

Zonta Distributes \$52,000, Thanks Those Who Made it Possible

For immediate release January 19, 2010

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The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva has distributed \$52,000 in grants to its service partners and projects, the proceeds from the 2009 Peek at the Unique home tour, the club's signature event.

President Carolyn Gray noted that this is the largest amount ever made in local grants: "This was made possible by the wonderful support we received from Sanibel businesses, restaurants and individuals, and the Peekers themselves," she said. "We have a rigorous process for determining grants, making sure the funds are wisely spent to improve the quality of life for women on the island, in Lee County and elsewhere." In addition to local grants, the club has pledged \$18,880 to Zonta International for 2010 global initiatives.

This year's grant recipients are:

GRACE (Guatemalan Rural Adult and Children's Education): \$5,000 for workshops in Guatemala to prevent human trafficking; HTAP (Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships): \$1,000 for website upgrade and \$3,600 for art/theater projects involving young adults in Lee County; FISH of Sanibel: \$4,500 for client emergency help; City of Sanibel Recreation Center: \$5,200 to fund 3 children of eligible single moms for after school and summer programs; CHR of Sanibel: \$7,500 toward closing costs on home purchase for below-market rate eligible single moms; PACE Center for Girls Lee County: \$6,000 for co-pays for at-risk girls' health care costs and \$3,200 for computer software; SWFAS (Southwest Florida Addiction Services): \$6,700 to help eligible women to attend college and \$3,300 for 2 new computers plus software; and Literacy Council of Lee County: \$6,000 for materials for 36 women to gain literacy skills focused on health education.

The 2009 Peek, a guided tour of four unique island homes, raised almost \$70,000 through the generosity and vision of many donors. The committee which is currently soliciting support for the 2010 Peek (set for Saturday, March 13), gratefully thanks once more these generous contributors. They ranged from house sponsors at \$2,000 each to small businesses placing ads in the keepsake program book. Other businesses provided "Peek Perks" coupons offering discounts to those who attended the tour. There were individual donors recognized in "Friends of Zonta" pages in the program book. The club also received generous in-kind contributions of delicious food and beverages from island restaurants and caterers. Six generous donors gave exciting prizes for the "Chance at the Unique" raffle, an innovation which raises more dollars each year and which will be repeated in 2010.

For a complete list, visit www.zontasancap.com.

"Now in its 9th year, A Peek at the Unique is truly a community event supported by the entire community," said Orlene Shimberg, 2010 co-chair. Tickets for the tour will go on sale to the general public at the beginning of February and typically sell out fast.

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.



Zontian Wendy West at a recent event offering free services by other Zonta members



Zonta members recently hosted a “fashion overhaul” event for women residing in CHR homes on the island, one of many local service projects designed to benefit women