

STONEBRIDGE EXCHANGE - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

Women's Club Presidents' Message

Judith Feltz and Linda Longo



“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”
~ Mahatma Gandhi

The Women’s Club continues to fulfill its benevolent mission by providing assistance to charitable organizations through various humanitarian and philanthropic endeavors. The urgency of the response to these endeavors has been magnified by the current severe, persistent and prolonged health and economic hardships faced by so many. Once again, Stonebridge residents responded to Women’s Club appeals with generosity and compassion.

A Women’s Club Thanksgiving Food Drive was conducted on November 9 at two residents’ locations. This successful initiative, together with a \$1,025 donation generated by the Women’s Club sale of 2020 Mah Jongg cards, helped replenish essential supplies at the Monroe Township Food Pantry and made possible the delivery of bountiful food baskets to local food insecure families. Additionally, our contribution to Hightstown NJRise Food Bank and Community Services made a difference in the lives of those so desperately in need.

The Ronald McDonald House has re-opened to provide respite services to families of chronically-ill children. However, our “Caring Cooks of Stonebridge” have been prevented from preparing meals. To endorse their invaluable work, the Women’s Club made a donation and implemented an ongoing community-wide Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Collection. Aluminum pull-tabs on beverage cans are weighed and cashed in at recycling centers, providing considerable charitable revenue for Ronald McDonald House.

Since 2008, Macy's and Make-A-Wish have worked together to grant life-changing wishes to critically-ill children through their annual holiday Believe Letter-Writing Campaign. For each letter Macy's received during "National Believe Week," they donated \$2 to Make-A-Wish. Stonebridge residents wrote and collected 2,000 envelopes resulting in a \$4,000 gift to Make-A-Wish Foundation, allowing more children the opportunity to "experience the power of a wish."

Our Holiday Gift Card Collection aggregated \$2,145 in Kohl's, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Subway, Target, Visa and Walmart cards. Thankful, financially-burdened local families were recipients of these gift cards, which NJRise and the Monroe Township Senior Center distributed.

The Women's Club has also committed to awarding two \$500 "Stonebridge Women's Club Brenda Belgard Memorial Scholarships" to deserving 2021 Monroe Township High School graduates. Students applying for these scholarships will be writing an essay relating to the academic and social challenges they encounter as a result of virtual learning and social limitations imposed upon them during the pandemic.

Finally, the Stonebridge/Encore Making Strides Against Breast Cancer team, co-chaired by April Furst and Joanne Redell, raised \$22,749 for the American Cancer Society. This represents a significant feat in view of unprecedented constraints placed on this year's fundraising efforts.

We are grateful to our Stonebridge friends and neighbors for their advocacy and participation in each of these vital projects, which transform lives by offering relief, support and hope. The collective selfless and altruistic actions of the members of our community demonstrate that **we truly are "the change we wish to see in the world" fortifying the Women's Club motto, "Together we can do anything"!**

May our lives be filled with promise, security and unlimited possibilities in 2021!

