

Zonta Club of Grand Rapids
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Zonta NewZ



Helping improve the legal, political, economic, health, education and professional status of women and girls locally and internationally.

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SHAPING U.S. POLICIES THAT HELP WOMEN LIFT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY

www.womenthrive.org

Women Thrive Worldwide (formerly the Women's Edge Coalition) is the leading non-profit organization shaping U.S. policy to help women in developing countries lift themselves out of poverty.

Women Thrive develops, shapes, and advocates for policies that foster economic opportunity for women living in poverty. We focus on making U.S. international assistance and trade programs prioritize women. We bring together a **diverse coalition of over 50 organizations** and 40,000 individuals united in the belief that women are the key to ending global poverty, and empowering them is not only right, it's also the most effective **long-term** solution to world poverty.

Why Women?

Worldwide, women are at the greatest risk of being poor. Research and experience have also shown that women in poor countries are more likely to use their income for food, healthcare and education for their children, helping to lift entire communities out of poverty. However, women face unequal social and economic barriers that prevent them from earning a living and supporting their families. **Women Thrive** works to ensure that U.S. policy is addressing these barriers and supporting women's efforts to find their own path out of poverty.

TAKE ACTION

Without the action of Americans that care, policies that make such an impact for women living in poor countries would never become real. There are several ways you can make an impact for women working to lift their families out of poverty.:



Give Women Economic Opportunity:

[Tell Congress to Pass the GROWTH Act!](#)

http://www.womenthrive.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=131



Photo Credit: Monia Sbreni

End Violence Against Women Worldwide:

[Sign the IVAWA Petition!](#)

http://www.womenthrive.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=133



Gifts that Give Back to Women Living in Poverty:
[Shop the Cause!](#)

http://www.womenthrive.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=95&Itemid=103

Become a Delegate-Women Thrive frequently organizes in-state delegations and other events. To find out when we're coming to your state and to stay informed on the latest actions you can sign up for our free newsletter at http://www.womenthrive.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=130.

Organize Your Friends-Have an idea about how you can help? Want to host a party or event? Please contact Lorelle Curry, U.S. Outreach Manager, at [lcurry AT womenthrive DOT com](mailto:lcurry@womenthrive.com).

Service Committee

Coming Soon
to a theater
near you...



Zonta
Film
Festival

Film Festival:

Work is continuing on planning the festival. We will need to select a date at the October meeting.



and allows non-profit organizations to lease rooms so Darcie will check on the fees and regulations.

Girls Learning Day:

We have secured the date for the Girls Learning Day for Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 3 pm. We can now work on getting attendees and a location for the dinner portion of the event. The Grand Haven library has just been renovated

Pad and Pillow Projects:

Maggie and MaryEllen will keep us on track to continue each of these projects.

The Meridian East Club has joined us and the Charlevoix Club in the pad project.



“If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman.”

—Margaret Thatcher

Membership Committee

PR Intern:

Robin, the Davenport intern, who will be helping us revamp our PR print materials, will be joining us at the October meeting to discuss our needs and wish list.

Darcie has made contact with Casey, a young woman who recently graduated from GVSU in marketing and graphic design, to help us with our non-

print PR materials. More to follow as information becomes available.

Zonta Rose Day:

Darcie has an idea to present at the October meeting that is an exciting way to publicize Zonta, gain new members and advocate Zonta’s mission all rolled into one. More details will follow at the October membership meeting.



Ways & Means Committee

Poker Fundraiser:

Our next poker fundraiser at Lincoln Lanes netted \$1699! Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success and a special thanks to Allison for working magic to get the license in time!



Sparkle Shirt Work Bee:

October 1, 2009 after the membership meeting we will need volunteers to stay to iron on the sparkle logos to the apparel. Bring an iron and ironing board if you plan to stay and help.

It will cost \$100 to have a sales

table at the International Convention.

Book Event:

Research is ongoing to produce the new book event where we create a mission focused book for sale and host a release party. Ideas should be forwarded to Darcie.

President's Message



No President's message is available this month. Allison sends her apologies due to her hectic schedule of late.



