



ZONTA

CLUB OF
MIDLAND

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

ZCOM News

January/February 2016

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Are you interested in a 2016/17
leadership role with Zonta Club of
Midland?

We need you!

Please contact the Nominating
Committee and let us know of
your interest:

[Ann Beck](#)

[Sharon Mortensen](#)

[Cynthia Chilcote](#)

Calendar

Jan. 18 – Human Trafficking
presentation 5:00-7:00 Salv. Army

Jan. 19 – Social meeting 6:00 pm
Bridget Lichon/Nan Blasy

Feb. 2 – Business meeting 12:00

Feb. 2/4 – DC Tennis Classic ZING

Feb. 16 – Intercity Dinner

Mar. 1 – Business meeting 12:00

President's Message

Happy New Year!!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed time with your families and friends. We had a short but great trip back to Minnesota to see family. Winter has returned and I actually like finally seeing snow! My family skis and I run outside in the winter, so we *do* enjoy this time of year. I hope you all have been enjoying the change in season, whether you stay here or retreat to someplace warm.

Our January dinner meeting will feature a panel discussing physical and mental wellness. Our own Nan Blasy and Bridget Lichon (one of our newest members) will discuss physical wellness. They will be joined by Jennifer Werries, PhD, of New Pathways Counseling discussing mental wellness for the New Year. Our February meeting will be our Intercity Dinner with fellow Zontians from Saginaw and, hopefully this year, Mt. Pleasant.

We had a very successful Homewalk and I thank all of you for your efforts. Without participation from EVERYONE this great fundraiser would not happen. A special thanks to the Homewalk Committee.

As we look forward, please consider letting Maureen Acker know that you can help the Ways & Means committee with the April Auction. The committee is very small and needs more members! We use the funds to help defray the cost of our members attending conferences. Don't forget to bring your donations to our meetings or contact Maureen to let her know what you might have!

Yours in Service,

Ann Beck, President



Service Fund Grants Available - Apply Now!

Each year our Midland Club has available grant monies that are awarded to non-profit agencies in the Midland area. Agencies that apply must complete and submit an application specifying in their request the intended use for the funds. The club requires that these funds be used in programs or for the support of programs that assist women with economic empowerment, assist in the development of women in leadership, or assist women who are in financial need.

Grant Applications should be submitted by February 1, 2016. Grants will be awarded by March 15, 2016. Application can be mailed to Jill VanderZouwen, Zonta Club of Midland, P.O. Box 196, Midland, MI 48640.

2015 Homewalk A Big Hit

- By Denise Avery, 2015 Homewalk Co-chair

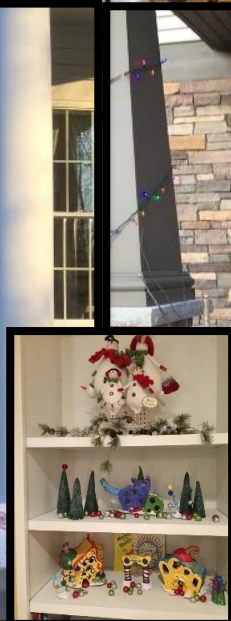
The 2015 Zonta Holiday Homewalk represented another successful event for the Midland Chapter. Beautiful weather combined with exquisite holiday decor, resulted in strong attendance over the 2-day event. The average daily attendance was just short of 400 visitors, nearly 100/hour. Visitors marveled at the beauty of the homes and willingly shared their favorites with our volunteer hostesses. As always, the diversity in design and architecture of the

homes created widespread interest.

Our Rest Stop this year was hosted by Midland's Independence Village. Homewalk ticket holders enjoyed excellent food while listening to live holiday music. We experienced a record number of visitors at the Rest Stop, averaging 230/day!

Sponsorship contributions for this year's event totaled \$14,875. Ticket sales totaled \$13,975, representing \$7,995-membership sales, \$4,920-ticket locations and \$1,060-tickets sold at the door the day of the event.

Thank you to the Zonta Midland Membership and the many volunteers responsible for making our annual Holiday Homewalk a success!



New Members Join Ranks

At the December business meeting, Carole Calvert-Baxter, District 15 Past Governor and Membership Committee co-chair Kim Walden welcomed and inducted new members Rachelle Ferman and Kristi Bower into ZCOM membership.



(LEFT TO RIGHT)
SPONSOR BONNIE WESTERVELT AND NEW MEMBER RACHELLE FERMAN; SPONSOR CYNTHIA CHILCOTE AND NEW MEMBER KRISTI BOWER.



Read their bios below

Rachelle Ferman has been a physical therapist for 13 years and with Physical Therapist and Rehab Specialist for the past 6 years. She specializes in vestibular/balance rehabilitation and has a post grad certification in Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy. She and her husband stay busy with their 4 children and enjoy attending their sporting and musical events and spending time with friends and family. They also enjoy hiking, playing cards, listening to music, and photography.

