INNER WHEEL MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

IWC Banfora in Burkina Faso supporting primary schools
Words from the Editor

THANK YOU ALL FOR FRUITFUL COOPERATION

Dear IW-friends,

The mission of Inner Wheel is more important than ever! More people are suffering and need support. As you can see in this issue of the Web Magazine - and on our web page - many clubs around the world are active supporting families in need. Much focus in the magazine is on club activities around covid-19.

You should also read the articles from our IIW President Dr Bina Vyas. Much useful information about leadership and Lead the Change!

Read also the articles from Imm. PIIWP Phyllis Charters about our important Non Districted Clubs, the thoughts from Board Directors Lorna Bradly and Marja Kyrölä and the report from Martine Gayon at the United Nations HQ. Enjoy your reading!

This will be my last Web Magazine. Due to current working conditions I have found it impossible to continue as the IIW Editor/Media Manager. I have resigned.

I want to thank you all for a very fruitful cooperation, for all nice contacts and for all the material you have sent me for publishing in the magazines and on FaceBook. It has been very interesting and inspiring to see all the good things clubs all over the world are doing, especially for women and children in need. And so much fun we have together!

I wish you all a happy ending of 2020 and a very good new Inner Wheel Year 2021.

Hope we can meet soon!

/Kerstin Jonson

10 JANUARY
A DAY TO REMEMBER

Don’t forget January the 10th - the birthday of Inner Wheel. It was that day in 1924 that Mrs Margerette Golding and her friends founded the first Inner Wheel club in Manchester, England.

A day to be remembered!

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Inner Wheel is a beautiful Organisation with tremendous global power. It is time our Organisation goes through a transformation, a complete metamorphosis. We need to redesign and rethink our ideas.

- Planning and Developing a positive VISION for our Organisation
- Accelerating our efforts to increase Membership and No. of Clubs
- Making IW financially strong & independent through proper investments
- Working collectively on common Goals and on huge, massive Projects – benefitting thousands of beneficiaries
- Empowering leadership at all levels – Clubs, districts, National & International
- Avoiding biased cliques in Executive & Governing Bodies at all levels and using humiliating and derogatory language
- Being transparent and avoiding hidden agendas
- Re-Zoning of IW countries to be done based on their Membership
- Working closely with the United Nations in their programs
- Collaborating for Projects with other NGOs, Government Departments, local Municipalities / bodies for Projects

Change has to come in our thinking, working, beliefs, communication, behaviour, interpersonal relations, our attitudes and in our entire approach to Inner Wheel. We need to focus on:

- Consistency in our efforts to achieve our desired goals
- Multiplying our Commitment to IW
- Focusing our projects on YOUTH …. Building leadership abilities in them & developing their skills as Youth are the only sustainable assets for us
- My experience this year with Clubs and National Representatives is very encouraging. NRs, District Chairmen & Board Directors are eager to learn, participate and improve the current scenario and they are doing their best to share the Vision for a better Inner Wheel world.
- Innovation & Change are happening at many levels & Inner Wheel is no exception. We have already adopted the digital culture, never seen before.
- Change takes place at the grassroot level – i.e. our Clubs…. It is for our Members to take charge and LEAD THE CHANGE for a better IW world.

Dr Bina Vyas
IIW President 2020-2021
International Inner Wheel today consists of

- 104 countries with 110,000 members-
- 15 countries with a National Governing Body,
- 34 countries with a National Representative,
- 6 areas with a District
- 76 Non Districted Clubs within 30 countries/areas.

The National Representative (NR) is the official contact between International Inner Wheel and their National Governing Body (NGB) and Districts, including those without an NGB with an elected NR. Their duty is to keep the Districts and NGB up to date with communications and information from IIW and to translate all communications into English and the local language.

The Board Directors (BD) and the IIW Executive form the International Governing Body (IGB) and act as the link between the Non Districted Clubs (NDC) and IIW.

The NDC’s are allocated between the 16 Board Directors with language and geographic area taken into consideration, so that communication, information and friendship can easily be shared between the members of the NDC and the BD.