Zonta International Convention 2010
June 25 through 30th
Registration Opens June 24th
www.zonta2010.org

Preliminary Program						
Zonta International Convention - San Antonio, Texas June 2010			Note: Early Risers exercise program 6am-7am Sun-Wed			
Thursday June 24	Friday June 25	Saturday June 26	Sunday June 27	Monday June 28	Tuesday June 29	Wednesday June 30
Pre-Convention	Getting All the info	Texas Day	Louisiana Day	Arkansas Day	Oklahoma Day	New Mexico Day
8:00 AM	Registration Roundup 8am-8pm	Registration Roundup 8:00am-4:30pm	Hospitality Corral 8am-4pm	Registration Roundup 8:00 - 4:00pm	Hospitality Corral 8:00am-4:00pm	Hospitality Corral 8:00am-4:00pm
8:15 AM	Hospitality Corral 8am-5pm	Hospitality Corral 8:00am-1:00pm			Registration Roundup 8:00am-4:00pm	Registration Roundup 8:00am-12n
8:30 AM					Registration Roundup 8:00am-4:00pm	
8:45 AM						
9:00 AM						
9:15 AM						
9:25 AM						
9:30 AM	Information Sharing and Open Forum Riverwalk Hotel	Delegate Training Rivercenter Hotel		Business Session 1	Business Session 3	Business Session 5
9:45 AM						
10:00 AM		General Store (Marketplace) 9:00am-11:30am				
10:30 AM						
10:45 AM						
11:00 AM						
11:15 AM						
11:30 AM						
11:45 AM						
12:00 PM						
12:15 PM	General Store (Marketplace) 12:00n-1:30pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	General Store (Marketplace) 12:00n - 2:00pm	Luncheon	General Store (Marketplace) 12:00n - 2:00pm
12:30 PM						
12:45 PM						
1:00 PM	Registration Roundup OPDS					
1:15 PM						
1:30 PM						
1:45 PM	Information Sharing (cont.)	Opening Ceremony				
2:00 PM	Hospitality Corral					
2:15 PM						
2:30 PM	General Store (aka Marketplace)	General Store 3:00pm-5:00pm (Marketplace)				
2:45 PM						
3:00 PM	Drop-off					
3:15 PM						
3:30 PM						
3:45 PM						
4:00 PM	Marriott Rivercenter					
4:15 PM						
4:30 PM						
4:45 PM						
5:00 PM						
5:15 PM						
5:30 PM						
5:45 PM						
6:00 PM						
6:30 PM						
7:00 PM	Optional Event	Knibbe Ranch Event Wagons start leaving at 5:30pm 6:00pm-10:00pm Texas Bar-B-Que, Rodeo, Line Dancing, Oreo (the bull) Special Surprises (Offsite Ticketed Event)	General Store (Marketplace) 5:00pm-6:00pm Rivercenter Hotel	General Store (Marketplace) 5:00pm-6:00pm Rivercenter Hotel	General Store (Marketplace) 5:00pm-6:00pm Rivercenter Hotel	
7:30 PM			Optional Events	Rain Date for Knibbe Ranch	Optional Events	
8:00 PM						
8:30 PM						
9:00 PM						
9:30 PM						
10:00 PM						
						Reception & Gala Closing Banquet Rivercenter Hotel aka "The Hacienda" 6:00pm-10:00pm Ticketed Event



Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Next Business Meeting:

Thursday, October 1, 2009

5:30pm Business Meeting

6:00pm Dinner/Speaker

7:00pm Business Meeting

D.A. Blodgett Conference Room

805 Leonard St. N.E.

~Onsite Child Care provided~

Program: ArtPrize artist

Dinner \$15.00, includes beverages—Please sign sheet by drinks so we can track for purchase and reimbursement. Thanks!

Menu: Baked chicken, baked beans, salad, biscuits and dessert

Important Dates

- October 1, 2009, immediately following membership meeting, Sparkle Shirt Work Bee
- October 16-18, 2009, District Conference, East Lansing
- October 16-18, 2009, Stand Up Against Poverty
- October 24, 2009, United Nations Day
- November 8, 2009, Zonta Founder's Day
- November 25, 2009, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- November 25-December 10, 2009, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence
- December 10, 2009, Human Rights Day
- March 8, 2010, Zonta Rose Day

Zonta International – District 15 Fall Conference!

Please save the dates for this year's conference:

Friday-Sunday, October 16-18, 2009

Headquarter hotel is the Lexington Lansing Hotel



Don't Miss...

Key Note Speaker: Bill Rancic – Zonta PR Makeover from the expert of A&E's "We Mean Business"

Please visit <http://www.lansing.org/zonta> for information about what to see and do while you're in town!

Registration details and forms coming soon!

It's Zonta's 90th birthday! Come to Lansing to help us celebrate!

Nov. 2008 Report - First Delivery of Days For Girls Kits

We're back! Days For Girls Was a Transformative Experience.

It is almost unimaginable, when we learned that girls in Academy of Hidden Talents in the slums of Kenya could be waiting in their room for days during menstruation. But thanks to YOU and many other amazing women and men all over the nation who stepped up to help make a difference so that girls could live every day of their lives more fully, we were all able to make 520 feminine hygiene kits a reality with just 3 1/2 weeks notice! And the impact was far greater than any of us ever dreamed.

