



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 3
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Zonta Club President's Year Summary June 2018- May 2019

Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer

Club Highlights

Service

Our club hosted its 14th Annual Gourmet Garden Event in August 2018 raising over \$25,000. Lifeties in Trenton was awarded a \$5,000 Grant providing them funding to build a resource/computer center for young adults ages 18 to 21 transitioning out of foster care helping them to grow into self-sufficient adults. In addition to giving the \$5000 to Lifeties we were able, through our event, to grant Mercer Street Friends, Homefront, The Rescue Mission of Trenton and Arm in Arm with \$1500 each for them to use for their programs. The event was attended by over 300 people giving our club the opportunity to raise awareness and celebrate what the non-profits do to help women and children in our community. Donations of personal care items were collected at the event and given to Lifeties.

Our club gave \$1500 to the annual Backpack program helping over 100 children receive backpacks and supplies through the Shine & Inspire Program.

Our club's holiday giving included giving 3 \$200 Gift Certificates to three families in need through the Headstart Program, 7 \$100 Gift Certificates to Lifeties to aid 7 families in need, donations of new children's clothing was collected and given to The Children's Home Society, our members also donated toys and clothing to 25 children through The Salvation Army of Trenton's Angel Tag Program.

Our Club's Holiday Service project for 2018 was assembling 150 stockings filled with small toys and candy which were donated to Better Beginnings Preschool, Homefront and The Salvation Army of Trenton to give to children during the Holidays. The Club provided \$300 to the project, additional small toys and candy was donated by some of our members.

Our club also donated \$1500 to Better Beginnings Preschool to be used towards their Building Healthy Bodies Program, providing an AM snack to children during the year.

Our total giving for the Holiday Season totaled over \$10,000 to our community.

Our club participated in the Annual Bell Ringing for The Salvation Army of Trenton in December. Members volunteered their time and day to ringing the bell for Kettle donations at an area shopping center.

Our Club participated in Read Across America where members visited the Franklin School in Trenton to read to Kindergarten classes.

Members also participated in Early Mercer Reads where members go into pre-school classes around Mercer County to read to the children.

In April 2019, our club sponsored (\$250.00) towards the Annual Egg Hunt in Calwalader Park in Trenton along with The Kiwanis Club and The City of Trenton. The event was almost a rain-out but held strong and still had a turn out of over 100 children. The Club helped with registration, hiding, and lots of interaction with the children. It was a lot of fun.

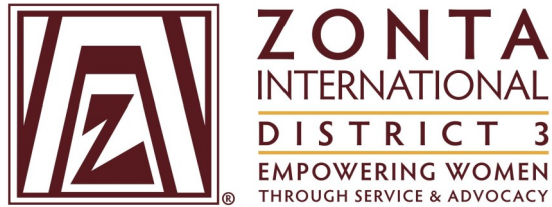
Our Club hosted the International Day of the Family in May. Children from schools in Mercer County submitted essays on “What Does Family Mean to Me”. We received hundreds of submissions. Our club held a judging night and selected 24 entries to receive a \$25.00 Barnes & Noble gift card. The gift card was presented to the children at our event which was attended by teachers, family and friends of the students. We served a light dinner which was provided by the Mercer County Status of Women Council.

Advocacy (include End Child Marriage involvement, if any, and Say No to Violence Against Women Campaign)

The Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer Started off this year developing and implementing our 100 Years of Service & Advocacy Campaign. The club’s goal is to maximize our impact through Service & Advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women & children. Through our year long program we want to further develop The Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women initiative to achieve local and national commitment to ending childhood marriages, Promote and partner with a local like-minded charity organization through the Centennial Anniversary Grant program to provide us the opportunity to increase the impact of improving women and girl’s lives in our community, Promote and increase awareness for the 16 Days Of Activism.

In March we invited Chief Robert Garofalo from the West Windsor Police Department to speak at our Business meeting on a recent Human Trafficking bust that occurred in West Windsor (West Windsor is part of our community). Members were asked to ring a friend. We had 34 people in attendance. The meeting was dedicated to raising awareness on Human Trafficking and what we can do as a community. We collected new and used tote bags to be donated to the Task Force on Human Trafficking located in Newark, NJ.

Since New Jersey and Delaware are currently the only states to end childhood marriage by passing the law, our club hasn’t had any legislation to advocate for as far as this issue is concerned. However, we have had presented the members with discussion, resource and information pertaining to Childhood Marriage to help raise awareness. We scheduled a Gather Film for June 2019 to advocate for Women and children which will include discussions on



Human Trafficking, Child Marriage, and the importance of education for women and children locally and globally to help end violence against them.

Scholarships

Promoted our existing educational programs that are focused on young women leaders in business and aerospace, this year our Club awarded scholarships for the Grace Brauning (\$2,500.00), and the Z Club of Willingboro (\$1,000.00).

Membership/Mentoring

Our club hosted a zinger in June 2018, one of three hosted throughout the year. The Zingers have been very positive for our club. Within the last 18 months we had 7 new members join our club, we have lost a few but were able to maintain our membership of 33 by having two new members join us in 2019.

Centennial Planning/Celebrations

To celebrate Zonta International's 100 years, our club is offering a Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer Grant for \$10,000 to a non-profit that fits our mission of helping to improve the status of women and children. Grant applications were sent to over 30 non-profits in Mercer County. The event celebrating the 100 years and the winner of the grant will be held in the fall of 2019. Our theme is Celebrating 100 Years of Service & Advocacy with a Casino Night. Plans are under way with an expected attendance of 200 guests. We are highlighting the 100 years with a video and powerpoint presentation about Zonta International and our Club. We will have a guest speaker from The Rescue Mission of Trenton to talk on the initiatives they are working on to help end Violence Against Women.

Fundraising

We hosted our annual Paint & Sip in April. This year we raised funds (\$1500) for advertising to promote the 16 Days of Activism by wrapping a tractor trailer, or buying advertising space on highway billboards for the Zonta Says No Campaign to Violence Against Women in November 2019. We had 45 guests attend the event.

Our Annual Fundraiser will be held in Sept 2019.

Special Events

Our club is planning a Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women campaign during the 16 days of activism in November. Our club is in the early stage of planning, but our plan is:

Approaching the Mayor of a major town/City in Mercer County (or if other clubs participate, the state, possibly Trenton, maybe the Statehouse) to order a proclamation to make the month of Nov **"Say No to Violence Against Women" Month**, Part of the campaign will include hanging orange ribbons throughout the town's main center, having a billboard along a major highway with the Zonta Says No logo and hotline numbers, as well as having a tractor trailer or City Bus wrapped on all sides with the same logo, hotline numbers, and club information. The costs to wrap a vehicle and billboards could cost up to \$5000, we were hoping that other clubs could join us with the campaign and help towards the costs. There would be a Rally on or near the first day of the 16 days and a press release and hopefully an article in the local papers on the campaign. The more Zonta members we can get together, I feel would make an impact.

Thank You for taking the time to complete this report!