The initial contact from the BD to an NDC is made via email, inviting the members of the NDC to take advantage of having a member from the IGB help and answer any query that they may have. Sometimes the BD will visit her allocated NDC – which is wonderful for both the members from the NDC and the BD.

With 76 NDC’s within 30 countries/areas we can see that sometimes there is only one or two clubs within a country or area, making it unrealistic to meet with their fellow members on a regular basis and have the local interaction and stimulation as with Districted clubs. Having a designated BD contact gives an NDC the opportunity to keep informed of IIW affairs and all the benefits of being part of the International Inner Wheel family.

Keeping contact details up to date on the database and website has to come from the Club either Districted or NDC and information to update is sent out annually from the IIW Office. Having this information updated and correct will benefit the clubs so that our head office Administrator Alan can make contact and forward forms for all IW matters, newsletters or information to the correct local contact.

Also, by having up to date information, contact can be made by other IW clubs around the world for friendship or joint projects.

As with office holders in our own Clubs, the NR and BD are sometimes in their elected position for one year only; however the interest and support given by these Officers to their Districts/NGB/NDC’s is continuous and it is wonderful when the NR and BD can report at the Governing Body Meetings on the contacts that they have made and all the benefits of interacting with other club members in exchanging ideas for future projects, membership growth or just fellowship.

This ability of being able to work together and to have friendships across international borders enables us to achieve our Objects and the future of Inner Wheel.

Whatever our office in Inner Wheel, “together we can” make the impossible possible in our own communities and be the inspiration for others.

IMM Past IIW President Phyllis Charter
The very first MGA assigned in D206 was obtained in the last days of 2018-19 social year. Due to a lot of organising issues and to the subsequent Coronavirus and lockdown, only on 26 September 2020 was it possible to hand-deliver the award to the recipient Mrs Maria Bernardina Faoro.

Maria Bernardina Faoro is a very dedicated and committed caregiver in the town of Bassano del Grappa (Veneto region), where she lives. At some point in her life Bernardina has decided to devote herself totally to cancer patients. Called by everyone simply “Dina”, she joined the non-profit San Bassiano Oncologic Association - of which she is currently vice-president - several years ago producing a quality leap for ideas and inventiveness that she puts into practice.

She proposed and organized versatile, original and revolutionary initiatives to alleviate both physical and psychological disorders of patients subjected to chemotherapy to make everyday life less sad and painful.

Among the many projects put in place: sessions of Art therapy, Yoga, Tango therapy, Pilates, Gardentherapy. In addition, numerous other recreational activities, including three very original fashion shows held in the main squares of Bassano del Grappa and Marostica (Veneto Region Italy), in which the models were the same cancer patients.

Lately, she also deals with disabled people providing many aids from the simple provision of expenses to the maintenance of those who lose their jobs.

The MGA was handed to Mrs Faoro, during the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the IWC Bassano del Grappa, held in the marvellous Villa Rezzonico, in Bassano del Grappa.

Text Chiara Lieciani, photo Annamaria Chenet
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, many meetings and conferences have been postponed or are taking place virtually.

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

The UN is marking its 75th anniversary at a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts.

On 31 August 2020, a virtual Townhall Meeting between Civil Society and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres provided an opportunity to share experiences of the impact of the pandemic and their recommendations to the UN in addressing the crisis and building back better, as well as its role in protecting and promoting women’s rights within this context.

On 4 September 2020, the day of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration on Women’s rights, Antonio Guterres called for urgent action as progress towards gender equality is faltering and hard-won advances are being reversed.

For women and girls

On 1 October, the UN General Assembly organized a High-Level Meeting attended by global leaders on “Accelerating the Realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls”. More than 100 countries committed to concrete actions that would advance gender equality for women and girls everywhere. In support to the UN decade for Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Women launched 6 Action Coalitions to be presented at the Generation Equality Forum to take place in Paris, France, in June 2021, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the Governments of France and Mexico.

The International Day of the Girl 2020, an activation moment of Generation Equality, was celebrated on 11 October 2020, under the theme “My voice, our equal future”.

The next virtual meeting was the 13th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The meeting was online at the UN Headquarters in New York on 30 November, 1 and 3 December 2020 under the theme “A decade of action and delivery for inclusive sustainable development: implementing the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for all persons with disabilities”.

