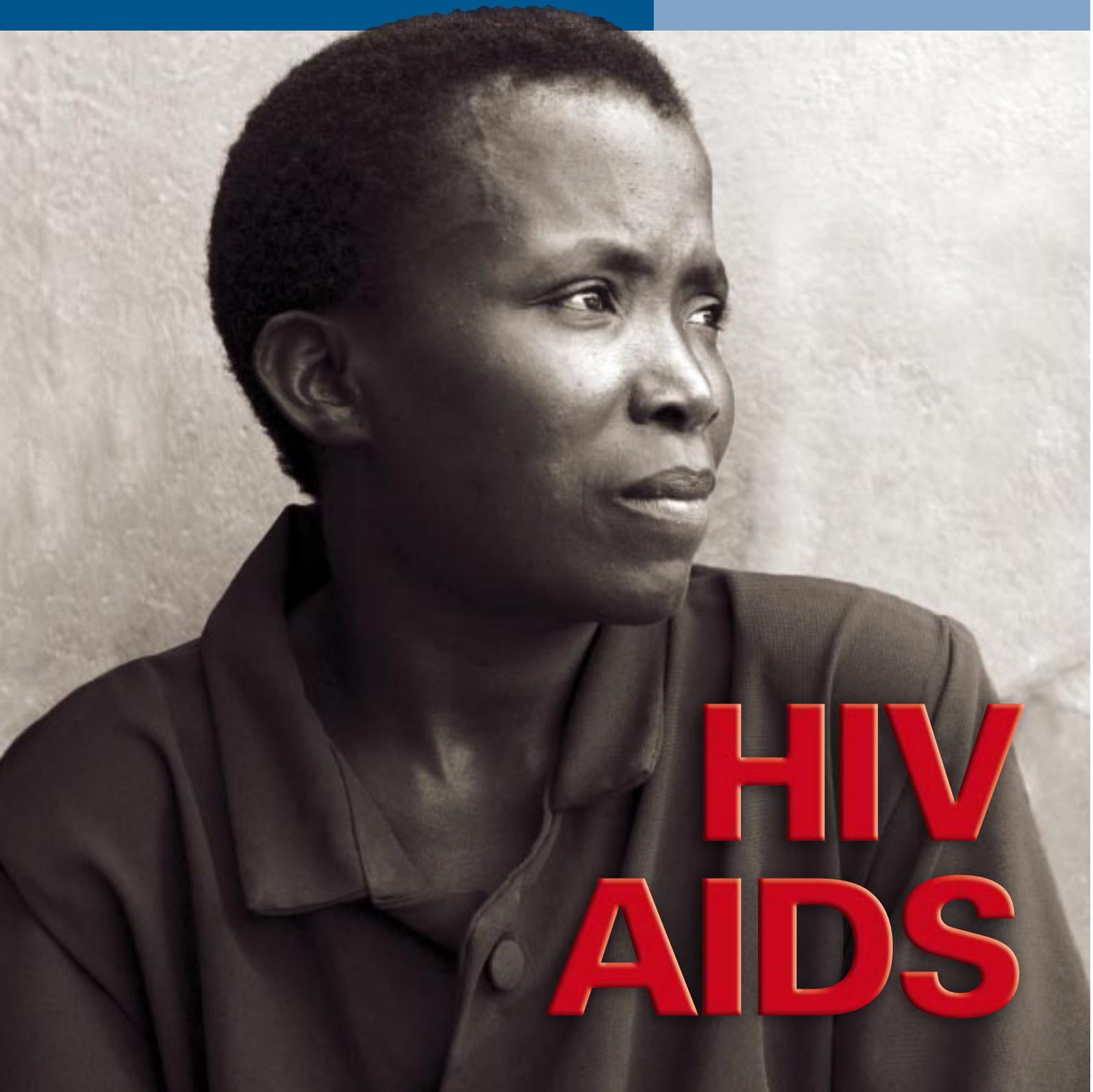


THE
ZONTIAN

The Membership Voice of Zonta International
2006-2008 Biennial Issue Three • January 2006



**HIV
AIDS**

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide



Special Section
2004-2006
Biennium
Final Report
in this Issue

THE ZONTIAN

2006-2008 Biennial Issue Three • January 2007
Volume 87 • Number 4

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 President's Message
- 4 Women and HIV/AIDS
- 8 Foundation President's Message
- 9 The World of Zontian Giving
- 10 Zonta International and the United Nations
- 11 Membership
- 12 Zonta Action
- 14 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Recipients
- 15 Convention 2008: Rotterdam
- 16 Welcome New Clubs



DID YOU KNOW...

Zonta International Headquarters receives requests every day from Zontians seeking Zonta Club and individual contact information. These inquiries are put into a queue with the hundreds of other E-mails received daily and answered in the order in which they are received. As a Zonta Club member you can avoid the wait by accessing this information instantly from the Zonta International Web site.

As a benefit of your Zonta Club membership you may access the online Member Networking Directory, the Directory of District Governors and the Directory of Club Presidents by logging on to www.zonta.org and clicking the *Member Resources* link on the left side of your screen and then *Directories*.

Member Networking Directory

Let's make the Member Networking Directory a useful tool for everyone! By default every Zonta Club member's name, Zonta Club and country are displayed. It's up to you to visit the Member Networking Directory and to share your contact information with the Zonta world.

Directory of District Governors and Directory of Club Presidents

When Zonta organizational or policy questions or concerns arise, you should take these issues to the next level of Zonta leadership. These directories contain District Governor and Club President contact information.

