



Dear Friend,

As I look across the Zonta world, I am always inspired by the actions of our clubs and individual members. We have more than 28,000 members in more than 1,100 clubs in 63 countries. We have met with and engaged millions more women and girls through our projects and programs. Together, we are a unified force for our mission of gender equality.

Following are just a few examples of what Zontians do to improve the lives of women and girls in their local communities; there are countless more worthy stories from just the last year alone. Imagine if these clubs were not around to respond to the needs of their communities. What would happen? The world would be a different place without you, without Zonta.

Each year, we have the opportunity to reflect on and dedicate ourselves to our values and mission as we renew our Zonta membership. We extend the hand of friendship to fellow members, engage within our community and encourage those seeking education to never stop pursuing their dreams all with the message that every woman everywhere is deserving of the same opportunities.

I am proud to stand with you as we change the world.

With warm regards,



Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D.
President



**To read even more stories of club impact visit:
www.zonta.org/LocalServiceAndAdvocacy**

Zonta Club of Kathmandu provides bicycles to girls to decrease school dropout rates

In far-flung areas of southern Nepal, school dropout from high among girls from ages 12 to 16. One reason is that most of the villages have only primary schools. For middle school, students must travel to a nearby village, which at times leads to girls

dropping out. Dropping out of school can lead to early marriage, pregnancy and other health-related issues.

Realizing the need and importance of education for these young girls, the Zonta Club of Kathmandu teamed up with Teach for Nepal. They identified 50 girls with a crucial need for bicycles. The bicycles allow the girls to continue their schooling and feel empowered by owning their own bicycles.



Zonta Club of Everett calls for Washington state to end child marriage with billboard

The Zonta Club of Everett, USA, successfully launched its first local billboard as part of the Zonta USA and UNICEF USA national public service announcement campaign to end child marriage.

There are only four states—Delaware, New Jersey, Minnesota and Pennsylvania—that have prohibited marriage before the age of 18 with no exceptions. Until every state enacts legislation to protect children, particularly young girls, from child, early and forced marriage, thousands of children in the United States are at risk of missing out on education and the chance to be a child.



Learn more about the campaign at <https://stopchildmarriages.org/>.

Zonta Club of Bangkok V donates sterile room for mothers and newborns at small hospital

The hygienic condition for mothers after giving birth is crucial, and small hospitals in many provinces in Thailand do not have the facilities to adequately support them. They also lack the space for social distancing and rooms for a virus-free environment. The Don Mod Daeng Hospital has approximately 30 hospital beds, three doctors and two dentists.



Concerned for the safety of pregnant women and newborn babies in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zonta Club of Bangkok V, Thailand arranged for a sterile room in the maternity ward at Don Mod Daeng Hospital in Ubon Ratchathani Province.

With donations from members and non-members, the club renovated the sterile room with medical equipment and supplies for both the postpartum mother and child so they can be safe and get the best medical care while in the maternity ward.

The objective of this project is to provide the opportunity for underprivileged pregnant women a chance to use this special room for their postpartum recovery period, even in a small provincial hospital.

Zonta Club of Basel donates gifts to women's shelter during the holiday season

Following a talk with the leadership team of the local women's shelter earlier in 2020, the members of the Zonta Club of Basel, Switzerland, dedicated their annual holiday donation to this organization. The shelter had expressed the need due to the increased number of clients during the COVID-19 pandemic and their lack of time and room.

About 200 wrapped gifts and a cash donation for special education needs for children during critical phases were provided in mid-December.



Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc makes 40,000th birthing kit to celebrate 40 years

To mark its 40th anniversary, the Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc, Australia, made its 40,000th birthing kit. Since 2003, the club has involved the wider community in birthing kit assembly, but with COVID-19 restrictions this year, the members and their families have assembled 1,800 kits in their own homes.



To read more about how the club celebrated its anniversary, visit [Local Service and Advocacy](#)

All clubs can share their story at www.zonta.org/shareyourstory

The Commission on the Status of Women

Today, 24 February, is the last day to register for the virtual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Learn more about [Zonta at the CSW](#), and click the button below to register.



Register

Hear the powerful story of Tiaji Sio

Hear her story



Tiaji Sio

Diplomat for the Federal Foreign Office, Germany
2015 ZI Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee

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www.zonta.org/events



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