Martine Gayon, United Nations Representative, New York
EXCITING CHARTER CEREMONIES IN ITALY FOR NEW CLUBS IN SCICLI AND SANREMO

August the 28th, at the Acqua Marina Restaurant the evocative and exciting Charter Ceremony of the new Inner Wheel Club of Scicli took place.

The ceremony was attended among others by the NGB President Angela Farina. In her greeting address she highlighted the importance of union and cohesion between the members that gives impetus and maturity to the action of “Serve” which is the basis of our Association.

The 20 members of the new club, born just in March and in full lockdown, were invited to the Presidency table to receive from the IW authorities the association badge and sign the Charter as founding members.

Many greetings have been received, including the City Mayor’s. In an atmosphere of joy and harmony the evening ended in a festive mood.

Monaco Portelli

The delivery of the Charter to the new Inner Wheel Club of Sanremo, formed last April, has sanctioned its foundation. Currently formed by 18 members, 13 of them are founders, and chaired by the journalist Gabriella Poli, on September the 4th, at the City Golf Club Buca restaurant, the highest Inner Wheel authorities have delivered the document to the Club President which is now fully operational. The club, already active with regard to the Service session, having offered in April its first contribution to the Hospital of Sanremo, is now working on the design of humanitarian and cultural projects that affect the territory and that will be carried out in the coming months. Many messages of good wishes have been received from the IW Clubs all around the world and from the local authorities who were unable to attend.

Text Gabriella Poli
IWC Varna Europea held a team building among the beauty of the Gabrovo's Balkan on October 3, 2020. The warm autumn, the coziness of the hotel, the wonderful views embraced us and made this experience of sharing and fun unforgettable. Communicating with nature, hiking on eco-trails, the geographical center of Bulgaria - everything made us happy to be together.

What is Inner Wheel without charity? Even hundreds of kilometers from home, our club has found a way to combine pleasure with useful deeds.

The Children’s Specialized Hospital for Respiratory Care "Queen Giovanna" in the town of Tryavna is a place for rehabilitation and recovery of children with lung problems. Many hard-working and dedicated professionals work there.

Founded personally by Queen Giovanna of Bulgaria in distant 1938, even today the hospital has preserved the spirit and scale in which it was designed - the best, most modern, most wonderful place for children. Unfortunately, at the moment the funds for its maintenance are insufficient and its normal activity is carried out only through donations. The hospital needs everything for its little residents. IWC Varna Europea decided to make them happy. We have prepared a large box of surprises - puzzles, board games, colored pencils, felt-tip pens, modelling clay, balls, chalks, educational books and more. The children's joy was great, and the ball immediately came into action and we heard children's laugh.

This donation campaign made the weekend unforgettable - a service for the benefit of those in need, sharing with friends from the club and the beauty of our lovely Bulgaria. A real Inner Wheel experience!

Text and photo Stela Zhelyazkova

FINNISH IW DOGS TO DETECT COVID-19

Inner Wheel District 142, Finland, has since 2018 been supporting trained smell detection dogs that have been successfully working with identifying different types of cancer.

Researchers at the University of Helsinki, together with Wise Nose - Finland Smell Detection Association, found this year promising indications that dogs can detect covid-19 virus. Four trained dogs are now working on duty at Helsinki Airport as a pilot project.

Travellers arriving at Helsinki Airport are offered a voluntary coronavirus test that takes 10 second and is done by a dog. Passengers are asked to give skin wipe samples of themselves and leave the wipes in a box. The dog and the dog trainer are waiting behind a wall, where the dog sniffs each sample. Two of the four dogs are on duty at a time. The other two rest. If the dog signals a positive result, the passenger is directed to the virus test.

In the future it could be possible to use these trained dogs e.g. to identify infected people in nursing or retirement homes and to help at customs check points at airports and other border points.

Inner Wheel Finland has begun a fundraising for the corona dogs to secure their work also in the future.

Text and photo Tarja Laurila
CHILDREN’S DAY GIFT BAGS

Children's day was celebrated on October 9th this year in Singapore. The Singapore Children's Society “Children's wishing well” centre treated children to a gift bag each. The gifts were delivered on October 8th and will be distributed to the children on their arrival on the 9th. There are 116 children mostly from families who are less privileged or disadvantaged.

