

The Zonta Club of Batavia-Genesee County was organized on Feb 20, 1958 and assigned Club #413, the Charter was signed by ZI President Emma Conlon on April 16, 1958 and the Club received its Charter from Zonta International on May 24, 1958 at their Charter Celebration, held at Gentner's Terrace Room in Batavia, NY. Our sponsoring club, Rochester, NY #2, presented us with a Zonta flag stand and flags, our First Club President, Marie Espersen, donated our Club Bell, and May Moyers McElroy of Washington State (ZI President 1989-91) presented our club's gavel. The District 4 Governor, Margaret Thayer, International VP, Audra Francis, and PIP, Edwina Hogadone were also present.

Since receiving its Charter, the Club has provided thousands of service hours in a variety of activities: assisting with the Genesee County Health Fair, selling daffodils for the American Cancer Society, distributing health and education booklets, teaching hair and make-up techniques to the young ladies at the NY State School for the Blind, assisting both the Kiwanis Club with their Golden Agers Summer Olympics and the American Diabetes Association with their annual Walk-A-Thon. Members have been present at the annual Summer Park Festival for Children to sell hot dogs for the Big Buddy Program, and they have also assisted the Women's Health Partnership with their Health Clinics in October. Zontians have joined the ranks of the other volunteers who ring the bells each December for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. During the 1970's and until 2008, they served residents in the area nursing homes with weekly bingo nights and monthly entertainment parties. More recent endeavors are mentoring for the YWCA's Power Up Program, volunteering at My Sister's Closet, and supporting the Veteran Administration's Women's PTSD Clinic. The Club honored female community volunteers from 1974 - 2010, recognizing a Woman of the Year each year for her contributions to the community. A Club member is also recognized each year as the Zontian of the Year.

Donations and gifts have supported: Literacy Volunteers, The Salvation Army, Girl Scout and YMCA Camperships, The 25-Neediest School Children's Fund, Genesee County CASA for Children, the St. Jerome Hospital and the Genesee Memorial Hospital foundations, the Big Buddy Program, the YWCA Domestic Violence, the NY State School for the Blind Sensory Park Project and the Meals on Wheels Program. Funds have also been given to Batavia Radiation Oncology and Genesee Cancer Assistance, Regional Action Phone, All Babies Cherished Center and Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern. Internationally, we joined other District 4 Clubs to assemble and provide birthing kits for women in developing nations. The Club continues to support the International Foundation Fund each spring.

Zonta members work tirelessly to raise funds. Zontians have raffled quilts, televisions, and even steers and a pony. They have sold hot dogs, participated in theater presentations, sold geraniums and poinsettias, and the Club was the first in the area to organize and promote craft fairs (1976-1992). The annual Lucky Numbers Luncheon became Zonta's signature fundraiser in the 1990's and continues, now with the addition of it being a "theme event". Local businesses have provided generous support for Zonta fundraisers over the years. Key businesses came "on board" in the summer of 2012 when the Club held a fund raiser based on the ever popular board game Monopoly and created a game called Bataviaopoly.

The Club presented its first scholarship of \$300 to a high school graduate in 1961. Between 1961 and 2013, over 227 young ladies have been given awards, totaling \$115,250. Since 1990, we have honored one high school senior with our annual Young Women in Public Affairs award. In 1988, the club established a scholarship for women that are non-traditional students and an emergency loan program for students at Genesee Community College.

In February 2012, we held a Charter Celebration for the newly formed Z-Club of Batavia High School. This wonderful group of students has done well in only a couple of years – they earned the District 4 Award in September 2013.

Our Club hosted the Areas 3 & 4 annual Spring Workshop in 1964, 1973, 1993, and 2010. The first of several District Awards was given to the Club in 1964 for their work with the young girls at the New York State School for the Blind. Club members have served on the D-4 Board (as Treasurer and Area 4 Director), as well as serving on various District Committees.

Our Club began with 28 members, it rose to its highest level of 55 members in 1985 and currently has 25 members.