The **Club Locator**, accessed by clicking on the "*Locate a Zonta Club*" map at the top of www.zonta.org, is accessible to anyone, the public and Zontians alike. The Club Locator displays the E-mail and Web site addresses of Zonta Clubs that have provided this information to Headquarters.

ZONTA



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Photo Credits: Cover: Peter Bregg, PhotoSensitive/CARE; Page 4: UNAIDS/G. Pirozzi; Page 5: UNAIDS; Page 6, top: Patti Gower, PhotoSensitive/CARE; Page 6, bottom: UNAIDS/WHO/V. Suvorov; Page 7, top: UNAIDS; Page 7, bottom: Andrew Stawicki, PhotoSensitive/CARE; Page 9: ©World Bank/Arne Hoel.

The Zontian (ISSN 0279-3229) is published quarterly by Zonta International. As Zonta International's official publication, this magazine carries authorized articles regarding the organization's programs and activities. No responsibility is assumed for opinions of other authors. Annual subscription rate: \$8.50 (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland) \$17 (individual airmail outside USA). Publication office address for the publication listed above. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois USA and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Zontian*, Zonta International, 557 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2202 USA.



Olivia Ferry

“Zonta International continues to serve as a platform for increased advocacy and service delivery for advancing the status of women”

First, a big *Thank You* to all the clubs and districts that painstakingly completed the new report forms, reporting progress on the achievement of our goals for the first two quarters of the biennium. You have given us vital information the whole organization can use for new member recruitment, donor development, and public relations and communications. Please continue to report your progress.

Zonta International continues to serve as a platform for increased advocacy and service delivery for advancing the status of women – building their competencies, harnessing their potentials, protecting their human rights and providing the voice for combating risks and vulnerabilities that impinge on their lives. One of these is HIV/AIDS, which more than any other disease in recent decades has exposed the social inequities that make women and girls vulnerable to this hidden and growing scourge that has affected nearly 20 million women and girls worldwide. Today, more than 25 years into the epidemic, the rising rates of HIV infection among women and girls are a major cause for concern, impelling heads of state, government institutions, policy makers, community leaders and religious organizations to speak out strongly and urgently on the need to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination, thus making gender and HIV/AIDS urgent and unmistakable priorities.

This issue of *The Zontian* magazine focuses on HIV/AIDS and features an interview with Dr. Helene Gayle, President and CEO of CARE International, our service delivery partner for our HIV/AIDS project in Niger. I invite you to read the article.

Additionally, the UN Secretary-General’s Study on Ending Violence Against Women, released on 9 October 2006, clearly defined violence against women as an intolerable violation of the human rights of women everywhere. (Please check the Executive Summary and fact sheets that are now on the Web site under Member Resources, Committees, UN and under Member Resources, Tools for Clubs, Service and Advocacy.)

Gender-based violence is now one of the leading factors in the increased rates of HIV infection among women and unless the link between the two is broken, it will be hard to reverse the epidemic. Viewed in this light, Zonta’s call for commitment and service forces us to confront this complex concern by integrating policy and initiating actions against the spread of HIV/AIDS through our programs (including our International Service and ZISVAW programs), as well as through universal primary education that is a necessary, complementary effort for HIV/AIDS prevention.

As leaders in community service, we must take significant strides in mobilizing community-based initiatives to help prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS through on-going information, education and communication. Through our efforts we can heighten awareness and influence change behaviors, helping to bring immediate and meaningful solutions to the many risks that could derail our efforts in improving women’s lives and advancing their status worldwide.

I close this message with a few words on important events I wish to bring to your attention:

- Let us all observe **Amelia Earhart Month** this January 2007 and Amelia Earhart Day on 11 January. I bid you all to keep the tradition alive, and emulate the courage and compelling influence of Amelia in Zonta and world history. Our pride and honor lies in the many milestones that we have achieved in building the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund, awarding more than 1,150 fellowships to amazing women from 57 countries since 1938.

Continued on page 9



WOMEN and HIV/AIDS

Although many positive strides have been made in global efforts to address the AIDS epidemic, the number of women living with HIV and dying from it continues to grow. The UNAIDS/WHO 2006 AIDS Epidemic Update reports that 17.7 million women were living with HIV in 2006, representing an increase of over 1 million women compared to 2004.

In Sub-Saharan Africa – the world’s most affected region with a staggering 72 percent of all deaths attributed to

Update shows how gender inequality compounds women’s and girls’ vulnerability to infection, their lack of access to treatment and the burdens they bear in caring for those affected by the disease.

To address this inequality, Zonta International has funded a CARE International project in the poorest African nation of Niger since 2004. Progress made in the 2004-2006 Biennium in Niger as a direct result of contributions to the Zonta International Foundation International Service Fund is outlined in a special section inserted into the center of this issue of *The Zontian*.

To gain more of a perspective on the HIV/AIDS crisis globally, *The Zontian* posed questions to CARE USA President and CEO Dr. Helene Gayle. Dr. Gayle joined CARE in April 2006 after serving as the Director of the HIV, TB and Reproductive Health Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Gayle received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania and master’s degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of Barnard College of Columbia University. Dr. Gayle worked for the US Centers for Disease



Control and Prevention for 20 years in a variety of positions, from staff epidemiologist to Director for the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention. She sits on the boards of the Institute of Medicine and the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Zontian (TZ): In your experience, what is the most effective way to reduce HIV transmission?

