

## **ZONTA CLUB OF WESTCHESTER 2006-2007 SUCCESSES**

**The Zonta Club of Westchester was chartered in 1931. We are 40 members' strong thanks to the induction of seven new members under the direction of membership chairperson, Lavinia Morales. We held our first in-house Z.I.N.G. For those new to Zonta - Z.I.N.G. stands for Zonta International Network Gathering. Lavinia led an interactive presentation that included a review of Zonta's goals and objectives. She had the various member tables brainstorm about service projects they would like to continue and new service project's to be explored, as well as ideas for fundraising events.**

**The Zonta Club of Westchester avidly supports Zonta International's ideals. In addition to the customary support of Zonta International's service projects our members are involved in several local service projects, which included our second R.A.V.E. Walk (rape and violence eradication) during which we raised \$4000 the proceeds of which were donated to Victims Assistance Services of Westchester to train forensic nurse examiners. Victims Assistance Services were so appreciative of our continued support that they honored us in a press conference in April. This press conference including pictures were posted on the Westchester County website. Some of our members assembled toiletry kits for rape victims. Other members were involved in Meals-On-Wheels, friendly visiting at one of our local nursing homes, Moms & Tots program (educational) and outreach to the Sick and Distressed and Young Woman In Public Affairs. We also made donations to Lawrence Hospital Center, one of our local hospitals and to the Hoff-Barthelson School of Music.**

**Once again one of our proudest successes was achieved through our own international project. One of our members, Dr. Ijeoma Nduka Nwosu, better known as Ejaye has garnered our full support of one of her special projects. Dr. Nwosu is a Nigerian born physician and one of the daughters of His Royal Highness Festus Nduka, a traditional ruler of Nsu in Nigeria. She is a graduate of the University of Nigeria and Harvard University. Both her parents, despite their privileged status were devoted in their commitment to their people, especially the underprivileged. Dr. Nduka has dedicated herself to carry out her**

parents' tradition of serving the people of her country. Members collected a variety of medical supplies, including but not limited to canes, walkers, dressings, eyeglasses, clothing, etc. We gave her a donation of \$1000 dollars to help defray the costs of her medical missions.

This year one of our members, Alice Massa, joined Ejaye on her medical mission in March. Alice, an occupational therapist, reported that this was a wonderful experience. Seeing the lines and lines of villagers who traveled hundreds of miles in the hope of seeing the doctors was awesome. These villagers had never heard of an occupational therapist. Alice stated that she helped one of the women who had a child with cerebral palsy. This child was unable to eat without throwing up because his head was hyperextended due to spasticity. Alice showed the mother how to relieve the spasticity and to hold the baby properly. For the first time the child was able to eat without throwing up. The next day villagers who wanted to see this "Great White Woman" surrounded Alice. Alice also assisted in retrieving equipment and supplies for the doctors in the operating room, which she had set up. We listened attentively as Ejaye and Alice shared their experiences with us at our September meeting. Such experiences make us reflect on all that we take for granted every day.

Several members of our club spent numerous hours setting up this year's District 3 Conference. Despite the set back of having the original venue fall through these dedicated women kept moving on to make this exciting and informative conference a reality.

Isn't the Zonta Club of Westchester lucky to have such generous and devoted women who exemplify the Zonta Spirit!