

**For Immediate Release**

## **Zonta Club of Grand Rapids Presents Hand-Made Pillows to Mastectomy Patients**

**Grand Rapids—October 12, 2011** – Zonta Club of Grand Rapids put an extra spin on October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities: members gathered nights and weekends to assemble hand-made comfort pillows for women who've undergone mastectomies.

Zonta Club of Grand Rapids is a member club of Zonta International which is a global organization working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. "It is a privilege for Zonta clubs to provide a means of comfort for mastectomy patients," says Denise Quarles, Zonta's District 15 Governor.

**"Several District Zonta clubs are presenting 160 hand sewn comfort pillows to the American Cancer Society during the Zonta District 15 fall Conference, October 16, at 12:15 P.M. at The Dearborn Inn,** adds Governor Quarles. "Zontians are resourceful and supportive of women. We're aligning our presentation of these pillows with Breast Cancer Awareness Month and our fall Conference—hoping to let mastectomy patients know that there is additional support and compassion available." adds Quarles. During the month of October other District 15 Zonta clubs will also present comfort pillows to the American Cancer Society, hospitals and other agencies for distribution to surgery patients in their respective communities. Along with the pillows presented at the conference, a total of over 470 pillows in total will be provided by District 15 clubs throughout Michigan and part of Ontario, Canada.

The Zonta Club of Grand Rapids has been donating pillows to Lack's Cancer Center for several years and will be continuing these efforts with a donation of 25 pillows in October. In addition, 29 pillows will be donated to the American Cancer Society at the Zonta fall conference in October.

For several years numerous Zonta District 15 Clubs have hand-made hundreds of comfort pillows and continue to do so every year. Leslie Algren, breast cancer survivor and Michigan Volunteer Coordinator for the American Cancer Society Reach to Recovery program has expressed the benefit of the Zonta mastectomy comfort pillows for women who have undergone surgery and stated that "We need more pillows –the women so appreciate them."

### **About Zonta International and District 15**

Founded in 1919 Zonta International has more than 31,000 members belonging to more than 1,200 clubs in 65 countries. Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talent and support to local and international service projects and educational programs. The Zonta Club of Grand Rapids is one of 40 clubs in Michigan and part of Ontario Canada that comprise District 15. The club began its legacy of service in Grand Rapids in 1921. In celebration of its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the club is challenging its members to raise \$90,000 to establish an endowment to ensure continued support to the community for years to come.

For more information about becoming a member or contributing to the endowment, contact: Darcie Clapp, Zonta Club of Grand Rapids PR Chair: [zontagr@zontagr.org](mailto:zontagr@zontagr.org)