Dr. Gayle (DG): Effective approaches recognize that HIV/AIDS is more than just a health issue. CARE takes a multi-pronged approach to HIV/AIDS in order to fight the poverty, stigma and discrimination, lack of basic education, and gender inequity that increases vulnerability to HIV. We also must strengthen and deepen our work addressing the vulnerability of women to HIV and to mitigate its impact on their lives.

Every year, 4 million people are infected with HIV; yet only 20 percent of people receive treatment.

AIDS in 2006 – for every 10 men living with the disease 14 women are infected. Education, prevention, treatment and de-stigmatization strategies have held infection rates steady in regions where particularly vulnerable groups, such as women and youth, are directly targeted. However, the 2006



TZ: In light of the recently released UN Secretary-General's Study on Ending Violence Against Women, do you believe NGOs or governments are adequately addressing the links between HIV and AIDS and violence against women in all its forms, including human trafficking? What further steps can NGOs take?

DG: As the UN Secretary-General's study highlights, there has been significant progress in agreeing on international standards and norms of violence against women. Yet, there are still critical gaps in current efforts to address violence against women. Violence (including physical, psychological, and sexual violence against women) exacerbates the risk of contracting HIV. In turn, the fear of violence can prevent women from accessing information on HIV and

NGOs need to integrate more gender-based violence awareness and support into HIV programs.

TZ: Do you put much hope in emerging drugs and treatments, such as microbicides or post-exposure prophylaxis, especially in rape cases, having a substantive impact given the inability of many countries to provide affordable drugs and services consistently to infected people?

DG: Every year, 4 million people are infected with HIV; yet only 20 percent of people receive treatment. When available, microbicides and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) can prolong and improve the quality of lives. In addition to scaling up proven existing prevention techniques, it is critical to expand prevention options with new tools, such as microbicides and PEP, and ultimately a vaccine. CARE is deeply engaged in the fight for universal access to drugs and treatments for HIV. But we cannot do it alone. Realizing treatment for all people requires engagement by communities, governments, donors and public and private sector organizations.

AIDS. Governments have an obligation to do more to enforce laws pertaining to violence against women and human trafficking. But strengthening the political commitment in this crusade is not enough; NGOs also need to integrate more gender-based violence awareness and support into HIV programs. We must continue to train health providers to recognize the signs of gender-based violence and its connection to HIV and AIDS.

TZ: Have you seen any increased recognition of the impact HIV/AIDS has on women?

DG: We do see signs that progress is being made toward achieving our vision. There are indications of recent declines in HIV prevalence in countries such as Haiti, Kenya and Zimbabwe.





Once the women were trained, they traveled throughout their communities, leading workshops on prevention and passing out condoms. Eventually, the women reported back to us that – as they tried to raise awareness about AIDS – they were facing heightened hostility and violence, from the police and thugs in the street who saw these women as less than human and who were threatened

Our goal is to give these women the tools they need to protect themselves.

by the women’s newfound sense of purpose. But these women were empowered by the training they had received,

and they took very seriously the important job they were doing to protect other women from disease. Today, they run a daycare center for children of sex workers and raise money to send the children to school. They fight against stigma and discrimination.

One example of the increased recognition of the impact is in Bangladesh, where CARE collaborates with sex workers on HIV education. Our goal is to give these women – often the poorest of the poor, the most marginalized and the most vulnerable to HIV – the tools they need to protect themselves from infection, while treating them with the dignity and respect they deserve as human beings. We firmly believe that there is much to abhor about the sex industry, especially what it does to girls and young women. However, while we are committed to working to change the human rights abuses associated with this system and to expand women’s economic options, we are not prepared to sacrifice the lives of sex workers today.

We began a program to train groups of sex workers to become AIDS educators for other sex workers. If any of our trainees didn’t know how to read and they wanted to learn, we arranged classes for them.



As importantly, the health of the women has also improved. The project established a protocol for drop-in centers, to provide treatment, care and useful information to sex workers.

This is one example of how everyday women work with CARE to expand the control they have over their own lives and strengthen their ability to advance positive, enduring change in their societies. Although we are often in the midst of the world’s most difficult situations, we hear the voices of hope.

TZ: Recently, more has been written about women’s empowerment campaigns that specifically target men. Have you seen any positive outcomes from addressing men in your programs?

DG: Increasingly, CARE is working directly with men and boys to change practices, norms and behavior that put both women and men at risk of violence and other adverse effects.

Research has consistently shown that men play a key role in bringing about gender equality for women. In Burundi, CARE is working with male community leaders to educate them about existing laws and the rights of women. We are addressing the root of the problem, not just the consequence of sexual violence. Increasing men’s awareness of gender inequities helps dispel entrenched social and cultural norms that can keep women in the shadows of their societies.

TZ: What grade would you give the world in its efforts to address HIV and AIDS, specifically as it relates to women? What is the most important action that needs to be taken to more adequately address this pandemic?

DG: In the past 25 years, we have made incredible strides in mobilizing a global community of people committed to ending HIV and AIDS. But in order to continue and build on these efforts, we must embrace a broader



TZ: How great an impact can Zonta and CARE make with the Mata Masu Dubara (Women on the Move) project in Niger?

