

Charity Spotlight



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

By Gina Spicer



Bradenton Woman's Club is right here in Manatee County, off Manatee Ave!

Their mission statement - The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Bradenton Woman's Club, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization chartered in 1913. Our work has always been centered around community improvement and helping others, particularly aiding women, children, and veterans. We believe in our motto, "Unity in Diversity," and our "Living the Volunteer Spirit" tagline. , we are volunteers—women who want to help each other and our community.

Our clubhouse, built in 1921 by our founding members, still stands at

1705 Manatee Ave W. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has served as the site of many theatrical performances and dances and even as a wartime warehouse. Today, the site hosts our meetings and fundraisers and is a popular rental venue for weddings, birthdays, celebrations, and more.

Community Service

Our programs are based around five main service areas and signature projects, including domestic violence and advocates for children.

Arts & Culture

Art is found in many areas and is for all ages. Drawing, painting, cooking, sewing, crafting, dancing... the list is endless. Culture teaches us the history and way

of life of an activity. We share these talents with many through the projects we create.

Civic Engagement & Outreach

Community engagement supports our first responders, military families, and veterans. We proudly support the Honor Flight of West Central Florida, host a police appreciation luncheon every May, and recognize our first responders during the holidays.

Education & Libraries

Did you know the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) was instrumental in establishing many of the first public libraries in the U.S.? Education is essential to our members, so we start early by providing supplies to our area elementary schools and public libraries.

Environment

We all know the importance of caring for Mother Earth and protecting our environment. Our members participate quarterly in Adopt-A-Highway clean-up along Manatee Avenue. Another tidbit of history for you: GFWC was very active in establishing many national parks! Royal Palm State Park in Florida later became Everglades National Park, thanks to GFWC member May Mann Jennings.

Health & Wellness

Taking care of yourself so you can care for others has always been an essential emphasis among club members. When you feel well, you have the energy to get out and do more, and by doing more, we mean volunteering! Our club helps many individuals by donating food, clothing, hygiene items, etc.

Club Motto: "Be not simply good; be good for something." During the 2024-2026 administration, we will focus on the theme of CommUnity—"the good our hands can do!"

