



## BIENNIUM PROJECT UPDATE FOR CLUBS

“He loves me, he loves me not...

Many a young girl will remember playing the innocent-seeming childhood game, plucking petals off a daisy one at a time to determine whether the object of their affection returns their feelings. Many will have bent the rules and plucked two petals at a time to achieve the desired outcome. After all who wants to find themselves ‘unloved’.

Many grow into young women who, sadly, find themselves in a far more sinister situation, no longer a game, but in a dangerous controlling relationship where various forms of abuse are mistaken for love.” ODT Editorial March 31, 2014.

As Zontians we should not turn our backs on the facts that we know to be true. By your support of the Biennium District 16 project you can make a difference.

### SO - HOW ARE WE DOING?

The SEF (Sophie Elliott Foundation)/Zonta Biennium liaison project to date is –

- Contributing valuable funding to the resource book ‘Loves-Me-Not’ enabling a free copy to be given to all Year 12 students undertaking the programme.
- Shifting community attitudes to relationship violence from a re-active to a pro-active approach.
- Providing funding to develop quality audio-visual resources to support the ‘Loves-Me-Not’ resource book. These have already been filmed.
- Actively supporting our Zonta mission of raising the status of women and girls and that violence of any kind particularly toward women and girls must stop.

New Zealand Police trained facilitators are rolling out the programme which they see as an important part of their Prevention First programme. The rollout is gaining momentum as more and more schools request ‘Loves-Me-Not’ workshops.

- All clubs are in receipt of the book ‘Loves-Me-Not’. If your club has not received this please contact me at – [lynfarry@hotmail.com](mailto:lynfarry@hotmail.com)
- The uptake by schools is increasing with Counties Manakau, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Canterbury and Otago committed to programme delivery in 2015.
- Schools will drive the programme in their area by requesting delivery of ‘Loves-Me-Not’ to their students.

- The goal for the SEF is that all schools in New Zealand will eventually adopt the programme. Lesley Elliott and Bill O'Brien, Education Manager of the programme and author of the book 'Loves-Me-Not', are committed to making this happen.

#### FUNDING PROGRESS - WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- The funding of the book remains a top priority.
- As at 31 December 2014, \$16,439.75 toward the Biennium goal of \$50,000.00 has been raised.
- The goal is to have the full amount, with a contribution from all clubs, by the end of the project in 2016.
- With a donation of around \$2000.00 or more if you can, from each club in District 16, we can achieve this. All proceeds of fundraising, after expenses, will go directly to the SEF.
- Bill O'Brien, Education Manager of the Foundation, is willing to assist any club with information required to assist a club fundraiser.
- Sincere thanks to those clubs who have already made significant donations through fundraising efforts.
- Clubs must remember that this is a District 16 nationwide project and collective funds raised will be for the benefit of all New Zealand's young people.
- Some clubs have requested that the monies raised stay in their own district. However this is not really possible and is dependent on their local secondary schools requesting to run the workshops. Zonta members can advocate for the programme in their local schools.
- Each area's secondary schools programmes and resource books will be funded when requests for the workshops are made.
- I ask you all, on behalf of the SEF and the future of our young women, to embrace the challenge.

In conclusion, Lesley Elliott has asked that her grateful thanks be conveyed to all of the clubs who acknowledged her Women of Influence Award last October. While passing on her appreciation through this newsletter is not ideal, it is no less sincere.

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