



Zonta Club of Northern Valley President's Report 2008-2009

The Zonta Club of Northern Valley New Jersey had a busy and exciting year. In October we hosted our 22nd Annual Fall Event. We celebrated the evening with an elegant cocktail hour and dinner. The highlight of the evening was a 200+ basket tricky tray event including large and super prizes. We had an enthusiastic group of guests, especially the winners. Our club netted more than \$9,000 from this event.

We continue to support the "Once a Month" project which our club initiated two years ago. Our club collected and delivered 159 bags of maxi pads to the U.S. Department of State's African Bureau this year. In total, since the inception of this project, our club has delivered more than 550 bags of sanitary products. The State Department has shipped these donations to Zambia where they have been delivered to girls in rural areas who have reached puberty. These donations help the girls stay in school and complete their education. Our club has received recognition from this project from the U.S. Department of State in their communications and newsletters as well as in Zonta International's in newsletter. This is a continuing District 3 Project and all clubs are asked to bring donations of maxi pads to the Fall Conference, 2009.

Our Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee donated in our club's name the DVD *Iron Jawed Angels*, a movie depicting the struggles of the Women's Suffrage Movement. It was shown and a discussion was held at both the Englewood Public Library in October and the Bergenfield Public Library in March. Our club donated a total of 6 DVDs to public libraries the Northern Valley NJ area.

We held our annual RAVE Walk in May this year. Once again it rained, but that did not dampen our spirits or the intrepid walkers. This year we partnered with Tenafly NJ High School Domestic Violence Awareness Club. We also held the event in a new venue, Tenafly HS Track. Our RAVE Walk has taken on a whole new format. Because of all of the changes and hard work by the RAVE chair, co-chair, and committee, we were able to raise more than \$6000 to be divided evenly between the Bergen County Rape Crisis Center and Shelter Our Sisters. This is a \$2000 increase over last year.

We continued to collect food for the Center for Food Action and baby items for the Nurturing Place. We also wrapped gifts to raise money for Shelter Our Sisters. We prepared Thanksgiving Baskets for the Center for Food Action.

In February, we held our second Wine Tasting event. This again was quite successful, as well as fun. We netted over \$2500 from this event.

We have begun supporting a new organization in our area, Zoe's Place. This organization provides a safe and supervised environment for teenage mothers and their babies. Child care, medical care, and programs are provided. Zoe's Place mentors, supports, and encourages teenage mothers to continue their education and become self-supporting members of society. One of our members, Nancy Patrissi, donated her time and talent by designing and setting up the website for Zoe's Place. This alone was more than 120 service hours with a market value of \$6000. We also donate items needed by the girls and their babies.

We are sponsoring a new club in Ringwood, NJ. The proposed club in Ringwood now has 17 members with 8 more prospective members. This club is very close to having the 25 members needed to charter.

In May we held our annual service award meeting. We awarded two adult scholarships in the amount of \$2000 each to single mothers returning to school as well as donations to several local charities. Our total donations this year, both local and international, is over \$17,000.

In June we spent the evening at the Meadowlands Race Track. Seventy people attended this fun evening. Some people were lucky and went home with more money than they came with while others just had a lot of fun.

Also in June our club participated in the Bergenfield Family Fun Day. This was to publicize our club as well an attempt to encourage some possible new members to learn more about us. We got the names of 3 prospective members from this day

As you can tell, the Zonta of Northern Valley New Jersey, as always, had a very busy and productive year.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Nicodemus
President, Zonta Club of Northern Valley

District 3 Fall Conference
October 2-4, 2009, Alexandria, Virginia