

President's Message

Happy New Year! We have been blessed with great and informative program meetings in 2023 and I look forward to what the committees have in store for us to finish out our year.

If you have not attended a meeting in awhile, please plan to attend; your fellow Zontians have missed you!

Our annual Chicken Noodle Supper and County Store is just around the corner. This major fundraiser provides our scholarships as well as the contributions we provide to community organizations that help support our mission.

May we all look forward to a great year in 2024!

Dana

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts" - Eleanor Roosevelt

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10th

AMELIA EARHART PROGRAM

5:30 — 8:00pm @ FCPL — SKANTA THEATRE

Let's go to the movie!

Join in a relaxing evening to remember former Zontian and world-renowned aviator, Amelia Earhart.

We will watch "**AMELIA**", a biographical film starring Hillary Swank & Richard Gere.

"Intermission" with special refreshments at 6:35!

Please, plan to attend and reply "YES" to your evite!



**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR!**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd
BOARD MEETING — NOON @ FCPL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24th
BUSINESS MEETING + ACTIVITY
NOON @ PPRC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th
BOARD MEETING — NOON @ FCPL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th
BUSINESS MEETING + ACTIVITY
NOON @ PPRC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th
FELLOWSHIP EVENT
6:30PM @ PPRC

Our annual Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 13th and it was another lovely evening at the Angry Donkey!

We each enjoyed a delicious meal of our choosing, followed by yet another fun-filled game of “Swapping Santa” (aka “Dirty Santa”) with the usual transfer of a few favorite gifts that many wanted to take home!

Sixteen members attended, along with one quest, Jalynn Gleb, our 2023 Career Advancement Scholarship recipient. Unfortunately, Marvel was unable to attend and we are so bad at getting pictures in her absence!



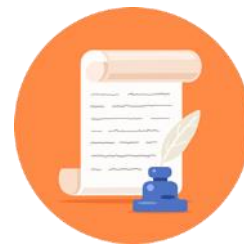
16 Days — November 25—December 10

ZONTA
SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Community Signs



Clinton County Sheriff's Office



November 27, 2023

After kicking off this year's campaign by placing signs in the community, having new support with orange lighting, and Mayor and fellow Zontian, Judy Sheets, issuing a proclamation, we continued efforts to educate by having Deanne Hunter, Director of CASA (Child Appointed Special Advocate) for Abused and Neglected Children for Clinton County, speak at our November program meeting.



The CASA Program recruits, screens, and trains volunteer child advocates or CASAs to work in the court system in collaboration with other key agencies, legal counsel, and community resources to represent the best interests of children in juvenile court proceedings. A CASA volunteer is an unbiased voice that speaks up for the best interest of a child who has been put into the court system because of abuse and/or neglect. They serve an important role in the life of a child in the legal system. The CASA takes the time to learn and understand the child's needs and their recommendations are part of the judge's decision-making process.

Deanne stated that the majority of their cases involve domestic violence and that the question most people ask is “why didn't they (*the protective parent/adult*) just leave?” However, she directed the Zonta members to “why they stayed” by sharing that for too long, our culture has portrayed domestic violence and child abuse as distinct and siloed issues. For those doing the work, the link between them is undeniable. Both child abuse and intimate partner violence are much more likely to occur in households experiencing poverty, substance abuse, disordered mental health, stress, and social isolation. Domestic violence and child abuse go hand-in-hand, so to speak. Not all child abuse is physical; it can be verbal, substance abuse by the parent, and neglect of the child's basic needs.

Many served by the CASA Program suffer from childhood trauma. The National Institute of Mental Health defines trauma “as the experience of an event by a child that is emotionally painful or distressful which often results in lasting mental and physical effects.” When children witness violence between their adult caregivers or experience abuse, they start believing that the world is an unpredictable and threatening place. Children living with domestic violence can suffer emotional and psychological trauma from the impact of living in an environment that is dominated by tension and fear. They can potentially perpetuate the abusive cycle.

While many think about the impact of domestic violence on older children or teenagers, many times it is younger ones, even infants, who can be most impacted. The younger the brain the more sponge-like it is, which makes younger children more vulnerable to trauma. Some children have exposure to many years of trauma which creates mental health problems and continues the abusive cycle. These children are fighting an uphill battle for survival and an understanding of what is a non-abusive home. These types of reactionary emotions and behaviors are what CASAs see in the majority of cases.

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CASA Program continued...

Often times the parents were exposed to these same sorts of abuse, and they perpetuate the cycle. They get assistance from the Department of Child Services (DCS) by being connected with mental health providers, service providers to assist with overcoming their own trauma, and help with basic needs and skills – jobs, beds, housing. Many have self-medicated to deal with their past and therefore have current problems with drugs.

The primary responsibilities of a CASA volunteer are to gather insightful information about everything and everyone in the child's life. The information is gathered by talking with the child, talking with the parents, and family members, reviewing documents and records, and speaking with the professionals in the child's life.

While CASAs main focus is the safety of the child, they are part of a team that helps to identify and assist the whole family with the who, what, why, and how to reunify the family. Along with CASAs, the team includes DCS, service providers, such as mental health professionals, those providing resources to help overcome their own trauma, and those assisting with basic needs and skills, and the court. The team's information about the child and the family ensures that the judge has all the information he/she needs to assist in his/her decision to place the child in a safe, permanent home environment.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Zonta members selected gift tags from a Christmas tree to provide items to the children currently in the CASA program to help fill their list. Members then shopped independently to get just what each child needed and/or wanted and these gifts were delivered to Deanne last weekend, just in time to make Santa's sleigh!

