



Zonta Zephyr

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Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area

Member of Zonta International

Introducing: The Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado

At a break out session at the Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium, September 20, 2008, a group of people signed up to create a task force. Since that time many organizational activities have taken place. Several mundane things like when to meet, where to meet, and who would meet, were the initial focus of the group from October through December. The plan included contacting any non-governmental organization that might be interested in meeting with us, as well as law enforcement agencies and religious groups.

Beginning in January we spent some time deciding just what/who we were and what we might want to accomplish. After much soul searching and discussion we focused on a mission statement.

The mission of The Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado is to build a collaboration of organizations and individuals to reduce human suffering caused by human trafficking, through advocacy, awareness, rehabilitation, and services for survivors.

Awareness was chosen as our first focus as it was in our mission statement and was reinforced by the Polaris Project Community Needs Assessments conducted by Zonta members during 2008. The community wanted more information. We agreed that we would continue to support the Polaris effort to gather additional Needs Assessments that would give Polaris a clearer picture of what direction to take in Colorado Springs.

Helen S. is serving as the chairman of this committee for the Task Force and is looking

for those who would spend a couple of hours training for the assessments, then scheduling the assessments at their own pace.

They would probably take about an hour. Any Zontians who might want to do this again or maybe for the first time, please contact Helen. There is a tentative training date by Polaris of Monday, April 6th at 11:30. A development committee was also set up and they have provided a power point presentation that can be used when talking with interested organizations. A presentation committee will focus on doing the presentations and to whom.

We have six members of Zonta involved with this Task Force: Betty E., Debra M., Julie M., Eva M., Shannon R., and Helen S. Any member is invited to join with us and/or to attend Task Force meetings held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:50 at:

The First United Methodist Church
Room #134, South Entrance

Let's get rid of Modern Day Slavery!!!

--Betty E.



International Service Program

Women's equality is not yet a reality. Women worldwide face systemized discrimination - they lack opportunities to live healthy lives, free from legal, social, economic and political inequality. Zonta International empowers women to overcome barriers to their equal human rights through its International Service Projects funded by the Zonta International Foundation. Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$8 million to projects benefiting millions of women and their families representing 34 countries.



*"Men, their rights,
and nothing more;
women, their rights,
and nothing less."
— Susan B. Anthony*



One of the three ZI Grants for 2008-2010: **Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV** in Rwanda. US\$600,000 is being funded to UNICEF

THE NEED: In April and May of 1994 nearly 1 million Rwandans, a full 10% of the population, were killed in the Rwandan genocide. One third of those killed were children. The genocide, combined with the brutal civil war that continued after, led to the displacement of 3.7 million people and created hundreds of thousands of orphaned children. Throughout this terrifying time women across the country were repeatedly raped as a weapon of war.

The effects of the war, and of the pervasive use of rape as a weapon, still deeply affect this African Nation. In addition to the terrible trauma inflicted on the victims of rape many contracted sexually transmitted diseases, and half became HIV positive. The wave of HIV/AIDS that swept the nation following the initial massacre has led to a country where 30% of children are orphans, and 190,000 Rwandans, including 27,000 children, are HIV positive. Women in Rwanda are 1.5 times more likely to be HIV positive than men, and young women are 5 times more likely to contract HIV than young men.

Half of all healthcare workers were killed or displaced during the war, and those who remain must make do with little equipment, not enough medicine and under-funded facilities, many of which don't even have electricity. Ninety percent (90%) of children living with HIV contracted the virus during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding; almost all of these cases could have been prevented if the mother had access to proper medical treatment.

RESPONSE: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCTC) projects can virtually eliminate the passage of HIV from mother to child. By providing free, confidential HIV testing and counseling more women will become aware of their status as HIV positive. Women who are found to be HIV positive will be given access to prenatal and obstetrical care, including antiretroviral medications during pregnancy and delivery that prevent transmission of the virus to the child. Following birth, new mothers will receive counseling options to prevent transmission during breastfeeding and, where feasible, will be given access to baby formula to be used in place of breast milk.

Far more than just preventing transmission, these efforts will also address the medical, nutritional, psychological and economic needs of HIV positive women and their families through what is known as the Family Package. Women will have access to psychosocial counseling to help them learn how best to live with their HIV status. Education, combined with the mobilization of community and religious leaders, will help reduce the stigma of being HIV positive and prevent discrimination. Income-generating schemes will help HIV positive mothers to care for themselves and their families.

With projects like this, HIV positive women will stay healthier longer and live better more productive lives.

Featured Quotation and Link

"How can one not speak about war, poverty, and inequality when people who suffer from these afflictions don't have a voice to speak?" - Isabel Allende

Information about Rwanda: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwanda>



Third Annual Glass Slipper Ball – March 7, 2009



<http://zontapikespeak.org/gsb/gsb2009/index.html>

Make the Connection!
Register on the Zonta International site for access to Member Resources.

<http://zonta.org>



Dates to Remember



April 6, 2009
April 20, 2009

Board Meeting
General Meeting
Fellowship: 5:00 PM
Program: 5:30 PM

Area Meetings:
April 4, 2009
April 25, 2009

Area 2 - Converse County or Laramie
Area 1 - Glendive

October 30-
Nov. 1, 2009

District 12 Conference - Denver

2010

60th ZI Convention, San Antonio TX



**Zonta Club
of the
Pikes Peak
Area**

PO Box 7924
Colorado Springs CO 80933

**"ADVANCING
THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN
WORLDWIDE"**

Our Mission...

To advance the status of women and serve our community through local and international contributions, and to achieve personal and professional growth in a nurturing and supportive environment.

About Our Organization...

The Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area has been serving our community since 1949 by advancing the status of women. Our club has devoted funds to scholarships for women returning to the workforce as well as to high school seniors seeking to further their education in Public Affairs or Aeronautics and other highly technical fields. Many funds as well as hands-on service hours and mentorships have been dedicated to TESSA, Intercept, Full-Circle, and support of the locally-placed Liberian refugees.



2009 Glass Slipper Ball

The Winners!



Zonta International
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

We're on the Web!

ZontaPikesPeak.org

Member Information

Nearly 33,000 members belong to more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 66 countries.

Fulfilling our mission locally and globally.

For membership information, please contact Laura S.

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