

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

Junior Membership

Public Issues - Summer 2011 Bulletin

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“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Ghandi

Legislature

In the spring 2011 bulletin, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (passed in January 2011) was outlined. The government is taking a stand against bullying and now it's time for the Jersey Juniors to facilitate ways to inform the public on bullying and educate others as to how it can be prevented. One activity that a club and/or several clubs can do is to host an anti-bullying seminar in a school or community center. This training should include specifically trained professionals as the panelists. Panelists from your community should include mental health clinicians (ie. licensed clinical social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists), the police department, prosecutor's office, etc. Juniors speak with your local school superintendent and recreation department about getting the word out to do the right thing for our youth.

Resources for the community include the National Anti-Bullying and Cyberbullying Program for Kids and Teens located on this website <http://www.stompoutbullying.org/index.php>. This resource will help people to become educated on different types of bullying, how to report bullying, how to be a friend to someone who is bullied, how to stand up to a bully and much more. Jersey Juniors let's team up with professionals in the field, to educate and advertise ways to stomp out bullying across the state!

Another resource for youth to learn about the law is a newspaper called *The Legal Eagle*. *The Legal Eagle* - volume 15, number 2, is the special anti-bullying edition. It can be found online at the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's website at www.njsbf.org.

2NDFLOOR Youth Helpline

1-888-222-2228
<http://www.2NDFLOOR.org>

The **2NDFLOOR Youth Helpline**, a program of 180, Turning Lives Around, is a one-of-a kind statewide helpline for New Jersey's youth. Youth, ages 10-24, can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to talk about any problem or concern. All calls are confidential and anonymous and no topic is off limits. *If you have an emergency and need police or medical assistance, always immediately call your local police or dial 911.*

“2NDFLOOR's mission is to provide our callers with immediate comfort, support, referrals, and if necessary, crisis intervention services. We are committed to helping young people solve issues and make positive choices before problems become unmanageable.”

In their second year of statewide operation, 2NDFLOOR's phone counselors handled over 145,000 conversations with NJ's youth. 2NDFLOOR is supported by the Department of Education and is funded by the NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF), NJ corporations, and private and community foundations.

Each month, 2NDFLOOR's trained staff and volunteers hold over 10,000 conversations with NJ's young people. Topics range from family struggles, drug use and peer pressure to sexuality, mental health and bullying. 2NDFLOOR also handles a small number of crisis calls each month (suicide, child abuse); which require emergency intervention.

If you are interested in volunteering for 2NDFLOOR as a club or independently, please contact Danielle Pezza, Volunteer Coordinator at 732-264-4360 ext: 2266. (2NDFLOOR information was reprinted with permission.)

Federation Trivia Anyone?

Did you ever wonder how the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC - Junior Membership operates? Why not play a trivia game that explains the Federation at your next business meeting. Many members do not know how your club fits into the broad scope of the Federation.

Additional ways you can learn about the Federation is to invite your club's district advisor to your club's monthly meeting. Find out about club projects in your district and across the state. Ask your district advisor how our organization operates on the state and national level; attend district meetings, fall and spring conferences and come attend the state convention in May. Currently there positions open on the state board. Why not run for office? E-mail this writer for more information.

Self-defense Seminar

This summer, your club can network with a local martial arts school to host a self-defense seminar for the community. Think about hosting seminars simultaneously for children and adults so parents can have their children learning while they are taking class too! These types of classes often educate individuals on topics such as: self-discipline, control, anti-bullying, living a healthy lifestyle, exercise, respect for others and self-confidence.

June is Home Safety Month

The Home Safety Council (HSC) is promoting the *Hands on Home Safety Campaign*. Read more about this organization at http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/AboutUs/HSM/au_hsm_w001.asp

This website has resources in Spanish and English available at your fingertips to make your home safe for you, your family and your community. These resources range from copy-ready home safety newsletter articles, off the job safety information, posters, lesson plans, online resources, etc. Share them with your club, at health fairs, schools and with your recreation department. Let's work altogether to make our community a safer place for everyone!

Did your club ever design a project and need to know the state and federal laws that relate to child safety, ie. bicycle helmets or carbon monoxide detectors? You can use the Safe Kids USA site to find out what the current child safety laws are on the state and federal level. Here is their website- <http://www.safekids.org/our-work/public-policy>

JUNIOR CLUB CORNER - Public Issues

This is an opportunity for clubs to share what they are doing throughout the state specifically related to the Community Service Program - Public Issues. Often a club has a great activity and other clubs would love to modify such an event because they thought it was so clever and well thought out. If you missed your district meeting, a fall/spring conference or the convention, here is your chance to catch up with what other clubs are doing in this area. E-mail the details about what your club is doing related to Public Issues and your club will be highlighted in the next bulletin for the state to see you SHINE!

Hasbrouck Heights and Verona Juniors promoted Public Issues by attending 2011 spring conferences. It was reported that members who attended enjoyed the evening and meeting with Federation members.

Please check the www.jerseyjuniors.com website for bulletins with ideas for upcoming projects for your club related to Public Issues. If you have any questions or suggestions for projects throughout the state feel free to contact Susan Fenker-Warner at - publicissues@jerseyjuniors.com.