

Judi Woods Article - FINAL
Submitted by Ruth Woodham

U.N. Conference Delegate Judi Woods Addresses Zonta Club

Judi Woods, founder of Girls Making It on Purpose (GMIOP), a local organization devoted to helping young women transition from foster care to independence, recently updated members of the Sanibel-Captiva Zonta Club on her February 2007 experience as a delegate to the United Nations 51st Congress in New York on the Status of Women: The Girl Child.

Describing her U. N. experience as the "highlight of my life," Judi reported that there were 4,600 women including about 200 young girls in attendance from countries around the world. The main focus of the conference centered on ending discrimination against and violence toward women and girls. An emerging theme was the global problem of human trafficking.

On the first day of the conference, Judi met Olivia Ferry, president of Zonta International (ZI), who was one of 8 ZI board members in attendance. She sent a personal message via Judi to Sanibel-Captiva Zontians praising the club's outstanding track record in the area of human trafficking and stated that the local program is held in "highest esteem" as a best practice model in the Zonta world.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Judi affirmed the concept of "think globally but act locally," and provided Zonta president-elect Sue Denham and team leaders of the GMIOP project with copies of a synopsis of the conference. The Sanibel-Captiva Zonta Club has partnered with GMIOP over the past five years and this support was incorporated into the club's strategic plan focusing on women in transition. A new three-year plan is currently being developed to guide future service projects.

In her remarks, Judi announced she had departed from GMIOP to form a new organization, Footsteps to the Future, dedicated to the provision of transitional housing for girls. Club members thanked Judi for her untiring effort to promote the independence, education and self esteem of vulnerable girls in our local community and wished her well in her new endeavor.

The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is a service organization of professional women working together to provide hands-on assistance, advocacy and funds to strengthen women's lives on the islands, in Lee County and around the world through Zonta International. Additional information about Zonta is available at www.zontasancap.com.

Photo Caption:

[Invited to serve as a delegate in recognition](#) of her groundbreaking work on behalf of foster girls, Judi Woods recently reported on the United Nations' 51st Conference on the Status of Women to members of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva.