

ZONTA NEWS

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Service

Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer's mission of enhancing the status of women and children through service was paramount in 2020. Members worked with Big Brothers/Big Sisters during the trunk or treat event for Halloween and served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army on Dec. 4.

Advocacy

For the third straight year, Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer marked the *16 Days of Activism* (Nov. 25 - Dec. 10) with the placement of an ad on a Trenton shuttle bus. The ad ran all year long. The ad stated that *Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women!*



We also took our activism campaign to social media posts each day and an article in *Mercer County Woman*. Stayed tuned in 2022—there are big plans for our advocacy projects!

Membership

Membership drives during a pandemic are difficult at best, but 2021 still saw ZCTM adding one new member! A Zing for membership recruitment is scheduled for March 2022!

2021 - Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer Celebrating 90 Years All Year Long!

In April 1931, several women gathered in Trenton to start the adventure of founding the 112th club within Zonta International with the dream of enhancing the status of women locally and globally. Their dream of serving women in their community was strong. In the 1930's, they delivered free milk to moms during the Depression; lead the charge of the American Cancer Society's Field Army in cancer education; donated the funds for the first emergency vehicle in Mercer County; founded the Visiting Nurse Association in Mercer County; funded scholarships for women over 25; began the Zonta Club Community Grant to fund Zonta mission-conscious projects in Mercer County; and so much more!

90th Anniversary Project - Zonta Closet

To celebrate our 90th Anniversary, ZCTM began a partnership with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, a long time partner in helping foster children, by creating the **Zonta Closet**. This project began in earnest in May 2021 and continued till October when we presented to Donna Pressma, CEO of CHSNJ, clothing, coats, shoes, diapers, wipes and books for children aged newborn to 4 year old that would be served in the brand new Liberty Street Early Head Start Center in Trenton, NJ. There were even some hand-knit car seat blankets from our Sue Halsey! The items are intended as "emergency clothes" for children who, for whatever reason, become soiled during the day. The families will keep any clothes used for their children. The center will serve up to 80 children from low-income households. A van was required to take away all the items donated! In addition, ZCTM has donated and dedicated funds to replenish the clothes/diapers as needed.



Book donations for the **Zonta Closet** will continue in April 2022 as it is the focus of the service project for attendees of the Area 1 and 2 workshops.

Zonta Fills 150 Backpacks

Zonta Club's continuing support of Franklin Elementary School in Trenton saw the members filling 150 backpacks to begin the 2021/2022 school year. The backpacks were prepared by Kathy Spence and Ellen Clark and along with Judy Levy were able to distribute to students in Aug.

Books For the Holidays

A special holiday service project found the members providing an age-appropriate book to every child served by Better Beginnings Child Development Center in Hightstown. Kathy Spence and Ellen Clark delivered the books to Luz Horta, ED, of Better Beginnings.

Zonta Club Holiday Giving

December and holiday giving is one of our favorite times of year. During the month, Zonta members donated and funded the following:

1. Clothing for newborns and toddlers to Children's Home Society.
2. \$750 in gift cards to teens served by LifeTies.
3. \$500 in gift cards to families in need served by Early Head Start.
4. A book was wrapped with ribbon for each child served by Better Beginnings Child Care Center.
4. Gifts and clothing to 20 children in the Salvation Army *Angel Tag Program*.
5. 23 Tote bags filled with pajamas, socks and toiletries for women served by WomanSpace.

Zonta 50/50 Raffle a Success!

On Oct. 16, ZCTM held a 50/50 raffle. Members sold 250 tickets and the club was able to fund all Zonta projects for 2021/2022! Congrats to all the winners, and thank you to all our sponsors Zonta during the pandemic! Thank you to Cathy Campbell, fundraising chair, who guided this project from Florida!

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District 3 First Place in Service Award 2020/2021

At the October 2021 District 3 Governor's Conference held in Wilmington, DE, ZCTM was presented the *District 3 First Place in Service Award* for 2020/2021! What an incredible honor for our club.

Recognized for the service projects that presented 150 backpacks to Franklin Elementary, collecting 1,100 bras for the *Free the Girls Campaign* and providing Chemo Care Kits to women at Capital

Health Hospital at Hopewell undergoing chemotherapy. For ZCTM, service is its heart and is one of the pillars of the mission of Zonta International. "This award is especially special to all Zontians. It shows that we are touching the community that we love and making a difference," said Judy Levy, president of ZCTM. All of our members share in this great honor!



