

ZONTA CLUB OF MIDLAND CELEBRATES ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

On June 5, 1947, the Zonta Club of Midland was chartered by Zonta International. Nineteen charter members were inducted at its first meeting at the Midland Country Club. Mrs. Dolores Cassidy, co-owner of the Frolic Theatre, was elected its first president. Today, the Midland Club ranks among the largest Zonta Clubs in the world.

The Zonta Club of Midland supports fundraising efforts for both international and local initiatives. Its first local scholarship fund was started in 1951. Early fundraising activities included getting businesses to donate items for auction. Dolores loved to bake and got the Zonta Club to sponsor bake sales to raise money to help feed others. Other fundraising featured the "Aura of Spring" fashion shows and roast beef dinners, complete with homemade desserts, in the 1960's, and the children's film series were featured in the 1970's.

In May 1959, Big Sisters of Midland County was established and supported by the Zonta Club of Midland. Its original mission was "To provide individual support to the emotional, moral and spiritual needs of the child; to guide the child toward socially acceptable behavior, and to help her attain faith in herself and experience trust in adults." Big Sisters and Big Brothers merged in 1986 and is now organized under Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Great Lakes Bay Region,

In the 1950's, Zonta Club of Midland established annual Educational Scholarships in Nursing that continued into the 1980's, when they expanded into our Scholarships that we award today.

The popular "Zonta Homewalk" fundraiser began in 1980, and has been held each year for the past 36 years. It continues to be one of the most anticipated events of the year in Midland, as highlighted in the April 9, 2017 edition of the Midland Daily News. Since the Homewalk began, over \$275,000 has been raised to fund educational scholarships for women. This year five post-secondary scholarships of \$2,000 have been awarded to qualified applicants.

In addition to the Homewalk, Zonta members volunteer their time to a number of local initiatives, and as a club, have donated more than \$205,000 to support programs and projects that enhance the status of women and their families in the surrounding communities.

It is a very Happy 70th Anniversary as the Zonta Club of Midland celebrates its past accomplishments and looks forward to continuing serving and advancing women locally and globally.

Zonta is a service organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women. One of our main purposes is to provide women in the Midland community with opportunities to learn and grow - professionally and personally. We accomplish our goals through the networking skills of our members, role modeling, and mentoring with women of all ages, educating ourselves and others on issues that impact women locally and internationally, and contributing both our time and financial support to organizations throughout the community that advance the status of women.