GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

November, 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 5—Book Club @ Linda's House, 2pm

November 10—Club Meeting @ Artworks
6 pm social time/6:30 meeting

November 16—Mitten Tree Created @ Artworks
9:30 am

November 17—"Happy Together" Concert, 7:30 pm
Williams Auditorium (See page 5)

December 8—Christmas Party @ Nesbitt Bldg. 6pm
(See page 6)

January 12—Club Meeting @ Artworks
6 pm social time/6:30 meeting

January 18—MLK Day of Service

Linda Telfer, President, 231-250-2088
Delores Simpson, 1st VP
Mel James, 2nd VP (Membership) -
731-607-8456
Leona Royer, Secretary
Cheryl Tessier, Treasurer
Pam Hughes, Parliamentarian
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor -
231-250-2088
Sue Johnson, Past Club President
Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

CHECKLIST FOR NEXT MEETING—NOVEMBER 10

Christmas Party Money

A friend who is interested in GFWC

Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Used Batteries for Recycling

Used Greeting Cards for Senior Center

Money for Heifer Intl.

MEETING LOCATION—ARTWORKS

Note from your President . . .

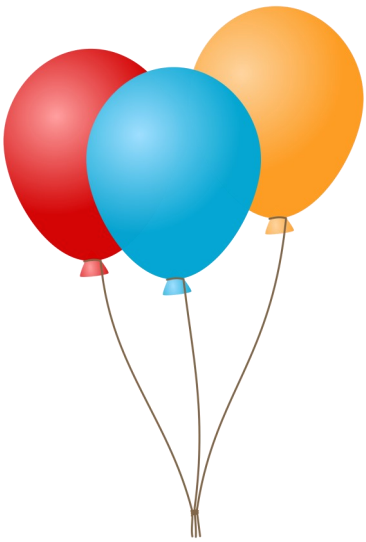
I must say you gals are killing it this year with all the projects and activities that you have planned….I love it. I especially like that you are trying new things, so exciting. I want to thank everyone who assisted with the 4B's Fundraiser; what a great event.

November brings us to election time… remember to vote if you haven't already. It is so important that our voices be heard. The women before us fought for the right to vote; let's now let them down.

Don't forget, we will now be meeting at Artworks for our club meetings.

Linda Telfer





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2—Therese Allen

5—Linda Telfer

18—Pam Muccio

20—Mary Bechaz

CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issue

Ana Davila-Romαn—health issue

Janet Miller Monfils—health issue

Pat Rossi—health issue

GFWC AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

Since 1944, Heifer has supported farmers and their communities, helping move that 59 million families address hunger and poverty in 19 countries across four continents and their communities while caring for the Earth. They apply a food systems approach to helping farmers earn more income and to generate economic opportunity for rural women, youth and Indigenous populations.

Heifer's mission is to work to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities we serve. Their programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up. It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders. By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners, they are investing in a new breed of success.
Inclusion of women and marginalized populations is key to encouraging economic growth in rural areas, strengthening households' resilience and ensuring sustainable development. When every individual is supported to reach their full potential, entire communities prosper.

Heifer International is strongly committed to integrating women, as well as youth and other vulnerable groups, into agriculture and food systems. Their programs foster meaningful prospects for decision-making, entrepreneurship, leadership and economic advancement, unleashing the innate power of local communities to drive their own development.

Their work is organized into Signature Programs that are focused on large-scale, measurable and sustainable impact achieved by building partnerships at all levels, including with community organizations, farmer cooperatives, local and national governments, businesses, and international funding institutions. Each program supports farmers through time-bound projects designed to increase their household income.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Lynn Abbeduto joined GFWC-Big Rapids at the October meeting and is excited about working with us. After checking out the organization for awhile, she indicated that it looks to be a wonderful group of ladies that care deeply and are committed to improving their community. In her past, she worked as a patent illustrator in Detroit, ran her own international business for 10 years, worked in catering, marketing and public relations. After an auto accident in Tampa, she recovered from a stroke and took on an executive Nanny position. Raising the girls was a wonderful way to use my talents and enjoy a low key position.