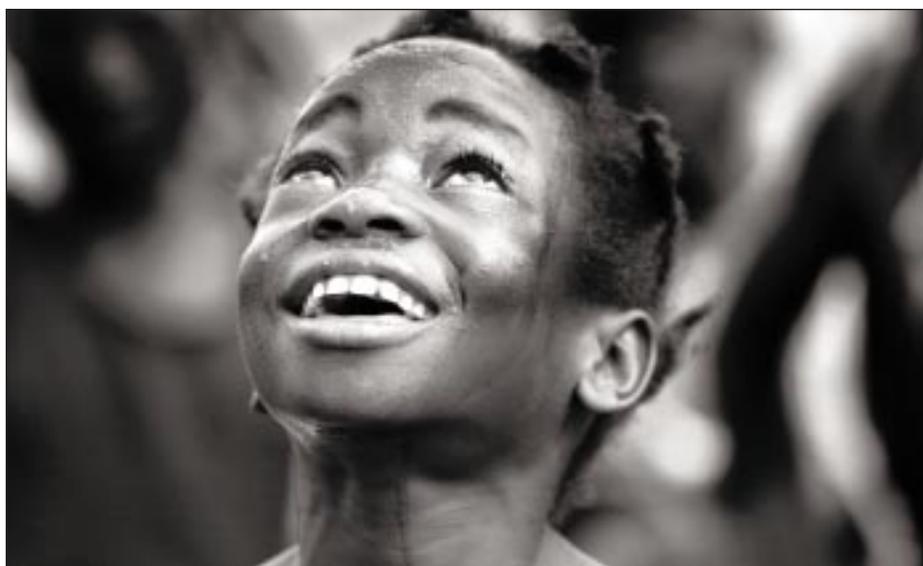
maternal mortality rates among the highest in Africa. However, this program is making a real difference in the lives of so many. The program today counts well over 150,000 Nigerien women as members and is a means for women to provide for themselves and their families. The MMD project has had great success and is being duplicated in many other countries around the world. CARE's vision in Niger is to create a new spirit of development, working in partnership with families and communities. With help from Zonta, together we can make that vision a reality.

DG: We are delighted to have Zonta International as a partner in Niger, empowering women

through savings and loans groups. As you know, Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, with infant and

vision of its underlying causes and be ever more creative and strategic in preventing its spread.

In our experience, women and girls are disproportionately infected by HIV because they are less able to negotiate sexual relations, they are more prone to sexual violence, they are often married at an early age to older men and they are more susceptible to pressure to engage in transactional and inter-generational sex. This is why we must go beyond the simple ABC formula to recognize that access to education for young girls, economic and gender empowerment, public health infrastructure, protection from sexual violence, and food security and livelihood options for poor people are the ultimate foundation on which an effective prevention strategy in developing countries must be built.



TZ: How did your work at the Gates Foundation and CDC prepare you for your role at CARE and CARE's work on HIV and AIDS?

DG: I have spent the last 20 years of my life in the fight against HIV and AIDS. In some ways, I see my personal evolution as parallel to the way our understanding of the epidemic has evolved. In the beginning, we focused on the virus, learning as much as we could about it and attacking it. But we recognize now that the virus occurs in people and that the epidemic plays out in populations. Some populations are at greater risk than others. What are the vulnerabilities? What makes one person, one community, or one population at greater risk for HIV and AIDS?

Inequities in health often have as much to do with underlying social and economic inequities as they do with specific



Dr. Helene Gayle

infections or other causes of illness. Having a sustained impact on the health of people living in poverty requires tackling root causes of vulnerability to disease, such as lack of education, gender inequity, malnutrition, unsafe water and poor sanitation.

These are the kinds of things that we work on at CARE. Our overall focus is fighting poverty, and in doing so, we also work on HIV and AIDS because we know that AIDS is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. I see these problems as very interconnected, and I feel very fortunate to be at CARE, addressing some of the broader issues that have an impact on the spread of HIV and AIDS.



Anne Silvester

“Through the generous donations flowing into the Zonta International Foundation we can do more for women in education, health, economic survival and in the prevention of violence against women.”

Dear Zontians and friends,

Now in its 87th Year, Zonta International has given service and support to many communities in the world for a better life for women. The Zonta International scholarships and awards have added strength to the leadership of women in many professions and towards the advancement of the status of women worldwide. Through the generous donations flowing into the Zonta International Foundation – the funding arm of all Zonta International service programs – we can do more for women in education, health, economic survival and in the prevention of violence against women.

Today we live in what is termed a modern global world, but still a world where the inequities appear to be widening and opportunities varied, especially for women and girls – a world where one-in-five people live on one dollar a day and, yes, over one billion people are estimated to live in poverty, and there is growth in some diseases. In this issue of *The Zontian* the focus is on HIV/AIDS. It is now 25 years that the world has experienced the disease Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the precursor to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The Foundation’s International Service Fund has an ambitious fundraising goal of US\$1.5 million for the 2006-2008 Biennium. This Fund provides for very worthy projects: microcredit and HIV/AIDS education for women in Niger; education and health projects for women in Afghanistan; education programs for girls and young women in Bolivia; and self help programs for women in rural communities in Sri Lanka. Your continuing financial support is much appreciated.

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship program is Zonta’s longest running service program – since 1938. Over these years 1,157 Fellowships totalling US\$6 million have been funded to women representing 57 countries. We heard at the Melbourne Convention how a Fellow’s life can be changed for the better through this award and we seek your financial support for this very worthy Zonta program. Has your club organised its fundraising event for the month of January – Amelia Earhart month?

We look forward to your continuing support to *your* Foundation during the Year 2007.

In celebration of Zonta International’s 100th Anniversary, the Zonta International Foundation has proposed a US\$10 million Endowment Fund by 2019. During the 2006-2008 Biennium, the Foundation Board and Development Committee are focusing on how to achieve this goal.