ZCTM Says Thank You to Workers at BBCCC

During the pandemic, many workers went that extra mile and maybe two miles to help their communities. One such group was the child care providers at Better Beginnings Child Care Center in Hightstown. Serving the children and parents in this low-income area, these workers came to work to care for children so that their parents could work to support them. Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer saw these efforts! So ZCTM, in their last COVID service donation, purchased Amazon gift cards for each worker and presented them (along with a flower) on National Providers Appreciation Day on May 7, 2021. In addition to this honor, ZCTM also helped fund the purchase of PPE for staff during the pandemic. Congratulations to all who work with Better Beginnings!



Scholarship Winners

Zonta clubs offer scholarships to students of all ages to support our mission of enhancing the status of women everywhere. The 2021 *Z Club Scholarship* (\$500) was split between to Kierra Hunter and Aniya Davis, graduating seniors at Willingboro High School. The *Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship* (\$500) went to Samantha Finch, a 2021 high school graduate. She will attend Cal Tech. Reenauda Howard was granted the local *Grace Brauningner Scholarship* (\$2,000). Congratulations, Kierra, Aniya, Samantha and Reenauda!



Samantha Finch is presented the 2021 *Young Woman in Public Affairs Award* by Judy Levy, president.

Cathy Campbell Awarded Helen Solon Award

In a surprise but very worthy move, Cathy Campbell, ZCTM club director and District 3 Public Relations Chair, was awarded the *Helen Solon Award* from Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer during the Dist. 3 Governor's Conference on October 23, 2021. Owner and publisher of *Mercer County Woman*, a bi-monthly newspaper on woman's health and other issues, Cathy has worked tirelessly to help ZCTM in its fundraising and advocacy. The *Helen Solon Award* is given in honor of an outstanding member of ZCTM. A donation was made to Zonta International Foundation in her honor.



Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer Board of Directors

2021/2022

President - Judy Levy
Vice-President - Nancy Thomson
Treasurer - Pam Kelly
Co-Secretaries - Ellen Clark,
 Kathleen Spence
Directors- Amelia Choe,
 Linda Foster,
 Meg Rosner,
 Cathy Campbell

2022 Upcoming Events

March 3 - Zing at home of Judy Levy
 April 23 - 90th Anniversary Luncheon during area workshops
 May 14 - Book Club via Zoom
 October 6 - ZCTM Fundraiser TBD

2021 Zonta Club Community Grant to Anchor House

The 2021 Zonta Club Community Grant (\$5,000) was awarded on October 16, 2021 to Anchor House in Trenton in support of their innovative equine therapy program for traumatized children in foster care. Anchor House, always looking for unique and effective ways to help their teens who have suffered so much, . According to Kim McNear, Executive Director of Anchor House, the program will combine traditional therapy with equine therapy to bring healing. Zonta Club and Anchor House have a long history of partnering to serve the women and children of Mercer County. In 2017, Anchor House was awarded our Community Grant to provide weighted blankets and aroma therapy to allow traumatized foster children to be able to rest and sleep so they can learn. ZCTM is proud to once again partner with Anchor House to help these children.



Zonta Says Thank You To Our Wonderful Sponsors!

Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer has so much to be thankful for in 2021. Most especially we are thankful for the businesses and friends who have supported the work of Zonta. Our 50/50 raffle sponsors were **PNC Bank** (Premier Sponsor); **e-Title Solutions**, **The Brandt Team/ RE-MAX Properties**, **Erb's Garage**, **In Good Hands Chiropractic, LLC.**, and **Mercer County Woman Newspaper** (Gold sponsors); **Calman Real Estate** (Silver sponsors); and **Burrows and Sons Heating and Air Conditioning** and **Buxton's Boxes** (Bronze sponsors). Through their support, Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer will be fully funded in the coming year. Thank you so much!

ZCTM Establishes Book Club in 2021

During the pandemic ZCTM sought ways to have members connect, even if by Zoom. Zonta International has encouraged clubs worldwide to create book clubs to stimulate discussion AND learning about issues surrounding women's ability to progress, education, violence, marriage, etc. With several books in mind, the Zonta Club Book Club was established! Area 2 club members have joined use with each meeting! Our first book club meeting on May 1 to discuss *The Moment of Lift* by Melinda Gates; on October 9, we discussed *Radium Girls* by Kate Moore and we started 2022 with *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai. Each meeting is moderated by our very able, Kathleen Spence. Join us on May 14 when the featured book is *Believing* by Anita Hill.