

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Plug into GFWC's Network of Volunteers

Junior Women's Club Helps Domestic Violence Survivors

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In June 2007, Candice Lopez, a passionate-about-her-work woman advocate visited the Northern Virginia Junior Women's Club monthly meeting to introduce her organization—Doorways for Women and Families in Arlington, Va. She talked about the organization's mission and the inspiring work being done there.

Candice said Doorways empowers women and families who suffer from domestic violence, are homeless, or at-risk to live safe, secure, and self-sufficient lives. They provide self-sufficiency and prevention services, and educate the larger community about domestic violence and homelessness. Prior to Doorways' founding in 1978, the only shelter for battered or homeless women and their children in Arlington was a night in a motel. Doorways was developed through an interfaith collaboration and became Arlington's first emergency and safe house shelter.

The Northern Virginia Junior Women's Club was deeply moved and inspired by Candice and wanted to help. Over the next several months, the club collected needed and requested items for Doorway's clients (e.g., paper towels, shampoo, laundry detergent, and more valuing \$125), and searched for more opportunities to work with and support the organization. We asked Candice to come back to talk to us in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She gladly agreed and during our October 30 club meeting, Candice shared stories of domestic violence in our state, along with advice on how to help if a friend was in a domestic violence situation.

Over the last year, our small club has diligently fundraised. We are



>> A Northern Virginia Junior Women's Club member presents a check to a Doorways representative. Doorways helps survivors of domestic violence.

excited that our efforts have paid off and the club was able to donate some of those hard-raised funds to a very worthy cause.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the club presented Candice with a check for \$200 for Doorways, and the promise of more support in the future. The donation will help ensure that the clients staying at the Doorways shelters have the support, both emotionally and materially, they so desperately need.

In November, the Northern Virginia Junior Women's Club held a social event at a Crate & Barrel store. The store closed its doors for the event, where club members sold tickets for entry. One-hundred percent of the ticket sales and 10 percent of the purchase sales from this private shopping event went to Doorways.

Make A Difference Day

A special day set aside for people to come together and make better the communities in which they live, here's a snapshot of some of the outstanding service done by clubwomen across America on Oct. 27.

ILLINOIS

GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club (Coal City) held a gently used winter outerwear drive and distributed the items to needy community members. Local care agencies and shelters were notified to make them aware of the availability.

GFWC Illinois - Centralia Woman's Club donated \$33 to the local Centralia Community Benevolent Association Food Pantry.

