

Report of the Service Committee (Canada) to the September 2011 Board

Birthing Kits

While clubs took a break from assembling birthing kits during July and August, many are now gearing up for their fall assembly. I can continue to report that all of the Canadian clubs in District 4 have been involved with the birthing kit project in some way, if not organizing their own assembly, then in partnering with another Zonta club or having some club members participate at another club's assembly. In the past six months many of the kits from the Canadian clubs have gone to Haiti through a partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee which has maternal care projects in Haiti in co-operation with the Haitian government. Birth attendants have been trained by the Haitian government for the distribution of and education about the birthing kits. The response has been very positive and the request for more kits continues to come.

The first of the fall birthing kit assemblies was held on September 17 by Hamilton I and II. Their 1000 kits have taken District 4 over the 20,000 mark. Since September 2009 over 20,000 birthing kits have been assembled by Zonta Clubs in District 4! What is even more significant is the statistic that since September 2009, the kits have ensured cleaner, safer birthing conditions for 60,000 people: 20,000 mothers, 20,000 infants and 20,000 birth attendants!

I have frequent email communication with many of the clubs as they continue their birthing kit projects. Muriel Omand-Naylor of the Kitchener-Waterloo club has assisted me in providing assistance to the fifteen clubs with which I have been working.

At the district conference we will be holding a sharing session with the aim of sharing the good news, sharing best practices and assisting clubs who have experienced challenges in their birthing kit project.

I am attaching the updated record of kits assembled by the Canadian clubs in District 4.

Communication to Clubs

In her US report, Marcia has commented on our attempts to improve our communication with clubs. We have been disappointed with the low response we received to our August survey but realize that many clubs see the summer months as a break from Zonta work.

Club Service Projects

The service activities undertaken by Zonta clubs in our district continue to cover a wide range of service, from hands-on activities to fundraising for special projects of agencies serving women. We expect that many of these will be showcased through the Area Directors' displays at the district conference.

Joan Westcott

District 4 Service Co-Chair (Canada)

Birthing Kit Activity in Canadian Clubs in District 4

AREA 1	
Cambridge	September 09 1000 kits and March 2010 1000 kits to CARE Nicaragua in partnership with CARE Canada. November 6, 2010 1000 kits to Haiti through the Mennonite Central Committee. April 16, 2011 1000 kits to Haiti through MCC.
Guelph	In partnership with Zonta Club of Cambridge as above.
Kitchener-Waterloo	Nov 28/09 – 1000 kits and kits from the district workshop to CARE Nicaragua in partnership with CARE Canada. Nov 20, 2010 1000 kits to Haiti through partnership with Mennonite Central Committee. March 26, 2011 1000 kits to Haiti through MCC.
Owen Sound	Assisting other clubs in the area. Three members attended Brampton-Caledon assembly, provided financial assistance. Provided soap for K-W assembly.
Stratford	Nov. 27/10, over 400 kits to Haiti through partnership with Mennonite Central Committee. April 2, 2011 over 400 kits to Haiti through MCC.
Woodstock	To partner with Stratford club for future assemblies.
Area 2	
Brampton-Caledon	October 30, 2010 1000 kits to Haiti through MCC. Many Z club members participated. .
Hamilton I	Hamilton I and II - September 26, 2010. 1000 kits to Ghana through partnership with Zonta club in Ghana with assistance of Hamilton II member who is from Ghana. Sept 17,2011 1000 kits to go to Haiti through MCC
Hamilton II	As above
Mississauga	working with Toronto
Oakville	October 3/10 810 kits to Mali, Africa in partnership with CARE Canada
Toronto	June 4, 2011 1000 kits to Haiti in partnership with MCC
AREA 3	
Fort Erie	Fort Erie, Niagara Falls ON, St Catharines - May 15, 2010 and spring 2011. 1000 kits to Haiti through Mennonite Central Committee.
Niagara Falls ON	See above
St Catharines	See above

As of Sept 18, 2011

Joan Westcott