Funding HIV/AIDS Prevention

According to the latest figures from UNAIDS, there are now over 38 million people living with HIV worldwide. Four million people are newly infected each year, and AIDS is increasingly a disease of young women, who have few means to protect themselves and now account for a majority of new infections in many countries. Over the past 25 years, more than 25 million people across countries and continents have perished.

The good news is that access to life-saving anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs has expanded significantly, from 240,000 people in 2001 to 1.6 million people in low- and middle-income countries in 2006. Despite problems with health infrastructure, and shortages of trained medical workers, sub-Saharan Africa is now treating more than one million people living with AIDS, a 10-fold increase since late 2003. Prices of ARVs have dropped significantly and procurement systems have improved, as has generic drug availability. Yet even the most positive assumptions make it clear: there is simply no feasible way to fund universal treatment unless we do a much better job on prevention.

“Putting people on life-saving AIDS treatment is a commitment that can span decades,” according to Dr. Debrework Zewdie, Director of the World Bank Global HIV and AIDS Program.

The rate of HIV infection in women is climbing much faster than in men. Women are

more vulnerable than men to HIV infection – socially, economically, physiologically – and yet prevention tools are largely controlled by men. We have to put the power to prevent HIV in the hands of women.

Individuals can have an immense impact. We can press our governments to do more; we can pressure corporations to play a bigger role. We can continue funding the Zonta International Foundation’s International Service Fund to support projects like the CARE Mata Masu Dubara MicroCredit and HIV/AIDS Education project in Niger.



PRESIDENT’S | MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

- Then, we have the upcoming **Commission on the Status of Women** discussions in February 2007. These will be a fertile arena where we can learn and share information and strategies on priority issues related to “the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.” Replicable models, success stories and best practices will be presented, aside from the crafting of new modes or approaches.
- We celebrate **International Women’s Day** on 8 March 2007. Let us mark this occasion by bringing attention to the important role Zonta plays in the women’s movement. This day is also **Zonta Rose Day**, providing all Zontians

the opportunity to initiate special fundraising efforts for Zonta’s programs and drawing public attention to Zonta as an organization working to improve women’s lives.

On 8 November 2006, we celebrated Zonta’s 87th birthday. On that day we renewed our commitment to remain vibrant and united as staunch advocates and drivers of development on behalf of the world’s women. And we re-dedicated ourselves to the vision of our founders to empower women to claim their rights in order to make this world a better place for all. Cheers!



UN Response to the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic

Jackie Shapiro, Chairman, United Nations Committee

At a historic special session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 2001, 189 Member States adopted a declaration on HIV/AIDS, committing to the enactment of HIV prevention, treatment, cure and care programs, and policies that would begin to reverse the global epidemic of HIV by 2015. Article 31 of the Declaration focused renewed attention of Member States to some of the gender aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic:

(We)“Commit ourselves to strengthening legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the promotion and protection of women’s full enjoyment of all human rights and the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination as well as all forms of sexual exploitation of women, girls and boys, including for commercial reasons, and all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls;”

AIDS Epidemic Update Facts

published by UNAIDS/WHO in November 2006

Caribbean – Nearly 1 in 2 adults with HIV is female, the report notes the heterosexual epidemic is caused by harsh gender inequalities and fuelled by a thriving sex industry.

India – Women account for a growing proportion of HIV infections, the majority acquiring the virus from regular partners who were infected during paid sex.

Russian Federation and Ukraine – Young women increasingly bearing HIV burden. Over 40% of new HIV infections in 2005 were women – a larger proportion than ever before.

US – African-American women are infected 21 times the rate of Caucasian women.

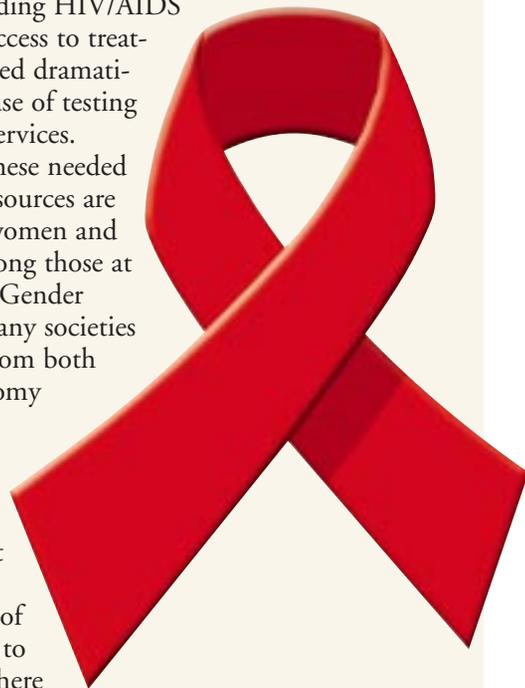
Source: <http://www.unaids.org/epi/2005/>

In June 2006, the UN met to assess progress made. The news for women was not good. Almost half of adults living with HIV and AIDS today are women. Over the past two years, the number of women and girls infected with HIV has increased in every region of the world.

There was some promising news in *The World’s Women 2005* report published by the UN Statistics Division. Internationally and nationally more money is being directed toward HIV, many more schools are providing HIV/AIDS education, and access to treatment has expanded dramatically, as has the use of testing and counseling services.

