

STONEBRIDGE EXCHANGE - MARCH/APRIL 2021

Women's Club Presidents' Message

Judith Feltz and Linda Longo



“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.”

~ Ryunosuke Satoro ~

During the Women’s Club current membership year which commenced in June 2020, charitable organizations have been recipients of \$29,919 through our fundraising efforts and \$2,750 in direct donations, much of which represents our response to the impact of the pandemic. This is the direction our Women’s Club has taken during our separation. However, our humanitarian initiatives are even broader . . . initiatives that are not only measured in gifts of dollars and cents but also in gifts of time and energy.

The pandemic has caused many nonprofits to undergo changes regarding volunteer safety protocols and assignments. Although in isolation, there are ways we can help. For example, NJRise is looking for individuals to prepare short videos of tutorials showcasing skills in such areas as career paths, cooking, knitting, painting, wellness, etc. They are also seeking Certified Public Accountants to donate their professional services during tax season. Contact Valerie Benites, Program Coordinator, at vbenites@njrise.org for more information. Their website at njrise.org highlights other volunteer opportunities through their food pantry, thrift store and special events.

Another Women’s Club food drive will be conducted on March 15 and 16 for the benefit of food insecure clients of NJRise Food Pantry. Flyers have been distributed containing details on this campaign.

While the *Caring Cooks of Stonebridge* program is suspended, the Ronald McDonald House continues to shelter families. On behalf of our *Caring Cooks*, the Women’s Club answered their petition for restaurant-prepared meals. If you are interested in supplying a meal prepared by a restaurant, please contact the New Brunswick facility at (732) 249-1222.

Through ShopRite’s biannual promotions, free food items obtained with accumulated \$400+ purchases may be gifted to NJRise Food Pantry. Visit ShopRite’s Customer Service Desk during the Passover/Easter holiday season to have your contribution recorded.

As Women’s Club activities restart, members will have numerous ways to become re-connected and make a difference through endeavors outlined in the “Get Involved” section of our website at www.stonebridgewomensclub.com. They include interactions with students in the *Bonnie’s Kids* program to promote socialization skills, reading to students through *RAVE*, and coaching in the *Tutoring* project boosting academics and self-confidence. Also, the Children’s Specialized Hospital affords *Infant Cuddling* and *Transporting Patient* roles, while *Ronald McDonald Caring Cooks* offer families comfort. Finally, Women’s Club hospitality and fundraising undertakings foster camaraderie and a sense of satisfaction.

The Women’s Club is in the process of filling open Board positions for the 2021-2022 membership year. In January, members received three emails advising them of open posts, and interested candidates applied by the January 28 deadline. In accordance with our By-Laws, officers for the upcoming membership year are announced in March and April, and the installation of the new slate of officers is performed in May.

Volunteerism is the lifeline of our Women’s Club! When appeals are made, consider sharing your talents. *Our individual “drops” of service will collectively create a boundless “ocean” of significant social change affirming our principle that “Together we can do anything!”*

