



Wales South

## SIWS Club PA Report to Regional Meeting

<b>Club:</b> SI Glamorgan Gwent Marshes	<b>PAOs:</b> Louise Gillies, Giselle Davies
<b>DATE OF SIWS MEETING</b>	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>Date report sent to Regional PAO &amp; Regional Secretary</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2017

*Please give a brief report on activities within your club on the following categories (boxes will expand as you key in your report). You will have 5 minutes at the Regional meeting to give a verbal report on ONE item.*

### Educate

- We are educating other groups and our local community regarding each of the projects we are supporting in particular regarding the difficulties faced by women and girls in Africa. Our support for Smalls For All has publicised the importance of owning & wearing underwear within other groups including staff at Royal Glamorgan Hospital and UHW; members of Radyr & Morganstown Buy Sell Swap Group; Pontypridd Slimming World; All Saints Church Rhiwbina and Bethel Baptist Pontyclun. Our promotion of toilet twinning has raised the profile of the problems caused by a lack of toilet facilities in developing countries.
- Our support for Life for African Mothers assists them in sending Volunteer midwives to Liberia and other West African countries to train local midwives and birthing companions.

### Enable

- Our financial support for the Kotu Trust provided much-needed funds to be used to assist women run small local businesses.
- Our support for Smalls For All provides underwear, which the charity tells us, enables women in the poorest communities in Africa to go more safely about their business and girls to attend school.

## Empower

- **BAWSO** - Every month SI GGM provides welcome packs containing a wash bag with toiletries, sanitary products, a towel and slippers ( knitted/crochet by members and friends) for women being housed in the women's refuges; packs of wash bag, toiletries, underpants, slipper socks and towel for the men's refuge (supporting male victims of modern day slavery and domestic violence); A store-cupboard staples food delivery every month (coffee, oil, tinned goods and rice) for the women's refuges. We are also supporting a lady immigrant who currently has no access to any financial support, we provide basic food items for this lady. Following specific requests from BAWSO we have also equipped a flat with furniture and household goods for a mother and her young daughter moving out of the refuge; provided warm clothes and boots for an arrival at the refuge who had only the light summer clothes she stood up in when she arrived in November; and baby equipment including a Moses basket and bedding, bouncy chair, steriliser, nappies and baby milk/food for babies temporarily housed in the women's refuge.
- **Smalls for All** - We have now collected and sent over 6000 nearly new bras and several hundred pairs of new pants to Smalls for All from our local appeals, a 'Donation station' event we held in Pontyclun and donations from regional clubs. We were partnered with Virtue Money who provided and covered the cost of the courier for the transport of the boxes to Smalls for All headquarters in Scotland however this funding is now not available. SI GGM have resolved that they will continue to support Smalls for All until at least October 2017 (when we complete two years). As SFA no longer have sponsorship for transport the Club now pays for our collections of new and gently used bras and new pants to be transported to Edinburgh. We research the most cost effective method prior to each delivery and have also tried to find sponsorship (sadly unsuccessfully). The cost varies, but the best price option usually now works out at about £10 to £12 for a large box containing 180 to 200 bras. We are a small club so this change means we have to divert club funds from other work to allow us to continue taking the much appreciated large quantities of bras brought by other clubs. Any help that clubs feel they are able to give to help with this unforeseen and unexpected change would help. SFA received an MBE in the 2016 'Birthday Honours list' After receiving the MBE The CEO SFA sent an email to all their partners saying thank you and that she receive the award on behalf of all partners - SOROPTIMISTS included.
- **Life for African Mothers** - Individual members of the Club support the charity by Volunteering, raising funds and knitting and crocheting baby clothes, blankets and teddies. The Club also now acts as a conduit for other Wales South Clubs to donate similar in kind support for the "fish & Chip babies" element of LFAM's work. Ideally, they would like to receive not just the knitted tabards, but also other baby clothes and hats. Whilst very pleased to receive a tabard for their baby if they have nothing, the mothers apparently appreciate even more brightly coloured knitted or crocheted dresses or romper suits. There are some simple patterns available free on the internet including on the LFAM website.

**Regional Project**

Anti-Slavery remains a focus for the club and Joan Payne (SI GGM member) attended an Anti Modern Day Slavery Training Day and keeps the membership updated on the subject.

SI GGM have adopted the 'Toilet Twinning' project. We have raised sufficient funds to twin the block of toilets at our meeting venue The Old Church Rooms, Radyr, Cardiff in addition to twinning individual toilets.

**International President's December Appeal:** We had a stall at the Radyr Christmas lights festival and raised £90

**Federation Project:**

Meru Women's Garden Project: We held a Garden Party at the home of one of our members in July with Afternoon Tea, a Garden themed stall and Raffle, this raised over £1000 for the project.

**Work with Partners and Government:**

We are working Radyr & Morganstown Community Council to promote our presence in the area and have leaflets in the local library. There are also plans to have a stall at the local summer festival.

Several local groups such as Slimming World Pontypridd and Chepstow Knitters as well as employees at RVS and PwC, Cardiff are supporting our projects. In addition the recipient organisations consider us to be trusted and valued partners now.

**Local Projects:**

2016-17: Continuing support for BAWSO and currently investigating adding practical support for Cardiff Women's Aid (further report in due course).