Yet many of these needed initiatives and resources are failing to reach women and girls who are among those at the greatest risk. Gender inequalities in many societies hinder women from both the sexual autonomy and access to resources important to HIV prevention and treatment. Abject poverty increases the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection where sex is a commodity used to obtain food, shelter, money and other basic necessities. Just 9 percent of pregnant women worldwide are receiving anti-retroviral therapy to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Girls and young women are even more vulnerable as they have fewer opportunities to access education, health information and services. According to the UN, less than half of young people have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Studies from around the world have shown that children who drop out of school are much more likely to contract HIV than those with a basic education.



Taking the Long View

Zonta Club Prepares Golden Z Club Members to be Zontians



Glene Harding
Chairman
OMC Committee

Is your club thinking short term about membership development? Most of us are. Usually when we discuss growing membership, we talk about recruiting people who will join us soon – within a

few months. We invite them to meetings and events, tell them about our organization to appropriately set their expectations, and quickly invite them to join us if we find they are qualified for membership. Good recruiting techniques are an important part of our membership program.

One Zonta Club, however, is thinking much more strategically about creating a “growth machine” and taking a much longer view of when they may welcome some new members. Here is their story:



Mentoring New Members

The Zonta Club of Springfield, Massachusetts, USA is preparing for its membership future now by mentoring members of the Club-sponsored Golden Z Club at Bay Path College. Judy Cohen, past International Z and Golden Z Club Subcommittee Coordinator, was a mentor to current Club President,

Lynn Brooks Polaski during Lynn’s Golden Z days from 1986-1988.

Judy was also Lynn’s sponsor for Zonta Club membership in 2001. Both women agree that involving Golden Z Club members in Zonta Club events and keeping in touch after they graduate is essential to their interest in and eligibility for Zonta Club membership.

“Being in Golden Z made it very easy to join Zonta without hesitation,” Lynn said. “I already knew about Zonta and the important role it plays in our society.” She also notes that her Golden Z service helped prepare her for her role as Zonta Club President.

Like Lynn, Club Secretary Cheryl Barton and Board Member Karen Duffy were former Bay Path College Golden Z Club members. Cheryl credits her Club membership to her early exposure to Zonta as a Golden Z Member, including her invitation to the 2000 Zonta Convention in Hawaii.

Recognizing the success of recruiting these Golden Z Club members, the Zonta Club of Springfield has included a “big sister/little sister” mentoring component in their membership recruitment plans.

2005-2006 Emma Conlon Awards

The Emma L. Conlon Service Award contest recognizes Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs whose projects and programs best express the ideals of Zonta and the Z Club program, and contribute to advancing the status of women. US cash prizes are awarded: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$100

Award	Z Club	Sponsored by Zonta Club of
1st	St. Michael’s	Laguna, Philippines
2nd	Liberty Benton High School	Findlay, Ohio USA
3rd	Brampton Centennial	Brampton-Caledon, Ontario Canada

Award	Golden Z Club	Sponsored by Zonta Club of
1st	St. Michael’s College	Laguna, Philippines
2nd	Northern Michigan University	Marquette Area, Michigan, USA
3rd	Bay Path College	Springfield, Massachusetts, USA

Zonta Clubs Address Violence Against Women

Zonta Clubs have made the prevention of violence against women a priority at the local level through community-based service and advocacy projects and internationally through contributions to the Zonta International Foundation ZISVAW Fund. Some of these efforts are detailed below; but we know much more work is being done, and we want to hear about it. Share your Zonta District and Club activities dedicated to preventing gender-based violence by visiting www.zonta.org/share.

Zonta Club of Muntinlupa and Environs, Philippines

Following a recent 40-minute sexual abuse prevention class offered at a Muntinlupa City public elementary school by the Zonta Club of Muntinlupa and Environs, a young girl in attendance made a painful confession – her stepfather had been raping her for three years. Unfortunately this type of violence against girls is common; but the admission of it is difficult and often does not emerge quickly enough to stop the abuse in its early stages. The Zonta Club of Muntinlupa is working to change this by providing the sexual abuse prevention classes every week to elementary schools in the city. The classes help students to avoid becoming victims and clearly define actions they should take if they are assaulted.



Abused women and their children take refuge in SAGIR, a 24-hour Crisis Response Center founded and operated by the Zonta Club of Muntinlupa & Environs Foundation, Inc.

The Club launched the classes in 2003 as the preventative part of a broader community outreach program to prevent violence against women and girls and to treat victims. The project was formed in reaction to disturbing statistics released by the Philippine National Police and Department of Social Welfare and Development that showed at least 30 percent of Filipino children under 18 years were experiencing physical or sexual abuse.

The Club opened the Sagip Crisis Center for abused women and children six years ago to treat victims. The center has handled more than 2,000 cases, half of which have involved children. The young girl who revealed being raped by her stepfather was placed at the center after staff visited her home and her medical examinations confirmed sexual abuse. Rape charges were filed against her stepfather. He remains at large. Hoping to start a new life, the girl told her mother that she wants to remain at the Club's center because she feels safer there. The center will continue to counsel her and provide legal assistance if necessary.

Zonta Club of Nassau, Bahamas

The first confirmed case of AIDS in the Bahamas was reported in 1983. By 2000, AIDS had become the second leading cause of death in the general population and the leading cause of death of people aged 11-44, according to the Bahamas AIDS Secretariat. However, much national progress has been made toward the prevention, treatment and de-stigmatization of the disease, and the Bahamian government lists the Zonta Club of Nassau as a key contributor to it.