The gift bags were put together by members of the IWC of Singapore consisting of colourful note books, colour pens, erasers, ruler and pretty paper clips. They came packed in a useful zipper bag and beautifully wrapped. The children are all back to school now after so many weeks of working from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic and they are delighted to receive such pretty and yet practical items.

President Sita and IPP Vijaya presented the gift bags.

Text Wendy Louis, photo Sita Verma

SUPPORT TO VICTIMS IN TURKEY

Beyoğlu IWC, Istanbul, Turkey, donated 18 blankets to people affected by the Izmir earthquake. Blankets have been delivered to the Bayraklı Municipality.

COVID CHANGEOVER IN AUSTRALIA

Victoria, Australia has been in lockdown since July 2020. It is only now, November 2020, that some restrictions have eased. It has had a major effect on our ability to hold IW meetings and other activities within our IWC of Williamstown.

However, looking on the bright side – we have 59 members and we held an extremely successful Opera night with over 120 guests fortunately just before covid-19. All proceeds went to our ‘Bwindi’ Uganda project.

Bwindi Ride for a Woman project is the brainchild of two of our Club members, Jill Billston and Trish Salau. They have spearheaded this project for the past seven years and it was adopted by our District A61 as the International Project for two years. Bwindi is a UNESCO world heritage site that is home to almost half the world’s mountain gorillas. Bwindi is a community project empowering the women of Bwindi socially and economically by teaching income generating skills. The pandemic, with lockdown and without tourists, has had a devastating effect on the whole of Uganda.

Due to Covid restrictions, our Changeover was conducted in our PP’s home where PP Brenda passed over the chain of office to our new President, Valmai.

We have recently purchased 50 cookery books from another Victoria IW Club to raise funds for Cord Blood. Baby hats have been knitted and small aprons sewn for a regional hospital’s need. So although we have been in isolation, our Club has continued its commitment in helping others.

Text Ann Bury
Leadership is a process in which a Leader influences others to accomplish a mission or a goal, raises the aspirations of Members and encourages Members to reach those Goals.

To achieve this, a Leader should have a VISION and share that Vision with Members. Leaders have to prove their leadership skills at all levels, making it necessary for them to cultivate even management skills; skills to manage and organise time effectively; address important tasks on priority; attach deadlines & follow time frame to every task and accomplish Goals as early as possible in the year.

Leaders should know the pulse of Members – their needs and how to help them achieve their results.

Being women, we are already blessed with qualities like loving, caring, sharing…. Our positive attitude, understanding, respect, transparency will add value to our leadership.

When all Clubs achieve extraordinary results, the impact will be prominently visible and appreciable.

The year 20-21 is the year of Change….

Change in any system brings progress….

It is we Leaders at all levels who need to bring about positive changes.

In the very first month of the year – July 2020, I organised a 6 days marathon Leadership Development Training Program:

1. For National Representatives (NRs) & District Chairmen (DCs) (of countries without National Governing Body) in 4 small separate groups of NRs & DCs in each group.

The Training Program comprised the following important topics:
- VISION
- Expectations
- GOALS 20-21
- Membership Growth, Development & Retention
- Leadership Skills
- Effective Communication
- Interpersonal Skills
- Inner Wheel Information & Quiz

2. For all Board Directors on
- VISION
- GOALS 20-21
- Duties & Responsibilities
- Targets to be achieved

3. For Presidents & Office Bearers of Non Districted Clubs (NDCs)
- VISION
- GOALS 20-21
- Duties of Club Officers

4. For Past Board Directors on
- VISION
- GOALS 20-21
- Their Role in IW

All Leaders and Members have to LEAD THE CHANGE and bring about positive changes and thus a transformation in Inner Wheel with a great deal of determination, sensitivity, modesty and humility.

The Leaders at all levels, with a great deal of perseverance, will certainly achieve spectacular results!!
Leadership is an important function of Management, which helps to maximise efficiency and achieve Organisational Goals. This leads to greater, effective and efficient performance.

