

'Twas the season to be joyful for Zontians! January 6, 2009

The Holiday season was joyously celebrated internally and shared externally with our Service Partners. There were three events which we all had the opportunity to contribute to the community and reach out to each other those in with gifts and Holiday spirit. At our early December meeting we all brought contributions of food to help the ongoing request by FISH to those families and individuals on the Islands that were impacted by health, the economy, and an ongoing lack of sufficient staple foods. In carrying on the tradition of supporting the women of the Transitional Living housing at SWFAS, we were asked to give \$20 or in kind gifts of personal items that they would not be able to purchase for themselves; cosmetics, personal care items, and fun "girly stuff". Lastly, we ourselves had an internal silent auction and a better- than ever Holiday party at Island Inn.

FISH PANTRY

Co-chairs Nancy Doherty and Lynn Riddlehoover are also volunteers at FISH and are very much aware of the challenging need to keep the pantry full at all times. In 2008 the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva elected to have more of a presence on our islands. We recognized that the number of people living on the islands who need help has grown drastically over the last few years. One of the organizations we are support is F.I.S.H. The majority of those served are women, which supports the Zonta International goal of aiding women. F.I.S.H. was one of the beneficiaries of a grant from the profits of the 2008 Zonta Peek at the Unique. The funds Zonta gave were used to upgrade their computer system. The recent food drive was so successful that we plan to hold repeat drives periodically. Maggi Feiner, President and CEO of FISH of Sanibel, commented on the recent food donation made to FISH's Food Pantry from the Zonta food drive in December; "The needs of some of our island residents have really escalated with the difficulties of the current economic environment. One of those basic needs is being met by our Food Pantry at the FISH Walk-In-Center and keeping the pantry stocked was helped significantly by Zonta's donation, especially at the holiday season." Bill Fellows, a Board member and assigned Resource Development, stated, "Thanks Zonta, for your continued support of FISH as we together help those neighbors in

need." FISH has recently let us know that the food coming in to the Food Bank is going out as fast as it comes in and that there are families with dire need on the Islands.

SWAFAS CELEBRATIONS

On the evening of December 9, Jane Hudson and our wonderful, friend of Zontians, volunteer Cathy Hed, office manager of the Sanibel Library, instructed a second Beading Workshop at the Transitional Living Center. Five women each made two beautiful bracelets as other SWAFS gals looked on and joined us in conversation and chocolate tasting. We all enjoyed this opportunity to spend time together, as well as being able to make pretty gifts for the women and their family members. We are appreciative of her donation of time and hopeful that with the two trainings that Cathy Hed was able to give, beading projects might be turned into fundraising for the women in the future as did our earlier art classes

Thanks to Zonta members, 20 gift bags have been assembled and delivered to the SWAFS office. Six bags were for children. With the \$400 and other gift items that were donated, Sue Denham and Jane Hudson shopped and filled each bag with useful and pretty items, such as slippers, journals, cosmetics, candy, dressy fashion scarves, candles, and of course fun toys for the children. These gifts are greatly appreciated, and in many instances are the only gifts the SWFAS women may receive during the holidays.

HOLIDAY PARTY

We had a turnout of almost 70 Zontians and some Z-men at the Holiday dinner in a lovely, festive setting with dinner that exceeded our expectations at Island Inn with a totally attentive staff. The silent auction represented re-gifted, unused, and unusual art and jewelry that members parted with all in the name of Holiday spirit. Four Zontians donated ethnic and theme dinners in their homes which were a great revenue generator; Susan Dunn, Carolyn Gray, Linda Robison, and an Italian cooking class by Gail Migliorini.

Linda Robison expressed, "Thanks to all of you who worked on the party with extra special thanks to Claire Mallon for the location and lovely dinner

menu, Karen Pati and Cyndy Lorry for putting the auction together, and to Ginger Parker for being a fabulous auctioneer. My vote is for a repeat next year!" Everyone seems to agree with that sentiment unanimously.

Z-MAN Rob Robison with assorted Zonta women- Sheila Hoen, Cyndy Lorry, Nancy Dorrity, Sue Denham Karen Pati and Esther Saltzman- caption





L to R- Smiley faces; Barbara Cooley, Wendy West, Tom Cooley, Rith and Bob Mayer, Eller Stroebel, Carolyn Tongyai and Barb Nagle



Linda Peterson, Women' House

Coordinator, and Vicky Elias, Linda's Assistant Women's House Coordinator
unloading thSWFAS GIFT BAGS.