In 1992, the Club formed the AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas to provide HIV/AIDS education and



Zonta Club of Nassau members make a contribution to the AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas, which the club started.

awareness, prevention assistance, treatment and support of people living with the disease. The first large-scale task the Zonta-formed Foundation addressed was to raise funds for the purchase of the antiviral drug AZT for pregnant HIV-positive women to help reduce mother-to-child transmission. Before the Club started the project, the transmission rate was 30% – the rate today is under 2%. Once the success of the program was evident, the Bahamian government began to purchase the medication, and now provides it to all persons in need. The Foundation also provides counseling and support for people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, sponsors public service announcements, billboards and training for people who address the disease. The Foundation hosts a Red Ribbon Ball every year around World AIDS Day on 1 December to raise money for their important work.

Zonta Club of Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Members of the Zonta Club of Madison designed, manufactured and painted wooden, life-size figures and installed them at a busy intersection, with a sign that read "Domestic Abuse Affects Each of Us!" The silhouettes served to remind the community of the real women who are no longer alive due to domestic



Zonta Club of Madison members set up a display to bring attention to the issue of domestic violence.

violence. In their county, six of the last nine women killed were murdered by boyfriends or husbands. An intimate partner commits 22 percent of the murders of young women aged 16 to 19 in the area. The community's domestic abuse intervention department also presented Club-sponsored adult education about domestic abuse.

District 23 Zonta Clubs

In November, Zontians from South Australia in District 23 joined members of the service organizations Rotary, Lions, Soroptimist, Kiwanis and Apex to support the United Nations Day for Elimination



Zonta Club of Bunbury Inc members (left to right) Kristie Slater, Stephanie Jamison, Sheila Leslie and Vivienne Doyle sold white ribbons at a mall to raise money for a local domestic violence shelter. Club members distributed pamphlets about the topic, raised local awareness about the work of Zonta and have since followed up on membership inquiries generated from the event.

of Violence Against Women and Children. The service Clubs belong to the Association of Community Service Clubs (ACSO), which organizes and implements annual public awareness-raising events and advocates on important issues with the state government.

The South Australia Zonta Clubs suggested to the ACSO a unified effort in 2006 to highlight violence against

women as a widespread human rights violation and to call for the prevention of it. The first step the ACSO Clubs took was to sell white ribbons throughout the state, targeting men, especially young men, as a plea to stop the abuse. The proceeds raised from ribbon sales were contributed to UNIFEM for its work to eliminate violence against women and girls.

"What an achievement to have hundreds of men wearing the ribbon and coming out to stop this violence in our society," said Millicent Hughes, Treasurer of the Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc.

Zonta Club of New York, New York, USA

More than 100 women and men gathered in November to discuss strategies to end domestic violence in New York City. Local chapters of five international women's organizations, including the Zonta Club of New York, organized the conference, which was timed to respond to the release of the UN Secretary General's Study on Ending Violence Against Women. Zonta Club of New York President Leslie Wright served as Convener of the Organizing Committee and 10 Club members attended the conference.

Keynote speaker Catharine MacKinnon, a nationally recognized feminist attorney and author, described the root cause of domestic violence as the absence or denial of

women's equal rights. She provided a human rights framework for addressing all forms of violence including sexual and physical assault, and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

She cited the need for comprehensive, coordinated, sustained action as recommended in the UN study. Expert panelists echoed Catharine's remarks, highlighting the need to recognize gender as the root cause of violence and naming the issue as male violence against women.



Zonta Club of New York President Leslie Wright (right) and Greater Queens member Sharon Perry attend a conference to discuss local strategies to end domestic violence in New York City.

Participants attended workshops to develop strategies on specific issues, including:

- Trafficking – a discussion of New York State legislation in the upcoming session;
- Culture and Community – multicultural responses to domestic violence in NYC;
- Medical/Mental Health – exchange among professionals about appropriate responses to domestic violence;
- Patriarchy – an analysis of ways to transform patriarchal order to a holistic human rights system, leading to social change.
- The Role of Law Enforcement – tools to assist law enforcement in addressing key issues.



For more stories, visit www.zonta.org/action



Women in Business Recipients Share Global Career Aspirations

In 2006, Zonta awarded six international Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships. On this page the international recipients share their aspirations. Visit www.zonta.org/ljmk2006 to read recipient biographies.

Cara Jellison (USA)

District 3

Career Aspirations: Corporate accountant in the field of chemistry

"I plan to use both of my degrees in accounting and chemistry to further understand the product and the people that work for the company. I believe that leaders, especially in a business setting, must be able to relate to their co-workers and understand concepts to make informed decisions. By working on the business side of this industry, I will be able to work for many stakeholder interests. People who work in business environments they enjoy and are passionate about always succeed more than those who do not."

Irina Kansakar (USA)

District 7

Career Aspirations: International trade policy

"[Growing up in Nepal] I realized the power of education and its influence in making the world a better place. In a country where women are considered inferior and deprived of education, I intend to set an example with my success. Every business development, every intelligent strategy and every improvisation to deal with variety of customers fostered in me love and passion for trade and commerce. I want to open doors for trade between the US and Nepal that will benefit the US international market and widen innovations for Nepal."

Anna Koscielecka (USA)

District 9

Career Aspirations: Global business management

"The ability to skillfully adapt to different environments, motivate and communicate with people from various

cultures, speak different languages are all valuable skills to develop, especially for a business person. However, I believe that the most important is to learn to respect and appreciate diversity. Global leaders, including business leaders, need to do this instead of imposing homogenous rules on other nations.

the business paradigm. I believe that models of business success can be used to reduce poverty and alleviate injustice. This is particularly true if women are at the core of the change, because in all societies women are responsible for influencing so many everyday decisions despite being under-represented in positions of power."



