

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



In 1919, a group of forward-thinking executive women came together in Buffalo, New York, to use their combined expertise in service to their community. Not satisfied with the predominantly social nature of many women's organizations at the time, the women who founded Zonta envisioned a new kind of service organization – one that would promote professionalism among its executive members while serving the needs of girls and young women in the community.

One hundred years later, the legacy of Zonta's early members can be seen and felt through nearly 1,200 Zonta clubs in 61 countries across the globe. While the world has changed dramatically over the last century, more than 28,000 Zontians today remain committed to the professionalism, fellowship and service that led Zonta's visionary founders to come together.

Today, Zonta's history extends beyond the community service of each individual Zonta club. Zonta International has provided more than US\$45.9 million through the Zonta International Foundation to empower women and girls and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities and safe living conditions.

Zonta's vision will not be achieved by monetary donations alone. At the local, national and regional levels, Zonta clubs and individual Zontians are advocating for laws and policies that ensure gender equality and help every woman and girl realize her full potential.

"All of Zonta's work to achieve our founders' vision of equality for women focuses in two areas: education and preventing violence against women and girls. Zonta works to remove impediments for girls to remain in school and our own Zonta fellowships and scholarships help to break down barriers in male-dominated fields."

—Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D., International President 2020-2022

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