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## **Zonta International Resolution on Umbilical Cord Blood, Stemcells and the Involvement of Women**

**WHEREAS:** Zonta clubs of District 27 desire to draw the attention of mothers who want to donate blood of the umbilical cord and of women who want to donate egg cells, to have a say in the matter of where this precious material will go or how it will be used.

**WHEREAS:** Zonta clubs of District 27 are concerned that the blood of the umbilical cord and egg cells would be used correctly worldwide and hereby bring this issue to the attention of the Zonta International organization.

**WHEREAS:** Zonta clubs of District 27 have supported the banks for umbilical cord blood and desire that women (1) become aware of how they can play an active role in making precious baby blood available to help seriously ill patients, especially children with leukemia and (2) be informed on the potential danger of using women as suppliers of umbilical cord blood and egg cells.

***Be it resolved therefore that:***

- That awareness should be raised and information should be provided to women on the issue of the use of the umbilical cord blood and stem cells so that women have a say in this matter in order to safeguard women's interest, health and position.

***Be it further resolved:***

That clubs and members be encouraged

- to inform themselves on this issue;
- to provide information to women (particularly pregnant women), nurses, doctors, teachers, politicians, ethnic communities and all those who can be interested in this subject;
- to take steps to improve the information and education of young girls and training of young women on this issue; and
- to contact interested and appropriate organizations and/or NGOs to share concerns and exchange information, know how, and experience.

All this effort will allow clubs and members to focus on the Zonta International mission to improve the status of women and women's health.

***Adopted at the 57<sup>th</sup> Zonta International Convention in New York, NY, USA, July 2004***