Lynn and her husband Joe decided it was appropriate to move back to Michigan to be by family. They are grandparents to eleven children and their four boys. Welcome Lynn!



Laurie Lowe joined GFWC-Big Rapids at the October meeting also. Laurie grew up in Grand Rapids and then lived in Okemos, Michigan for many years while she raised a family and earned a degree in psychology, and a Master's in biology from Michigan State University. Over the course of her working life, she had three rewarding service oriented careers. She was an Army medic/ operating room nurse, an American Red Cross Emergency Services Coordinator (disaster, military services, community shelter/ food assistance) and a high school science teacher.

After retiring from teaching, she spent several years under the Florida sun in Bonita Springs. In 2025, she returned to Michigan and bought a house in Big Rapids with her daughter which they are currently landscaping and repairing.

Laurie loves to kayak, water color paint, and garden (she did straw bale gardening for the first time this year!). She has also become the mother of 5 runner ducklings who will help her control pests in her garden and for whom she is digging a pond. She loves to visit hospice, patients, and community spaces with her therapy Chihuahuas. Welcome Laurie!



INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Abbeduto (left), and Laurie Lowe (right) being initiated by Mel James at the October Club Meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HELP!!



Do you play the piano, or know someone who does? We're looking for a volunteer to play a few holiday favorites during the GFWC Christmas Party on December 8.

Please contact Delores Simpson or Sue Johnson if interested. Help us make the celebration extra merry!

THE MITTEN TREE



The Mitten Tree will be created in the lobby of Artworks on November 16 and will be taken down on December 7th. The theme this year is based on the Van Gogh "Starry Night" painting. The Health & Wellness CSP is looking for a couple more artificial trees for decorating the lobby. All are welcome to help set up this "Starry" masterpiece beginning on November 16th at 9:30 am.



JOIN THE FUN!!!

All club members are invited to attend the "Happy Together" concert. Let's have dinner together then on to the concert!! (941-726-7497)

Let Delores Simpson know if you are interested.


JOIN US FOR A
GFWC BIG RAPIDS
BROWN BAG
Christmas
PARTY
DECEMBER 8 AT 6:00 P.M.
208 MAPLE STREET
RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR $30.00 AT THE NOV.10TH GENERAL MEETING
PLEASE ALSO DONATE $10 FOR A NEEDY FAMILY!
LETS CELEBRATE!
BRING A GIFT <$10 WRAPPED IN A DECORATED BROWN BAG FOR A GIFT EXCHANGE

THE MORE YOU KNOW……

HUNTER SAFETY 101

For many communities in northern Michigan deer hunting season is far more than a recreational pastime; it is a profound cultural tradition and an economic cornerstone that defines northern Michigan's autumn. Generationally, it serves as a powerful social anchor, drawing families and friends back to rural "deer camps" to pass down outdoor skills, share stories, and unplug from modern routines. Economically, the season provides a critical financial surge for small towns, filling local diners, motels, gas stations, and sporting goods stores with vital revenue. Many schools shut down for the opening day, November 15th.

Why bring up this unofficial northern Michigan holiday? It proves to be safety matter for anyone driving, walking and who have pets. All need to take extra precautions during the firearm season. As far as driving, be extra diligent in watching for deer along the roadside. They are afraid of the activity in the woods and will jump in front of your vehicle. For walkers and runners, wear bright colors such as blazing orange. Your pets also need some kind of reflectors or bright colored collars. Better to be seen.

Stay safe friends. This unofficial northern Michigan holiday goes until November 30th.



Health and Wellness CSP

From the Environment CSP. . . .



The Chrysanthemum (Mum) is November's flower, which blooms in the fall. It represents friendship, loyalty, and joy. However, depending on the color, it may have different meanings such as white for purity.

November has two birthstones, Topaz and Citrine. There are many types of Topaz; ranging in colors from reds, blues, whites, and golden yellows. The Imperial Topaz is typically considered November's birthstone. It is the most valuable variety; ranging in color from medium reddish-orange to orange-red or pinkish-orange, often sourced from Brazil. It symbolizes strength, intelligence, and long life. Citrine, which is a sunny, yellow, quartz, represents joy, warmth, and abundance.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING…..