Leadership Skills comprise:

- Management Skills
- Knowledge of the Organisation
- Supporting & Strengthening Clubs
- Coordination with Clubs & members
- Enhancing Public Image of Organisation
- Following Ethics in Inner Wheel
- Team Building
- Delegating Work
- Timely Decision Making
- Timely Direction & Motivation
- Creating Interest & increasing enthusiasm
- Networking with District & Club Leaders
- Handling Management Conflicts
- Courage to take risks
- Getting Results

Management Skills Include:

- Goal Setting
- Communication Skills
- Time Management

What makes A Good Leader:

- Providing Training to Leaders & Members down the line
- Being responsible
- Seeking responsibility
- Giving firm & timely decisions
- Keeping Members informed of all Inner Wheel News
- Keeping Members involved

Leading Leaders:

- Recognise them as leaders
- Empower them .... Not just delegate
- Believe in their leadership
- Focus on what they should do

Qualities required in Leaders:

- Loving
- Caring
- Sharing
- Kindness
- Compassion
- Patience
- Politeness
- Respect
- Capacity to listen

& above all

- Positive Attitude

Leaders to Avoid:

- Disrespectful behaviour
- Rude, rough & crude language
- Humiliating, Insulting language
- Not giving chance to others to talk
- Long explanations
- Not accepting others’ views or ideas
- Having superiority complex

Before we become Leaders ....

Success is all about growing yourself

When we become Leaders ....

Success is all about empowering others to Lead the Vision .... & the Leaders

Leadership is the capacity to translate ........

Vision into Reality

IIW President Dr Bina Vyas
OUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Cotonou action

**Cotonou IWC** and Rotaract Club Palmier in Benin: A joint blood donation action on 1st of October 2020. The blood donation lasted four days.

A total number of 156 blood bags were collected in Cotonou.

Text Alina Fahimatou Salifou, photo below

Kits to school kids

**Cotonou IWC** in Benin: Donation of school kits to Akogbato Public Primary School to 146 needy school children selected with the help of the school principal.

Each kit consists of a school bag, 2 notebooks, 2 pens, 2 paper covers and 1 batch of math instruments. The overall cost of the kits is around $693

Text Sylvie Adahe, photo Chris Omega production

Porto Novo action

**Porto Novo IWC** and Rotaract Club in Benin: A joint blood donation action from 1st to 4th October 2020.

The Donation lasted 4 days and a total number of 62 blood bags were collected.

Text Olodo Sarafa, photo below

For Izmir victims

IW District 242 Turkey: A federation Project realized the contributions of **Beyazıt, Boğaziçi, Bursa, Dalyan, Dolmabahçe, Edirne, Eskişehir and Suadiye IWC**, to heal the wounds of the devastating İzmir earthquake that took place on October 30th, 2020. With collaboration of Rotary 2440, we the IW District 242 donated tents and shelter boxes and supplied the daily needs of the earthquake victims.

Text Figen Bilge

Supplies for babies

**Dalyan IWC**, Turkey, has provided baby supplies to Kartal Training and Research Hospital New Born Child Unit. Because of the pandemic, we could not enter the hospital but 100 bottles and baby pacifiers, 2 baby tubs, overalls, beanies, socks, blankets, diaper changing covers and bedding fabrics were delivered to the assistants and nurses on duty.

Text Bilsin Gürel, photo Nermin Karaca

IW logo on masks

Masks for protection and promotion. Making Inner Wheel better known during this global pandemic takes all kinds of ingenuity. 4000 masks were custom made, bearing the Inner Wheel Logo and name, made of a waterproof, Anti-microbial material and comfortable fit.

**IWC of Singapore, IWC Singapore East and IWC Singapore Central** are participating in the sale and donation of the masks.

Text Wendy Louis, photo Maria Hassanhbai
BIRTHDAY CAKES TO ALL CHILDREN FROM IW

The children in the afterschool care at Marymount Primary School come under the care of the Good Shepherd Centre.

Each month the children celebrate all their birthdays on the third Wednesday of the month.

For this occasion the Inner Wheel Club of Singapore’s star baker, Anjli, provides a cake weighing at least 3 kilos for the children.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the number of children is reduced but they are still around 154 or so children in this programme.

