



GFWC Big Rapids Newsletter



March, 2021

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

Hello Ladies,

It is March already and with any luck we can get through this month with only 1 or 2 more snowfalls. March is always good for at least 1 more storm. We are going to put on our Irish Luck with "Go Green" this meeting. Please look at the newsletter. We are looking for the best leprechaun. We only have 2 meetings left before our May banquet. Let's see what all we can get accomplished before our summer break. Hope to see you at the meeting.



Ann



We will be meeting at the ELKS
Tuesday, March 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 Hansen

Carl Boroff

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Joyce Ittis

March 5

Melanie Henry

March 5

Jerena Keys

March 15

Jennifer Houttiker

March 17

**Our Next meeting will be
at the ELKS and ZOOM**

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 6:30pm



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

Program presented by Education & Libraries CSP

**Renee Kent who is the principal of Riverview Elementary,
will speak about keeping our children safe during COVID.**



**Come join the FUN!!! We are
going to have a GO GREEN
CONTEST! We are asking
everyone to dress in green and
the one who is the most
creative will win a prize!**



Please bring any of these items to the meeting:

Plastic Grocery Bags for the crocheted mats

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**

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

Any Operation Smile projects that you have completed.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAGS!



Thank you so much for your generous donations of Birthday Bags. We have 22 filled Birthday Bags. We decided to add packages of balloons to each bag which we financed using the donation from Kathy Nee. Because of the limited amount of storage at STARBURST, we are delivering 8 bags at a time. They were thrilled to be able to offer such a fun gift to their clients. If this is a successful project, we may wish to continue supplying Birthday Bags in the future.



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.



Joyce Iltis created this mat

WE NEED MORE PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS.



If you are able, 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>

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)

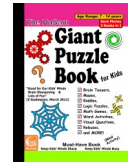
Flashlight

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



Join Project Starburst for a “Souper Supper”

**Wed. March 24th 11am. to 5pm.
Takeout only at Three Girls Bakery**



Once again this year Project Starburst is holding its “Souper Supper” at Three Girls Bakery. With the limitations for numbers for in-person dining, this will be a carry-out event with soup and bread to warm body and spirit. Proceeds from the event will be used by Project Starburst to meet the needs of those who come to them for food. **Tickets for the event are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth** and are available ahead of time at Three Girls Bakery or Project Starburst or at the event on March 24. Dee will have tickets at our meeting.

WHAT'S COMING UP?



At our meeting on March 9th: We will be able to **sign up for CSP committees**. Please consider which CSP you would like to serve on next club year.

Our **GFWC Big Rapids website** is almost completed thanks to Carrie Franklund and Linda Telfer. Our website address is **GFWCBigRapids.org**. Look forward to the formal launch possibly in April. Thank you Carrie and Linda!

Monday, March 22: Everyone is invited to Sue Johnson's home for an evening of flower arranging for friends and shut ins. It will start at 6:00pm. Please let Sue know if you can come.

Wed. March 24th: Souper Supper to help Project Starburst. More information is on page 5.

Saturday, April 24th: STATE CONVENTION Mark your calendar!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS



In a 24 hour period, Joyce and the Education & Libraries CSP put together a celebration for Dr. Seuss's birthday since the B.R. Library was not able to have their annual celebration. A sign was put up at Currie's Gas Station. And they supplied some green cupcakes and books for many lucky children through out the community. Thanks to the entire committee as well as everyone who donated over 50 books to help the birthday celebration.

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:



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.

Creating mats from plastic grocery bags for the homeless .

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

