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Zonta Foundation Of Southwest Florida Awards Grant To SWFAS



Joanne Marolt (center) shows SWFAS residents Lona Harding (left) and Denise Gonzalez how to apply make-up for everyday living



SWFAS residents Christina Nicotria and Susan Penwerton share tips they have learned



Joanne Marolt and Sandi Hutchings of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva teach make-up techniques to SWFAS resident Christina Nicotria

The Zonta Foundation of Southwest Florida has awarded a \$10,000 grant to Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) to provide educational needs for women recovering from substance abuse at SWFAS' Transitional Living Center on Dixie Parkway in Fort Myers.

The money will be used to help about 20 women pursue an education by providing tuition, educational materials, books and transportation. About \$3,300 of the grant will be used to purchase two new computers and software to enable the women to complete coursework and file job applications.

The overall goal is to help women in recovery obtain the skills they need to earn a living wage and become self-sufficient in the workplace.

"We are so excited about this opportunity for our ladies in recovery," said Rosemary Boisvert, "Our goal is to remove the barriers that prevent them from being successful. If they need financial assistance for tuition, we can help with that. If they need help with supplies or transportation to get to school or training, we can assist with that as well."

While at SWFAS' Transitional Living Center, the women work very hard at learning skills for the job of living in sobriety, this grant will help them build on

their newfound skills and give them something more to enhance their chances of maintaining their sobriety and self-sufficiency," Boisvert said.

"We have been very fortunate to have this long lasting relationship with the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva. The Zonta Club gives our women far more than dollars. They also give of themselves," Boisvert said.

For example, last November Zonta members hosted a nurse practitioner to discuss women's health issues and concerns. In December, they organized a visit to the JN "Ding" Darling Refuge Center with a park moderator providing a tour. In January, they hosted an Expressive Art session on the TIC campus. In February,

the Zontans gave a session on make-up application for everyday living.

SWFAS opened the new 16-bed women's halfway house last year. It provides treatment for 40 to 50 women per year who have completed the residential treatment program and moved into the halfway house for extended treatment.

SWFAS serves 6,000 people a year and has outpatient and residential programs for adults and youngsters from five locations in Lee County and two in Hendry County, plus detoxification services for adults. For more information, contact Boisvert at 338-2977 or visit www.swfas.org.