



# GFWC Big Rapids Newsletter



February, 2021

*"Words have no meaning until they are put into Action."*

Hello Ladies,

Today is a beautiful, sunny day, making me anxious for spring. Hopefully, Punxsutawney Phil is wrong and it will arrive soon. Until then, we can go to Meijer, smell the hyacinths, and pretend. While sitting at home waiting for spring, let's do some research, put on our thinking caps, and come up with some new ideas to bring GFWC - Big Rapids forward.

Did everyone hear the celebration going on in Big Rapids last week. Reporting was completed and sent in!! Linda was cheering and doing her happy dance! Thank you does not seem to be enough for all the work put into it but many thanks to Linda and Dee for all your hard work.

A reminder that February is "Heart Health" month. Dee has graciously agreed to send out recipes and tips again this year. Be on the lookout for her emails. Yummy recipes!!



*Ann*



**We will be meeting at the ELKS  
Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30pm  
You can also ZOOM if you prefer.**

**Carrie Franklund will send a link  
to the meeting.**



**Sending our care,  
concerns and hugs**

**to:**

**Jennifer Houttiker**

**Mary Sue Hanse**

**Carl Boroff**

*The great thing in this world is not so much where  
you stand, as in what direction you are moving.*

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*





# Our Next meeting will be at the ELKS and ZOOM Tuesday, February 9, 2021 6:30pm

**Carrie Franklund will send a link to allow you to  
ZOOM the meeting if you choose.**

**Program presented by Arts & Culture CSP**

**Please bring any of these items to the meeting.:**

**Can Pull Tabs**

**Batteries for recycling**

**Quarters or check for Heifer International**

**Ongoing Collection of Recyclable clean pop cans or bottles to help the Big Rapids Scouts camp fund — Drop donations at Sue Johnson's office. If possible it would be appreciated if you indicate how many items are in the donation on the outside of the bag .**

**Collecting Items for Happy Birthday Bags: Cake mixes, frosting, candles, napkins, birthday cards .**

**Collecting items for the Foster Child Suitcase project: books, flashlights, night lights, plush animal, blanket, suitcases or duffle bags.**

**Any Operation Smile projects that you have completed.**

## **Mats to be made for Homeless People**



We would like to crochet mats for people to use for sleeping when outside. These are made of strips of plastic grocery bags and then crocheted together. It makes a lightweight mat to protect from the cold ground.

I'm sure all of us have an abundance of plastic bags and that is what we need. We would appreciate if you could take your bags and cut them in strips and then link the strips together to give to those who are willing to crochet the mats. Here is the YouTube

link that explains how to cut the bags. <https://youtu.be/BLEbyR1nh0s>



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAGS!



We are collecting items to create birthday bags to be given to clients at Project Starburst.. Each bag will contain the following items:

*Cake Mix*

*Frosting*

*Candles*

*Birthday card & napkins*

A *Birthday gift bag* large enough to hold the mix, candles, frosting and napkins.

We have disposable cake pans



*We would like to collect the items at our February meeting.*

## THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Feb 12 — 15



“Birds are everywhere, all the time,  
doing fascinating things.

Join us in February,  
when the world comes together  
for the love of birds.”

This is a fun winter activity. Just log onto [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) to register to watch the birds in your yard for a 15 minute period. and input what you found at the website. You can file a report as many times as you want during the 3 days. They offer a checklist of birds to help you identify the birds for our area. Then the results are posted daily so you can see how many countries are involved in this fun activity.

If you participate, please let Sue Johnson know how much time you spent.



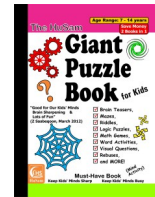
# FOSTER CHILD SUITCASE Project

We are collecting items to fill our annual Foster Child Suitcase Project. Just a reminder, each suitcase will have::

Soft cuddly Blanket



\*\*Reading Book or puzzle/coloring book  
(we are in need of teenage items)



Flashlight



Night light



Stuffed toy



\*\*Wheeled Suitcase or duffel bag to hold the items and enable the children to carry their personal items



Note: \*\*\* items are most needed



## Bowl Cozies Needed

Attention sewers: Project Starburst is having their 3rd annual Souper Supper on March 24<sup>th</sup>. When a person attends, they will receive a complementary bowl cozy with their bowl of soup. So, they need of sewers to make some bowl cozies. Kits are available at Creative Loop on Northland Dr. For every 5 cozies made, you will be put in a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to Creative Loop. So this would be a fun way to help Project Starburst raise funds and get some volunteer hours. Let Dee know if you are participating.

## ONGOING DONATIONS :

Greeting Cards for all occasions

Children book donations of nearly new books

Bottle and Cans for BR Scout Fund

Pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Used batteries for recycle

Foster Child Suitcase items

Used shoes for Soles for Souls

Quarters or check for Heifer International

Plastic grocery bags to be crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless



## UPCOMING PROJECTS:



Happy Birthday Bags for Project Starburst clients. Collecting items at our February meeting. (Cake mixes, frosting, candles, birthday napkins, birthday card & gift bag)

Operation Smile Kits: Dee has distributed kits . Project runs from November thru April.

Foster Child Suitcase project: Collecting books, flashlights, night lights, plush animal, blanket, suitcases or duffle bags.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES:

**Project Starburst** : Looking for a volunteer to pick up a weekly Friday evening donation of breads, etc. from Panera

Contact Diane Long at 231-79-5342 [br@projectstarburst.org](mailto:br@projectstarburst.org)