One dear little girl was so wide-eyed when she saw this wave of delicious pink and a two-tiered cake that she exclaimed, that she had never had a cake like this before and for her last birthday she had an ice-cream.

It is so easy to forget that children are often deprived of things that we take for granted.

Deliveries of the cakes began in August and will continue at least until December.

The joy this small contribution brings, makes is so worthwhile.

Text Wendy Louis, photo Anjli Chopra

US CLUB CELEBRATED ITS 35 YEARS

IWC of San Leandro, California, USA, celebrated its 35th Anniversary with takeout dinners from Moussaka’s Mediterranean Kitchen – in spite of COVID! Monies collected will be donated to local San Leandro charities.

Members and guests shared their delicious meals in their own bubble groups. Wonderful camaraderie was shared by all!

We are also proud to announce our grant renewal to procure, assemble and distribute the Rape Care Kits for Bay Area Women Against Rape.

Text and photo Pearl Johnston

BANFORA SUPPORTS PRIMARY SCHOOLS

IWC of Banfora in Burkina Faso has made donations of school supplies to two primary schools in the city in September.

The “Sud B Banfora” primary school received school kits and school fees to five students.

The “Nafona1” primary school got school kits and school fees to 10 students.

The appreciated donations amounted to a total of 1,200 USD.

Text Aline Fahimatou Salifou
HANDBOVER IN BRUSSELS

The Council of Belgium-Luxembourg could finally make the official handover of the Presidential chain. Due to Covid-19 only 10 attendees were allowed to participate. The ceremony took place in the garden of the District Chairman in Brussels. After a warm welcome from the former President of Council Edith Van Molhem, the participants started nice and warm speeches of friendship, gratitude and the goals for 2020-21, followed by the handover of the Presidential chaine.

MANY MASKS

Nassau Est IWC Members provide masks and food during Pandemic!

Members of the IW Club of Nassau East in the Bahamas have been sewing many, many masks to give to hospital workers and local residents during the COVID-19. In addition, they have supplied local residents with baked goods and water to help them in this stressful time. Many of these residents who received masks and baked goods have no electricity and no running water in their homes.

The IW members have been highlighted in the local paper and social media for their generous support of so many during this pandemic.

Text Elisabeth Howard

FOOD FOR CHILDREN

Food for hospital children. IWC of Mid Town, Multan, Pakistan has arranged an appreciated activity. Club members distributed food for patient’s attendants in Children hospital Multan.

Sponsored by IPP Mrs Naeem Tareen and our respectable club members.

Text Rizwana Tabussum Duranni

FINE ITALIAN FUND SUPPORT

District Chairman Caterina Narullo Bove, with CED and all the members of Italy District 210, during the 2019/20 final on line-mode Meeting, have allocated the sum of € 6.000,00 for a donation to support the International Service "II.W. Covid 19 Disaster and Vaccination Fund", which is a fund raising set up by the International Board to efficiently help, in the name of Inner Wheel, the fight against the consequences of pandemic, especially where international solidarity and brotherhood are most needed.

Text Anna Somma
INDIAN CLUBS HELPING HOSPITALS

KOMARPALAYM IWC
The members distributed groceries, masks and sanitizers to the hospital staff of a designated COVID hospital and built a wash station outside the entrance.

TIRUVARUR IWC
The members made Immunity booster drinks at home with lots of herbs and ancient Indian methods and distributed them to common people to help boost immunity against COVID.

TIRUVARUR IWC
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BANGALORE BANASANKARI IWC
The club gave a significant amount of money to a widow who lost her husband due to COVID. The money was financial help to buy a cow so she can earn her livelihood and help her to take care of her family.

BANGALORE SOUTH PARADE IWC
The members donated Pink Umbrellas to the Paramedical Staff who travel to work daily to hospital during Lockdown as transport was shut. They have to walk long distances in the hot summer.

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MIRAJ IWC
The members provided insurance coverage money to 40 hospital staff who were working in a COVID Hospital.

RAMNAD IWC
The members adopted a village and distributed one month groceries supply to about 40 families.