She is excited to become part of an organization promoting equal rights for women of all ages and looks forward to setting an example for her daughters, showing that you can make a difference in the world.

Kristi Bower is a native of Midland where she lives with her husband Josh and dog Anna. Currently, Kristi is an account manager at leuter Insurance Group in Midland. She takes pride in helping people review their individual needs and recommending comprehensive coverages. Kristi has been in the insurance business since 2007 when she started at Arbury Insurance. In October of 2011 she was hired at leuter Insurance Group in the Commercial Lines Department.

In her spare time Kristi enjoys doing a variety of things in the community from participating in the Day of Caring to helping plant the leuter garden at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. She always enjoys spending time with friends and family as well as traveling anywhere a cruise ship can take her.



Jane White, Director Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force

Speaking on how human trafficking affects us globally, nationally, statewide and in Midland

Monday, Jan. 18, 5:00-7:00 pm
Salvation Army
330 Waldo Ave.

Learn when to escape...when to fight back...how to survive...

Join MindPrime and the Golden Z Club of Northwood for a free two-hour class on personal self-defense. Classes run all day on Wed. January 20 at Hach Center on NU's campus. Contact [Christie McDonald](#) for more.



WHOLE FOODS SPONSORSHIP SUPPORTS CREATING4CHANGE

[Creating4Change](#) has partnered with all six of the Whole Foods stores in Michigan, along with the women's organization [Zonta International District 15](#) to raise Creating4Change finishing (post-production) funds.

From now until the end of March, when you shop at any Whole Foods store in Michigan, if you bring your own shopping bag you'll be able to donate your \$.10 bag credit to Zonta District 15. Zonta is serving as the fiscal sponsor of this fundraiser and all of the funds raised will support post-production on *Creating4Change*.

District 15 is currently working to coordinate marketing materials and Zonta staffing for the six stores participating in this fundraiser on select dates. Clubs near the stores will be trying to staff a Zonta table at each store.

[Watch the video message to Zontians and subscribers from Sophia Cruz below.](#)



Visit Sophia's website at www.sophiakruzproductions.com/about.html and check out the new Creating4Change trailer.

A message from ZI International Director, Josephine Odedina



Josephine Odedina
Zonta Club of Lagos I

I cannot thank you enough for your most warm hospitality during my short stay with all of you. Hearty congratulations on the success of the District 15 fall conference. I see much cooperation among all the members, and I hope you will keep it up.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work done by the chairperson of the conference, Darcie Clapp, and her members.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Nice, where we shall celebrate all of the ideas we have brewed.

Warmest regard,

Josephine Odedina
International Director 2014-2016
Zonta International & Zonta International Foundation
'Empowering Women Through Service and Advocacy'

FROM THE DESK OF D15 GOVERNOR CHERYL HALL...



Jane White, Director Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force

Jane White has shared important information regarding the latest RUMOR that Michigan is #2 in human trafficking which I inadvertently shared during our Spring Workshops. Please take note of her wise approach to sharing 'sensational' information which MAY NOT be able to be substantiated. It is important that we stay focused on the message rather than the sensationalism. [Please read and share.](#)



D15 WELL-REPRESENTED IN MINNEAPOLIS

Twenty-one Zontians represented District 15 at the North American InterDistrict Meeting in Minneapolis June 12-14, 2015.

ZCOM member Carole Calvert-Baxter served on the executive committee to plan and host the event. Great program, Carole!

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

As many of you know, several notable Zontians have been installed in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. ZI District 15 has worked closely with the Center since its inception, and we are fortunate to have several Zontians on their current board. Right now they are working feverishly on a new exhibit, "Great Girls in Michigan History," based on a book by Patricia Majher. Look for an email in the next couple of days requesting financial support for this project by February 23. Since the center does not cover Canadian clubs, only Michigan clubs will be sent the email. If you don't receive the email, let me know cherylfhall@mailcity.com.

MEET YOUR AREA DIRECTOR

Lisa Hulbert - Midland Club - Area 4 Director



Lisa Hulbert has been a member of Zonta Club of Midland since 2003. She was President of the Midland Club in 2007 and had the good fortune to attend the Zonta International Conference in Australia in 2006. She has held other Board positions and has chaired various committees since 2003. Being the Area 4 Director has given her opportunities to meet many of our fellow Zontians throughout Michigan and Canada.

Lisa has 28 years of experience in the commercial design and contract furniture industry. Lisa has worked for CBRE for four years supporting the Dow Chemical account as the North American workplace strategy manager.

Lisa grew up in Coleman, Michigan and now resides in Midland. She has been married to Mike for 25 years. Mike works for the City of Midland as battalion chief for the Fire Department. They have two sons: Trevor, twenty and a sophomore at Central Michigan University and Spencer, 17 and a senior at Dow High School.

