A Welcome from Your Junior Director

As we begin a new two-year administration, I am filled with excitement, gratitude, and hope for all that lies ahead. It is an honor to serve as your GFWC MD Junior Director, and I look forward to this leadership journey alongside each of you. I am excited about the opportunities before us, the friendships we will strengthen, and the difference we will continue to make in our communities through volunteer service.

My administration theme, **"Hope on the Horizon: A Future Without Hunger,"** reflects a cause that is close to my heart. Food insecurity continues to affect children and families in communities across our state. No child should have to worry about where their next meal will come from, and no family should have to face the challenges of hunger alone. Through awareness, compassion, and meaningful service, we can help bring hope to those who need it most. Every food collection, community partnership, volunteer hour, and act of kindness has the power to make a difference. Together, we can help create a brighter future where fewer families experience hunger, and every child has the opportunity to thrive.

One of the things I love most about GFWC Maryland is the heart of its members. Across our state, women are giving their time, talents, and energy to make their communities stronger. Whether supporting children, helping families in need, advocating for important causes, or lending a helping hand to a neighbor, our collective efforts demonstrate the true meaning of volunteer service.

We recently celebrated **Advocates for Children Week**, an opportunity for clubs and members across GFWC Maryland to focus on the needs of children and find meaningful ways to support, encourage, and advocate for them. I encourage all our clubs, throughout every corner of our state, to embrace opportunities to participate in projects that support children and make a positive difference in their lives. Whether through collecting needed supplies, supporting local organizations, raising awareness, volunteering, or advocating for children's needs, supporting a GFWC partner, every club can find a way to make an impact. Together, we can help ensure that children are seen, heard, supported, and given opportunities to succeed. Investing in our children is investing in our future, and even the smallest act of kindness can leave a lasting impression on a child. Every project matters, and every member can be an advocate for a child.

This past weekend, we also held our Junior Fall Conference. It was wonderful to bring Junior Clubwomen from across Maryland together for fellowship, inspiration, and the opportunity to share our passion for volunteer service. These gatherings remind us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. They provide opportunities to exchange ideas, learn from one another, build friendships, and encourage each other as leaders in our clubs and communities. I am grateful to everyone who helped make our conference a success and to all who continue to give so generously of their time and talents.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, I am reminded of the importance of gratitude, generosity, and giving. This time of year, encourages us to pause and reflect on our blessings, while also remembering those who may be facing difficult circumstances. Holidays are about more than celebrations and traditions; they are about kindness, compassion, and sharing what we have with others. A warm meal, a thoughtful gesture, a helping hand, or simply letting someone know they are not forgotten can bring hope and joy when it is needed most.

As we move forward together, I encourage each of you to continue finding ways to make a difference, to embrace new opportunities, and to share your passion for volunteer service. Never underestimate the impact of what you do. The hours you give, the lives you touch, and the hope you bring to others are what make our organization so special.

I am excited for the next two years and all that we will accomplish together. May we lead with compassion, serve with purpose, celebrate one another's successes, and always remember that when we work together, hope is always on the horizon.

Wishing each of you a wonderful holiday season filled with gratitude, joy, and opportunities to give back.

With gratitude,

Tricia Wagman

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GFWC Maryland Director of Junior Clubs