What can you do if you suspect or know of domestic violence and/or child abuse? Call a domestic violence or child abuse hotline. A call to either sets the wheels in motion for a wellness check. Preventing domestic violence and child abuse involves "someone" getting involved. ***ALL** of us are mandatory reporters. *IC 12-10-3 & IC 31-33-5

Domestic Violence:

Statewide Hotline - **800-332-7385** / YWCA Greater Lafayette: **765-423-1118** or **888-345-1118**

Child Abuse: Indiana Child Abuse Hotline - **800-800-5556**

For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, call CASA for Clinton County: 765-357-6123

In addition to the outreach with the CASA Program, the Club hosted a Christmas brunch for ladies residing in Clinton County who are being served in Frankfort by Advocates with the **YWCA Greater Lafayette**. Along with brunch, those attending enjoyed playing a couple games, with the assistance of Nohemi Lugo, Hispanic Advocate with the YWCA, and Zonta members provided the ladies with gift bags containing an assortment of "pampering" items for them to enjoy!



The YWCA offers support groups for adults, children, and families on various topics for those experiencing abuse and wanting to break the cycle of violence. These groups include focus on domestic violence education, sexual assault, self-esteem, parenting, and healing art & education. Some classes are held here in Frankfort and childcare is available during many of them.

Through case advocacy, support groups, legal advocacy, and emergency shelter, YWCA Greater Lafayette is on a mission to support and empower survivors of violence.

Whether Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking, or Stalking, the YWCA is there to help.

For more information, to help, or to volunteer, call the YWCA: 765-742-0075



The **WeCare Recovery Home** was also supported with gifts to the women currently in their program. Jennifer Gardner, Director of Operations, shared that their main home is full with ten living there, plus the Resident Assistant, along with two women who are through the program and currently living in their transition home. All thirteen were gifted bags with assorted items to pamper themselves!

WeCare is a recovery home that believes in faith-based treatments for women. The 12-month, faith-based recovery program is for women dealing with a substance use disorder. Classes are hosted six days a week, as well as Bible studies throughout the week, and residents are accompanied to church on Sundays. The residents at WeCare have a 6-week probation period and are permitted to seek employment after four weeks and volunteer within the community every day.

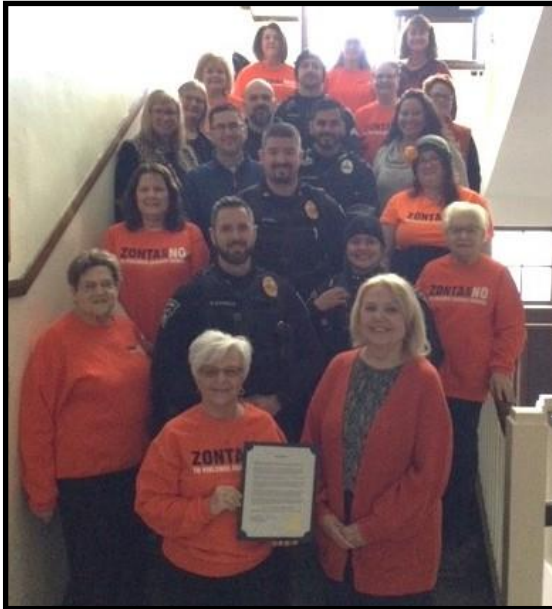
With graduation, the WeCare staff assists residents with finding jobs while continuing to host classes to ensure the women remain supported as they commence their recovery journey. Some graduates may choose to stay in the transition house to relieve concerns as they re-enter the community fully.

Transportation assistance is always needed, as most of the women do not have a driver's license when entering the facility.

For more information, to help with transportation, or to otherwise volunteer, call WeCare: 765-605-1667

A big "**THANK YOU**" to each of you who helped make Christmas a bit brighter for the children in the CASA program and the ladies being supported by the YWCA and WeCare Recovery Home.

Together, we truly made a difference!



ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Proclamation Issuance — November 27, 2023

Attendance included representatives from the Frankfort Police Department, Greater Lafayette YWCA, and WeCare Recovery Home.



JANUARY

18 Judy Sheets

FEBRUARY

7 Bethany Sheets 10 Marvel Albitz

10 Sandie Stevenson 24 Dana Myers



It's getting time to "gather round" for our annual

CHICKEN NOODLE DINNER & COUNTRY STORE SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024!

*Start your list of who you can sell tickets to
and looking through those recipes!*

REMEMBER

7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	46	74	
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

OUR ONGOING SERVICE PROJECT TO PROVIDE BINGO PRIZES FOR THE FOLKS AT PPRC!

**Dish towels Boxed meals Kleenex Canned soup
Paper towels Potato packets Toothpaste Rice Packets
Toilet paper (packaged)**

Most anything non-perishable and wrapped! Bring items to any meeting.

Zonta Club of Frankfort—2023/2024 Board

Officers

President Dana Myers	Vice President Rachel Milburn	Secretary Rita Betts	Treasurer Marlene Brant
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Directors

Past President — Stephanie Buntin
2022/2024 — June Palmer 2023-2024 — Sharon Keck
2023/2025
Nancy Harshbarger & Susie Trees

*The monthly submission target date for 2023-2024 will be the **25th of each month**. Send **submissions to: jeniluroyalty@gmail.com**.*

All submissions should be in a simple Word document format. Committee Co-Chairs are encouraged to submit meeting dates or other information related to your committee work. Suggestions for improvement are welcome as well! Thank you!