

### **SERVING WOMEN ON THE ISLAND (SWOTI)**

Serving Women on the Island (SWOTI), is a Zonta project that helps island residents, mainly single mothers and senior women. A vast majority of these women reside on Sanibel in Below Market Housing (CHR). There are presently 57 households in CHR housing with women that are heads of households. This year Zonta's grant will provide funds for emergency medical and psychiatric care, nutritional and human development programs, the purchase of computers, printers, computer instruction and upgraded software. Zonta also plans to assist women in budgeting for difficult times, job interviewing and certain legal consultations.

On February, 10<sup>th</sup>, Zonta's SWOTI Committee will sponsor a Valentine's party for women in Below Market Housing (CHR). The purpose of the party is to build relationships between the women and Zonta member. Zontians excitedly hand-made the invitations and they were mailed out this week. Aside from fellowship, the CHR women will be informed about up-coming programs including a job-fair-type presentation in the near future. The goal is to assess some of their needs and determine how the SWOTI team can help meet them.

### **FRIENDS IN SERVICE HERE (FISH)**

Friends in Service Here (FISH), provides services for island residents in need. FISH is helping women through donations of food, transportation to medical appointments on and off the island, temporary loan of medical equipment as well as helping to find homes for the homeless women and children on Sanibel. These women benefit not only from monetary grants, but also from personal attention and friendships to help ensure their independence.

With the money from their previous grant, they have developed a new Excel program to track their services; such as number of meals, rides given to appointments, etc. That was previously done manually and was not very efficient. The program will be beneficial in forecasting their volunteer needs and measuring their results.

It is the hope of Zonta's SWOTI Committee to expand Zonta's hands-on assistance to island women in need. We plan to accomplish this goal through friendship and mentoring women to become more self-sufficient.

If you require additional information on any of these service projects or want to help in any way, please email us at [info@zontasancap.com](mailto:info@zontasancap.com) and we will forward your inquiry to the appropriate Zonta contact.

Caption 1- Tina Parsons, Executive Director with Wendy West, Co-Chair of Bright Horizons holding baby Darian Parsons





Caption 2- SWOTI team members- Lynn Riddlehoover, Lynne Campion, Claire Mallon, Robyn Moran, Pat Holmes, Ellen Stroebel, and Mary Kelly