We visited the Center the day before the "Days for Girls" program and the kids were excited excited to have solutions to their very real problems. You see, we had sent disposable solutions for cover them in the 3 1/2 weeks gap until we arrived with alternative solutions... And our "emergency solution" ended up clogging the entire pit system! Sigh. So we proved our theory... Paper not only is a disposal and health issue but also literally made a sanitation nightmare develop. The pumping truck that usually empties them couldn't remove the waste. They had dig it out by hand. Sigh again. The night before we presented our program and solutions we could hardly sleep, we were so excited, and so anxious to be ready and guided to say the right things-- keenly aware of the differences in culture. We arrived with four "huge" duffle bags which together contained more than 500 "Days For Girls" Feminine Hygiene kits, menstruation booklets, a 5 gallon container of bleach, song lyrics, some detergent, and our displays. When we arrived the first group of girls were all in their chairs waiting. Maybe they couldn't sleep either! So much for setting up early.

They cheered our arrival and we set up our supplies. Our focus was to Expand their Hope (education and assurance that they have intrinsic value), Save their Lives (hygiene and safety), and give them Days of their lives back (the feminine kits). We started by showing them photos of Kenyan Women of Influence as we described the contribution each was making: one won a Nobel Peace Prize, two were scientists, one is second in command for their nation's Ministry of Education, one a Kenyan University president, and one an in-country education program director, and almost all are terrific mothers. And we ended that segment by telling them, "There is another woman I would like to introduce you to who will make all the difference in the world..." and we turned a 8 x 10 mirror around that was just the size of the photos and asked, "Do you see her?" And held it up to the girls, scanning the room. The first group gasped, then cheered.

Then Sue Fleming (Dean of Education of Goddard College) spoke of education and its importance. Then Julie Matua (A Kenyan woman of influence, co/ In-country Kenyan director for Project Education, Inc) spoke of Hygiene, safety and not letting men trade them "trinkets for their virtue... and disease." She explained that they can avoid traps by being resolute, focused and certain. It was all very honest, open and genuine. The girls could not have been more attentive. Then Jane, a graduate from the Center, expounded on this topic explaining how you have to have an attitude of strength and determination to survive and not be abused.

Then I spoke of predators and their behaviors and that the only way to be safe is to never be silent, and to never allow others to be hurt. Then Janean Keblish (an international model whose heart is 100% with the girls) showed them how to use the kits. They were mesmerized. They were thrilled. They LOVED the pads. They loved their panties. They loved their washcloths and soap. They loved the headbands volunteer Betty Ross (no relation to George) and Diana Bedlington had painstakingly cut for them. They loved what those with the Swan Foundation (thank you Terri and so many more!), The Kotex Queen Bees (you know who you are) of the Lynden Baptist Church and the many Relief Society women of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of the Bellingham area, and so many others all made for them. The girls loved having a solution in their hands. Their eyes sparkled and even the teachers were so glad to have them. They said that they were not sure such an idea would work until they saw them. Then once they saw them they all agreed that they would work well for them. They clamored for them despite our efforts for calm distribution. We hugged each and every girl as they left. That was when we knew... The idea was as sound as any of us had hoped. Maybe more so. They LOVED them. We even found out that in Kenya a girl's period is called her "days!" And we had no idea when we named our campaign.

But there was something deeper. It was obvious that our bringing the solutions showed that we had empathy, not pity. There was a greater connection. Some of the older girls offered to bring kits and do presentations to other orphanages.

And then something we never dreamed of happened...

Girls spoke up. Teachers spoke up, and for the first time a coalition of individuals is standing together for the children. Thanks to YOU.

We came to give back days of their lives... Only to find that a solution in hand gave them voice.

I am humbly joyful about the gift of being part of the experience and more certain than ever that this solution is vital. We're not sure we adequately captured the joy... We were so focused on the girls!

Thank you for ALL you did to make this all possible. It was, and is, miraculous. Will we do it again? Yes! A thousand times yes! We're already gearing up to go again and the sewing machines are back to full speed ahead. We have a lot of sisters out there.

Sincerely,
Celeste

PS: Yes, that's me with the silly grin. Gee whiz the spirit of Love was strong in the room... you can tell by my smile! And yes, isn't it funny that now matter how much you give to others, not matter how hard you work to serve... we always end up being the one that gains joy. Happens every time. Thanks again ladies and gentlemen (yes, there were a few of those and the girls loved hearing that YOU helped!)

