



GFWC Big Rapids Newsletter



January, 2021

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

Hello Ladies,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful and blessed holiday season and look forward to all the great ideas you have come up with for the new year.



Hopefully, 2021 will be a year of renewing and rebuilding. January has arrived and that means report time! Please be sure to send Linda your reports and hours as soon as possible. She has already been working on them.

Thank you for your generous donations this past year. I'm sure that with the flower arrangements, lady Vet gift bags, and WISE family Christmas gifts we were able to let people know we care.

See you at our ZOOM meeting!

Ann



In order to keep everyone safe, we are going to have our January meeting as a ZOOM meeting on

Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30pm

Linda Telfer has sent a link to the meeting.



**Sending our care,
concerns and hugs
to:**

**Judy Irvin
Jennifer Houttiker
Mary Sue Hansen
Carl Boroff
Bruce Fredrick**

You don't have to be perfect to help people,

All you have to be is REAL.

Trent Shelton, Motivational Speaker





Our Next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021 6:30pm on ZOOM

Linda Telfer has sent out a link for you to have access to the ZOOM meeting.

Since we are meeting online, we are asking that you continue to collect any of the following items and bring them to our February meeting which hopefully will be an in person 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

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!

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP is creating Happy Birthday Bags to be given to family clients at Project Starburst. The purpose of the Happy Birthday Bag is to be given to a family who has an upcoming birthday, so they can have a special party to celebrate at home. We are in need of collecting items to create the bags. Each bag will contain the following items:



Cake Mix

Frosting

Candles

Birthday napkins

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

If you would like to make a Birthday Card, that would be appreciated.

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



Lots & Lots of Mittens, Hats, Scarves, and Gloves were Donated and Delivered

Thanks to our members and community who generously donated warm clothing to our Mitten Tree. We were able to help many people of our community with some much needed warmth during this winter. The items were distributed to WISE, Our Brothers Keeper and Starburst.

Thanks to the committee of Vickie Vogel, Ann Stellard, Mary Beth Vanderlist, Sue Bean and Mary Bechaz, for making the beautiful display and delivering the items.



GFWC HELPING A WISE FAMILY ENJOY CHRISTMAS



It was a different kind of Christmas for most of us this year. Luckily because of your generous monetary donations, we were still able to help a WISE family with gifts.

Our family consisted of a mom with two little girls! We purchased Barbie dolls, Barbie clothes, a little suitcase for the Barbie clothes, art supplies, slime, cars & trucks, saucers, winter coats, snow pants. Mom received some clothes along with some household items. We also gave her a gift certificate to a local beauty salon.

We also filled two stockings and gave them each a mug filled with some chocolate goodies and hot cocoa! Thanks for bringing some Christmas joy to this family.

Our 2020 Christmas elves were: Mary Beth Vanderlist, Sue Bean, Vickie Vogel, and Ann Stellard.



Mark your calendar for THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Feb. 12-15, 2021

Women Veterans Gifts Delivered

Thanks to all of our members who contributed to the 12 gift bags that we gave to the women Veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Each bag was filled with personal care items, notepads, pens, and puzzle books. We even had long handled shoe horns and magnifying glasses for each woman. They were thrilled to receive the gifts. Thanks everyone!



Pat Rossi and Melanie Henry made the delivery.

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:



or duffle bags.

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES:

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

Looking for help assisting in the pantry or shopping

Contact Diane Long at 231-79-5342 br@projectstarburst.org

Our Brother's Keeper: Looking for volunteers to assist at the dinner hour with guests—no cooking required

Other opportunities may be available on an as needed basis

Contact Lila Ecker at 231-629-8033

