAP center) and Winding Creek Meadows Assisted Living to present the program “Elder Abuse Prevention and Protecting Our Seniors.” They distributed posters throughout the community and had both ads and articles in local newspapers. The program was free and open to the public, and touched on physical safety, information about scams and other topics of interest to Seniors. Club members expended 24 volunteer hours and \$100 in in-kind donations.
10. **Peterson Tuesday Club** – NW District, 19 members – When the Northwest Iowa Center for Domestic Assault victims issued an urgent call for help to replenish their food pantry, this club responded with \$550 of food items donated by the members and taken to that Center.

Respectfully,

Cheryl M. Einsweiler

Chair, GFWC/Iowa State Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention