



## AREA 5 REPORT TO BOARD

DATE: November 7, 2015

### HIGHLIGHTS:

#### Jamestown:

- Advocacy is finalizing the poster project in partnership with the Anew Center (which provides support services and domestic violence shelter to women and their children in crisis.)
- Service is focusing on the 5-year anniversary open house for Lily's Hope, which provides free wigs or head coverings, pillows, mastectomy camisoles and tote bags to women experiencing hair loss due to illness, on 11/4/15
- Finance/Fundraising: They are in the midst of the major fundraiser: Calendar of Cash. The goal is to raise \$8K for the service budget. In November we will hold our Goods & Services Auction to raise funds for the general fund.
- Membership is working to actively welcome and engage new members. Each new member has a mentor.

#### Warren:

- The club has been reviewing projects to ensure they meet the mission and by-laws of International.
- They are finding new ways to be involved in the community to help with Advocacy and Education regarding violence against women.
- Business meetings have included educational talks regarding poverty in Warren County and human trafficking and potential victims.

#### Bradford:

- For the district service project, the advocacy chair met with the director of the YWCA Victims' Resource Center to design the poster. The posters have been printed and they are now putting together a team of service and advocacy members to work with the YWCA staff for distribution.

#### Erie:

- The club has been partnering with Safe Net in Erie for a fund raiser and donations.
- They are working with the veterans to help with donations and working to get homeless vets employed and into homes.
- In December they will again be doing gift wrapping at the mall.
- They will be giving to Mercy Center for Children for their holiday party.
- The club has new members, new ideas and it is going well!

Corry:

- The club collected over 750 bras during the Free the Girls spring campaign and generated a lot of great publicity.
- Safe Journey is the local women's shelter and it runs a domestic violence text hotline. In May they held a collection outside local stores to collect supplies for them.
- They presented 5 scholarships: 2 to high school seniors entering college; 2 to current college enrollees; 2 to a non-traditional student.
- They provide donations to the Red Cross, library and other non-profit organizations in the Corry community.

Olean:

- Bob Schooley spoke to the group (he took the birthing kits to Uganda). He shared pictures and brought back baskets made by the Ugandan women.
- The local newspaper featured an article about Soumitri Barua, a junior medical student at Brown University and the club's 2013 scholarship winner. She also won the District Scholarship and went on to win the 2013 Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship.
- The fall Breast Cancer Bingo had over 220 attendees and raised over \$10,000.
- The Z Club is partnering with Verizon to collect used refurbished cell phones to help women of domestic violence.
- They have partnered with Community Action and our Women Say No to Violence and posters are ready to be put around the area.

## CHALLENGES:

Jamestown:

- The club had a discussion regarding the financial commitment for members raising funds for the Calendar of Cash and whether this was a deterrent. The club agreed to lower the buyout amount which will still allow it to make its budget.

Warren:

- The club has had a hard time pinpointing how they go about being involved with advocacy and education on violence against women in accordance with the requirements of International so they have make adjustments.

Bradford:

- None noted

Erie:

- None noted

Corry:

- Many members are retired and they are having difficulty, as a club, attracting new members. Younger professional women are often busy and the financial commitment of dues can be a challenge (they are situated in a poorer area).

Olean:

- None noted

Respectfully submitted:

LAURA K. COREY, AREA 5 DIRECTOR