Melissa Manuel (USA)

District 10

Career Aspirations: International trade policy

"In international trade, there are more aspects to consider than the money, there are people involved. My concern is the effects trade has on a country and its people. With the great and powerful nations that exist today, there is no reason for the existence of extremely impoverished countries. I am confident that there is a way to make life better for others through our trading policies. A true global understanding is the key, and through my career I will promote this idea."

Julie Mitchell (Canada)

District 4

Career Aspirations: Business management

"The [Scholarship] will assist me in reaching my goals, as it will help me complete my undergraduate degree and pursue a Masters degree. I will be able to put my time into volunteering and business clubs. My plan after graduation is to become more involved in the community by volunteering with the Breast Cancer Society and Big Sisters. Having the opportunity to be a positive role model for young women is important to me as I had many mentors to look up to when I was young."

My goal is to become a business leader who will understand the diversity, appreciate it and promote understanding between cultures."

Alison Macintyre (Australia)

District 24

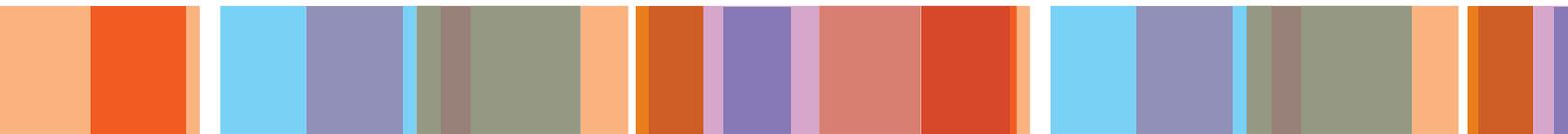
Career Aspirations: International economic policy

"My overarching objective in life is to effect positive social change through

The Zonta International Convention 2008 in Rotterdam will flood your Zonta experiences with wonderful impressions.



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
ROTTERDAM 2008



The enthusiastic and inspirational Convention Committee is happily planning your next Convention. From 28th June to 3rd July 2008 your presence is requested in the Netherlands to attend the 59th Zonta International Convention in Rotterdam: the place to be in 2008!

In Rotterdam as in the rest of the Netherlands, you will see lots of water. Ditches, lakes, canals, rivers, sluices, flood barriers,

tunnels and bridges are characteristic of the flat land beside the North Sea. Water in Holland is as much a friend as an enemy. Water has made the Dutch people innovative: centuries ago they developed windmills to keep people's feet dry in this land that is below sea level. Nowadays, Dutch engineers are some of the world's most enterprising managers of water, so vital in a changing world of global warming and rising water-level problems. Come to the City and the Port of Rotterdam

and see the famous paintings of Dutch winter landscapes with people amusing themselves on the ice; this gives you a clue as to why the Dutch hold Olympic medals in swimming, skating and sailing. Water is a necessity: water connects, communicates, and is vital for all living things.

Come to Rotterdam in 2008 and, on the banks of the river Rhine, drink a toast to an unforgettable Zonta Convention 2008!

www.zonta2008.com





Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

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Welcome New Zonta Clubs

The Zonta International "family" around the world extends a warm welcome to our new Zonta Clubs. We rejoice in the experience and expertise you will share with us and with those you serve!

Feldbach, Austria
 District 14, Area 1

Schwäbisch Hall, Germany
 District 30, Area 2

Ulaanbaatar II, Mongolia
 Not Districted

As of 30 November 2006, Zonta International has 1,240 clubs in 68 countries and geographic areas.



Zonta Clubs

Members of Zonta International

The United States Postal Service requires that we publish our Statement of Ownership in this 2006-2008 Biennial Issue Number 3 of *The Zontian* magazine, Volume 87, No. 4, Publication Title: *The Zontian*, Publication No. 0279-3229; Filing Date: 1 December 2006; Issue Frequency: Quarterly; No. of Issues Published Annually: 4; Annual Subscription Price: US\$8.50 or included in membership; Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Zonta International, 557 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60661, USA; Publisher: Janet Halstead; Editor: Cathe Wood; Managing Editor: Emily Aughinbaugh; Owner: Zonta International, 557 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60661, USA; Known Bond-Holders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1% or More of the Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None; For completion by non-profit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months. Following are the numbers for the average number of copies produced for each issue during the preceding 12 months as they appear on our official statement: Total No. of Copies: 9,878; Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions: 9,795; Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 8; Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 9,803; Free Distribution by Mail—Outside County:0; Free Distribution Outside the Mail:0; Total Free Distribution: 0; Total Distribution 9,803; Copies not Distributed:75; Total: 9,878; Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 100%. Following are the numbers for the actual number of copies of a single issue published nearest to the filing date as they appear on our official statement: Total No. of Copies: 9,842; Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions: 9,817; Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 0; Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 9,817; Free Distribution by Mail—Outside County:0; Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 0; Total Free Distribution 0; Total Distribution: 9,817; Copies not Distributed: 25; Total: 9,842; Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 100%.



8 March is International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day

Zontians around the world have a very special reason to celebrate. Our efforts have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of women everywhere.

On this day, Zonta Districts and Clubs should:

- Celebrate progress and outline future steps to improve women's equality;
- Unite women's organizations to encourage collaboration;
- Generate contributions for the Zonta International Foundation Rose Fund;
- Create visibility for Zonta.



Log on to www.zonta.org/rose to download suggested activities, sample news release, Zonta Rose History, Graphics and more.