SRIKSHETRA PURI IWC
The members installed a standee sanitizer in a local police station for the police personnel along with cans of sanitizer for refills.
I have been a member of Inner Wheel since 1993 when I became Charter President of the **IW Club of Waterfront Cape Town**. I have held many positions in Club and District level and was National Representative for D-932 and D-935. This year I have had the honour to serve my second year as IIW Board Director. I have very much enjoyed my role as Board Director and the opportunity for personal growth. Interacting with other Board Directors and the IIW Executive has been both stimulating and rewarding. Use of Zoom to facilitate working in groups that were set up to carry out specific projects has been very effective in delivering results and risen to meet the challenges by adopting and cementing friendships.

**Fascinated NDC contacts**
A specific duty has been to try and make contact with an allotted group of non-Districted Clubs in various parts of the world. I was given countries in West and Central Africa and Zimbabwe. It was fascinating and at times frustrating, because lack of continuous electricity supply and poor communication infra-structure made my first year difficult but this year has been successful, a pleasure and very interesting.

**Immense challenges**
A specific item of interesting service was the special project in Benin where two of the Inner Wheel Clubs and a Rotaract Club combined efforts and donated over 200 bags of blood badly needed during the rainy season when malaria is at a peak. During the countries lock downs with the Covid 19 pandemic, we were not able to meet in Altrincham so all meetings between Board Directors and those with the Executive were held via ZOOM which brought us all together. With the Covid 19 pandemic affecting the world, the challenges this year have been immense. Needs, particularly hunger and Medical Care, have grown to unimagined levels, but Inner Wheel has risen to meet the challenges by Clubs adopting innovative ways to help. Consequences of Covid 19, and natural disasters in Turkey and Philippines as well as a destructive explosion in Lebanon resulted in special requests for help. Numerous discussions were required and special assistance funds were set up by the Board Directors.

**Bright future prospects**
The need to increase the number of Members and Clubs throughout the world is an ongoing focus area. Potential Members are being attracted to join other organisations. Women are holding responsible positions in professions and business requiring intense commitments while at the same time competing for time with family life too. Younger women are establishing their careers, setting up homes and having children, but there will always be those middle age women who have established careers and homes and who are thus prepared to commit regular time to Inner Wheel and serve the community. I am sure as we approach the Centenary of Inner Wheel; Electronic Media will surely bring changes too, and play a bigger part in Inner Wheel.

Text Lorna Bradley BD 2019-2021
Report from Board Director Marja Kyrölä, Finland

A DEMANDING AND INSPIRING MISSION

I have been Inner Wheel Board Director during the terms 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. After the first Governing Body and Executive meetings, the Board Directors have kept in regular contact via both WhatsApp and Zoom during these two years. We have discussed world disasters such as the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon on 4 August 2020. We gathered our forces in raising money together for its victims, and several IW countries participated in this effort. We have also discussed the global covid-19 situation which touches each and every one of us. All these issues have brought us closer, we have been able to share both joys and sorrows.

Good contacts with the Non Districted Clubs
During both terms, I have worked as the contact person for the same clubs without districts, IW Club Georgetown Central in Guyana and IW Club Saint Georges, Canada. I have been in touch with both clubs frequently and sent them, for example, messages from the IIW President Bina Vyas and the Covid-19 logos that we are recommended to use.

Inner Wheel supports corona-sniffing dogs
Inner Wheel Finland collects funds for the training of corona-sniffing dogs. Dogs can identify the coronavirus easily, their training is relatively fast, and the results are good. These funds are collected by selling Christmas cards.

Focus on Corona in Finland
Like many other countries, Finland participates in developing a vaccine for the covid-19 virus and in testing in collaboration with many actors. In Finland, the funding comes from the Academy of Finland and the state for example.

In Finland, an app called Koronavilkku was introduced in September. The app enables tracking and informing people of coronavirus exposure. It has already been downloaded about 2.5 million times.

IWC Saint Georges helps an average of 120 children a year with a budget of 57,000 $. They have donated more than half a million dollars since the founding.

Discussing corona-sniffing dogs and the events of district 141, are IWC Salo President Eve Lehtinen, Secretary Päivi Attila and District 141 Vice

Text Maja Kyrölä
**AID TO TYPHOON VICTIMS**

Typhoon Rolly (International name: Typhoon Goni), classified the strongest typhoon in the world for 2020, brought powerful winds and torrential rains which inundated large areas in South Luzon.

