

Zonta Club President's Year Summary June 2019 - May 2020

Submitted to District 3 Governor by ZCEC President, Paulette Chatman 6/2020

Zonta Club of Essex County

Club Highlights

Service

- Provided items needed for our local safe house, from household items to diapers, aspirin, food, etc.
- Stuffed pocketbooks for homeless women, containing, scarfs, socks, gloves, sanitary items, etc.
- Collaborations with Women of NJPAC on a 3 part Art Series during the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, entitled "Breath of Fresh Air" performed entirely on Zoom with virtual conversations, performances by inspirational spoken word artists, writing workshop and visual arts demonstration. Workshop intended to support and encourage girls and women in Essex County to use and trust their voices. We encouraged support of our local Domestic Violence Center and had a representative speak during the event. There were 40 to 80 participants in each session. Our club birthed this concept and will continue to be a part of ongoing arts events sponsored by the Women of NJPAC and other women's organizations.

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

- White Ribbon Campaign to enlist men in the fight to end gender based violence. During the 16 days more than 500 white lapel ribbons were handed out to men and boys with a card to support the eradication of violence against women and girls.
- 16 Days of Activism to Eradicate Gender based violence
 - o The Zonta Club of Essex County again had an active 16 days campaign. This included daily posts to educate our members and others about the campaign and actions we were taking and supporting.
 - o On December 7, we led an event co-sponsored by the Zonta Club of Morristown Area and with the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking open to the public and held at the West Orange Public Library. We showed three independent films: Oath Bound, Las Fronteras, and The Blue Bra, followed by a panel discussion with experts and a Q &A. Our panelists were from the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking and a graduate student from Nigeria who broke up a sex slave ring in Italy while she was a student there. Approximately 45 guests were in attendance.

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- **In February**, we sent out the Zonta International Bulletin/ Advisory about advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment to our members and posted it on our Facebook page and our website. Members contacted their representatives.
- In March, our club supported the annual **Women in Media International Film Festival**, bringing issues and perspectives of women through international independent film-makers from around the world. When this year's festival was postponed due to the pandemic, there were a series of online films from past years which highlighted such issues as domestic violence, human trafficking, and much more.

Scholarships

- Provided scholarships to 4 female high school seniors scheduled to start college in the fall.

Membership/Mentoring

- There were no special membership events during this period. All events members were encouraged to invite prospective members. New members are immediately assigned to an initiative within the club and work with a seasoned member.

Centennial Planning/Celebrations

- Acknowledged the Centennial at all events held during this past biennium. Purchased the Zonta Centennial flag for centerpieces for our events

Fundraising

- High Tea fundraiser at a local tea house to provide funds for our scholarships.

Special Events

- On January 25th, we presented at the West Orange Public Library - Amelia Earhart Women of Color in Aviation co-sponsored by Zonta Club of Morristown Area. The keynote speaker was Carol Hopson, first officer with United Airlines who spoke to us about her aviation career and Bessie Coleman who she is in the process of writing an historical fiction about. Present were 6 high school students, 2 female, 4 males, with Eagle Flight Squadron who are working to get their wings. There were more than 75 individuals in attendance for this free event.

Thank You for taking the time to complete this report!