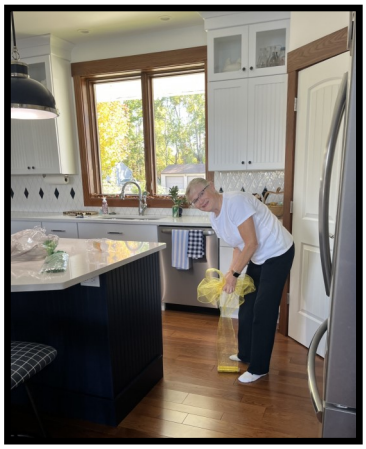
BOWS, BOWS AND MORE BOWS





Six members gathered downtown on a beautiful fall morning to put bows on the cornstalks. Unfortunately, we ran out so we had to make more. They are now all in place for the community to enjoy. Thank you Pam Hughes, Laurie Lowe, Therese Allen, Cheryl Tessier, Leona Royer and Linda Telfer.







Who has more fun?

IT WAS A PARTY!!!





70



























Thank you Deb for hosting a great party. Does this come under Arts & Culture or Civic Engagement and Outreach? :) Stay tune for next year's event.

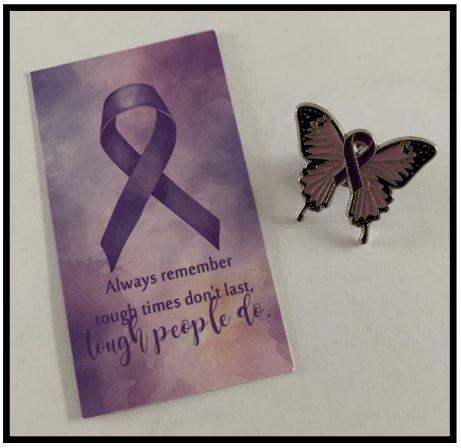
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH



Jane Currie, Executive Director of WISE (women's shelter) spoke at our October meeting. Club members were asked to sign a pledge to stand up, speak up, and show up for the silenced, for the brave, and for those still on their journey to healing. They were also presented with a purple butterfly pin.

At the GFWC Northern Michigan District meeting, members brought and made blankets at the meeting to donate to three district women's shelters. Picture right is Jane Currie, Executive Director of WISE, accepting the donations.





Members held a baby shower and collected over 85 items and were presented to WISE at our October meeting. Pictures is President Linda Telfer and Jane Currie, Executive Director for WISE.



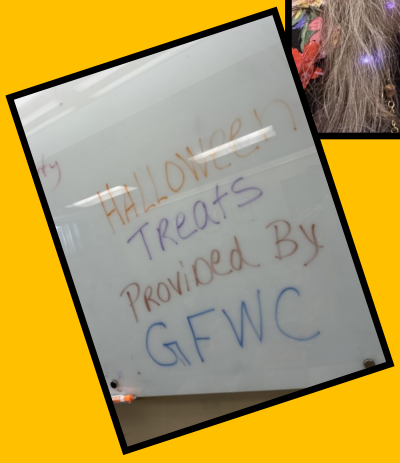
LIBRARY'S HALLOWEEN PARTY



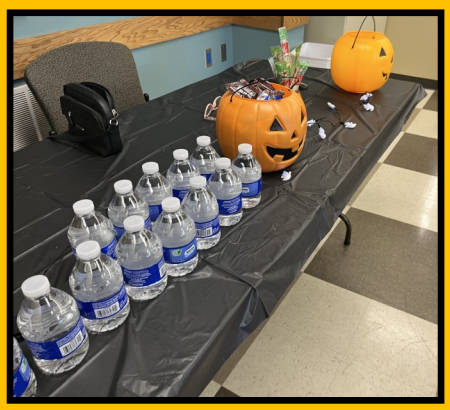












Leona Royer and Cheryl Tessier was in the spirit of Halloween as they set up tables and handed out snacks to the 13 children and 12 adults who attended the library's Halloween Party. They had a spooktacular time!!!

2026 4B's FUNDRAISER

























What a great turnout for our 4B's fund-raiser for the children's art program at Artworks. The amount raised will be announced at our November meeting… so see you at the meeting.