IW District 383 of the Philippines was quick to respond to bring aid to Barangay Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna through its Operations Paglingap Committee led by Yhet Abelgas and assisted by IPP Izzy Moore and IPDT Cathy Lucero. The committee brought food bags of rice and canned goods to over a hundred households stranded by the floods. They waded in the muddy waters to bring much needed aid to the families isolated by the floodwaters.

Operations Paglingap (Operations Lend a Hand) is a project which aims to provide assistance to victims of natural calamities.

*Text Marsha Santos*

**SAME, SAME BUT DIFFERENT**

The “Charity Advent Calendar” published by IW Graz-Uhrturm in Austria offers an opportunity to convey a little anticipation for Christmas and at the same time “doing good”.

This is an advent calendar with opportunities to win, with prizes worth at least 50 euros each being won behind each “window” (there are 128 ways to win in total). 3,000 advent calendars have been published and these are issued at a unit price of € 5. The net proceeds from the sale of these advent calendars will be used to support various - above all local - social projects.

This year we decided to expand our sales to outdoor markets. As we should approach passers-by directly to advertise our calendar we decided to design a sash to be more visible as a seller from Inner Wheel “Charity Advent Calendar” from afar.

With these funds we managed to sell almost as many calendars as in previous years.

*Text Laura Schick, photo Laura Schick*

**IWC GLYFADA IN GREECE CELEBRATED ITS BIRTHDAY**

On Wednesday 14 October IWC of Glyfada, Greece, celebrated its 31st Club Birthday.

President Maria Gardouni had the pleasure to welcome a new member, Sylva, and notified the members of the future clubs activities.

Yianna Gravia-Kalyva, National Representative and member of our club, informed the members about International affairs and notified that International IW Convention in India has been postponed and it will be conducted via Web Teleconference.

*Text Yianna Gravia Kalyva, photo Vicky Constantinidou*
NICE START IN KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

The Kaunas IWC in Lithuania temporarily stopped all activities for two weeks due to covid-19. But we already had several club meetings. The first meeting we had with the children from the family house. Our club members prepared sushi together with the children and President Rasa Meistiene (in white) gave the gift for the family house – a new computer!

We had a couple of meetings at the famous Lithuanian Literature Museum and visited Kaunas Pazaislis Monastery. We also met with a very interesting woman gynecologist who gave a lecture about one human sin – acedia. It has been a quite nice start of the autumn for our club in Kaunas.

Text Oksana Kundrotiene

WE WILL ALWAYS BE OUT THERE FOR YOU

The hungry still have to eat. The THB Soup Kitchen in Alor Setar, Kedah, Malaysia, cooks and provides dinner to as many as 150 hungry patrons, without fail, five days a week. In covid-19 times, this Soup Kitchen continued to serve a hot meal but packaged in take-away boxes.

On 27 October IWC of Alor Setar, stepped in to help by sponsoring the meal through generous donations of members. Wearing masks proudly displaying the Inner Wheel logo, frequently washing hands and practicing physical distancing, members handed out the food boxes bearing the Inner Wheel logo, to the hungry regulars.

We hope to be able to continue helping at this Soup Kitchen from time to time, bringing hope to this special group of people that someone will always be out there for them, no matter what the challenges are.

Text Ishka Kaur

OLD BOOKS IN NEW HANDS

During its 22 years of existence and activity, IWC Čakovec, (Croatia, District 191) has established several traditional activities. One of them takes place in October, called “Old Books in New Hands”.

First, we collect books from various sources, primarily members and their friends. In cooperation with the local kindergarten, the books are exhibited at a stand in the city center during the autumn city event, and offered to citizens who are in return invited to donate their voluntary financial contributions.

At the end of the campaign, the remaining books are offered for choice to kindergartens, school libraries, retirement homes.

The collected donated funds, usually with the addition from the club finances, are intended for the kindergarten, for the purchase of the necessary didactic aids and materials.
WE WISH YOU
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
INNER WHEEL YEAR
2021