District 15 Giving through November 30, 2015

Congratulations on your generosity in helping women throughout the world reach their potential. Through club and individual donations, District 15 Zontians have contributed **\$92,879.94** to ZI since June 1, 2014.

That's an impressive amount of money-and we have an impressive amount of work to do. Let's keep it up!

National and International News

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE



Register for the 63rd Zonta International Convention and receive special early pricing!

[Click here to learn more and register](#)

[ZIF Individual & Club Invite Update](#)
2 July 2016 Musee des Beaux-Arts, Nice

From Our Governor...

Early Bird registration is available NOW. Go to the website and register before the February 27 deadline to save \$65: <http://zontaconventionnice.com/registration/>. It is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to expand your appreciation of Zonta International AND meet members from around the world while making decisions about the organization.

Hotels have made competitive promise for rates. If you don't know your member ID#, contact your treasurer or check your copy of the Zontian magazine.

There will be a District 15 meeting in Nice on Saturday, 7/2, 10:35 -11:20, Auditorium. There will be workshops and Round Table discussion on topics which we can impact as a District - so let me know if you have suggestions. There will be a Memorial Service honoring members who have passed away during the 2014-2016 biennium, and we will need to provide individuals' names. There is word that there will be limited discussion time regarding By-Laws: 12-minutes per bylaw. SEE YOU IN NICE IN JULY!

Advocating for Global Change
HIV-Free Nation



CREATING AN HIV-FREE NATION IN RWANDA

In cooperation with the US Fund for UNICEF, Zonta International has supported efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and gender-based violence in Rwanda since 2008. In that time, Zonta has provided more than US\$2 million to this project, with US\$800,000 allocated in the 2014-2016 Biennium.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Rwanda has set an ambitious target to achieve an HIV-free generation, and has maintained a low HIV prevalence at about 3 percent of the adult population. Still, throughout the country, adolescents, especially girls, remain at increased risk of contracting HIV. At the same time, providing protection for the country's 130,000 orphans is another critical factor in further reducing the prevalence of HIV and curbing issues of violence and abuse.

RESULTS

The project has impacted 95 percent of mother-infant pairs in 27 Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) family package sites and approximately 7,000 adolescent boys and girls have been reached with HIV prevention information and services. To date, a total of 300 health facility managers have received training on data collection to facilitate more comprehensive results around children with HIV. This initial investment will have a catalytic effect as it will provide more robust statistics and provide greater insight into HIV transmission among adolescents and inform the national response strategy. [Read more](#) about our achievements in Rwanda.

Advocating for Global Change
Human Trafficking

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime...

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. Read [more](#).

Federal Government Continues Focus on Human Trafficking

January has once again been proclaimed National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month as America's top lawmaker urges the country to "recognize the vital role we can play in ending all forms of slavery and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities."

Let's Learn About Human Trafficking – How Can it Exist Today?

Human trafficking is an incredibly complex issue based on dozens of contributing factors. So to understand how trafficking exists today, what it looks like, and why it is sustained, let's explore three factors that give it fuel.

At its most basic form, human trafficking is the buying and selling of people. It exists across continents and is facilitated through a variety of venues, but ultimately, human trafficking is an industry, and it profits from the exploitation of people. Human trafficking has been compared to modern-day slavery, and in many respects, the similarities are obvious.



"One hundred and fifty years ago, our Nation codified the fundamental truth that slavery is an affront to human dignity. Still, the bitter fact remains that millions of men, women, and children around the globe, including here at home, are subject to modern-day slavery: the cruel, inhumane practice of human trafficking." - *Barack Obama, U.S. President*

Slavery of the past was an accepted economic practice used to systematically exploit a specific group of people. Today, human trafficking is a criminal activity, and anyone can be a human trafficking victim regardless of ethnicity, nationality, gender, or economic status.

Human trafficking is now facilitated online and through social media. Traffickers use love and affection as attraction and control mechanisms, and victims might not even self-identify as victims.

What Factors Fuel Human Trafficking?

1. **High reward/low risk** - traffickers can expect to make a lot of money with minimal fear of punishment or legal consequence. It's the second most profitable illegal industry — second only to the drug trade. And while drugs are sold in one transaction, human beings can be sold over and over again.

2. **Supply and demand** - increasing demand from consumers for cheap goods incentivizes corporations to demand cheap labor, often forcing those at the bottom of the supply chain to exploit workers. Increased demand for commercial sex incentivizes commercial sex venues to recruit and exploit children.

3. **Systemic inequalities** - Mass displacement, conflict, extreme poverty, lack of access to education and job opportunities, violence, and harmful social norms like child marriage are all factors that push individuals into trafficking. Families living in extreme poverty or families in situations of desperation are more likely to accept risky job offers. And, when girls aren't allowed to learn, parents are more likely to sell their daughters to men for marriage. Ultimately, harmful social norms and systemic inequity fuel trafficking because traffickers target vulnerability.

