



I'd like to thank all the clubs that sent in reports for 2016. I enjoyed reading about your projects and activities. Some were very creative and ALL were extremely important because they made a difference in the lives of those in need.

Moving forward, I strongly encourage you all to work with our four partners. It is very important that we support them.



Heifer International: For those of you that mentor schoolchildren, Heifer's **Read to Feed** program gets them to learn about the world around them and to help those in need. Children get sponsors for reading and donate the money they raise to Heifer.

This spring, when kids participate in Heifer's **Read to Feed** program, their fundraising efforts are doubled thanks to some generous donors that will match every donation received through this program. The campaign will end when their goal of \$100,000 is met or by 30 June, whichever comes first. Additionally, any class that makes a donation of \$600 by 15 June will receive 30 copies of a grade-appropriate **Read to Feed** book.

*Videos of the **Read to Feed** Program:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr3Ubf1syEQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_ezPIDzWYY



Operation Smile: Since 1982, Operation Smile has been performing free cleft operations to children in need around the world. Each life-saving surgery takes 45 minutes and costs \$240. Other ways to help include making Smile Bags, quilts, Smile Dolls and hospital gowns, and donating needed items. **Operation Smile** and **GFWC** have challenged

our clubs to raise \$150,000 to fund an Operation Smile Mission. Please think about this mission when planning events for your club. <http://www.operationsmile.org>



Shot@Life: I was fortunate to attend the Shot@Life Summit in Washington, DC again this year. We had great workshops and guest speakers, and planned out strategy for funding global vaccines. We spent an entire day on Capitol Hill advocating with our legislators, letting them know about Shot@Life and the need to continue funding.

Now is a crucial time for our legislators and a great time to reach out to them. April is **Advocate2Vaccinate** (A2V) month. Please email your legislators throughout the month and let them know why funding global vaccine programs must be supported.

Also, mark your calendars for our **National Call-In Day on Friday, 28 April**. Hearing from hundreds of constituents on the same day makes an impact. You can host a phone

bank at your club and gather friends and family to make calls to all your legislators. Want to make it even more fun? Make it a Shot@Life pizza party Call-In day!

Sample Call / email:

Hello, my name is ____ and I am a constituent of Senator/Representative ____,
I am also a supporter of **Shot@Life**, a national organization that advocates for global child immunization programs. I am strongly opposed to any cuts in US funding for global vaccine programs. I respectfully request that Senator/Representative ____ speak out against and oppose any legislation that would cut US funding for that effort.

[Give the staffer your contact information and request a response with the member's position.]

If any club is interested in a guest speaker about Shot@Life, contact me and either I can make a presentation, or I can put you in touch with one of the other Florida Champions who would be glad to present.



UNICEF: Since its founding in 1946, UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any humanitarian organization. However, 5.9 million children still die every year unnecessarily. Across the globe, children are facing threats on a scale we've never seen before from war, violence, living as refugees, poverty and starvation. Every day, 16,000 children under the age of five die from mostly preventable causes.

UNICEF has been on the ground in Syria with lifesaving aid since the civil war began. Twenty-seven children died in the chemical attack in Idlib. UNICEF is there supporting three mobile clinics and four hospitals to provide first aid, and nine ambulances to transport patients. They are also working throughout the country to reach more children who need help. <https://donate.unicefusa.org/aid-syrian-children>

Support from Congress has enabled UNICEF to answer the call when disaster strikes, with lifesaving food, shelter, healthcare and emergency schools. Let Congress know that we must continue this support.

Besides our four partners, here are several other great organizations and ideas:

Soles4Souls was founded as a disaster relief organization after philanthropists and shoe executives provided footwear to those in need after the tsunami in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Officially formed as a non-profit in 2006, it has distributed over 30 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries and all 50 states. In many developing nations, walking is the primary mode of transportation and millions are exposed every day to unsanitary conditions that lead to diseases and even death.



The mission of **Soles4Souls** is two-fold: Short term, children need shoes to attend school and adults need them for work. Long term, they provide an opportunity for

people to start a small business selling shoes which helps them get out of poverty.
What a great way to repurpose your gently worn shoes!

There are more than a dozen cities in Florida where shoes can be donated. If there is no location near your club, you can buy a shipping label and send to their location (\$25 for 12 pairs, or \$10 for 5 pairs). There is also a partnership with Zappos shoes for free shipping. Larger donations (13 pairs to thousands) can be dropped off at one of two large collection centers (Miami and Jacksonville). PARTNERSHIP (800-599-2902 or sales@PartnerShip.com) will help facilitate shipping your donation. ***How easy is that?***

Website: <https://soles4souls.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Soles4Souls/videos/10154534779438141/>

Great Videos (back to back): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwhjFmquyS0>

Unity in Diversity Country Project

This is a fun project to get to know a little more about your members. Make a questionnaire with the following 3 categories and have members answer the questions and return to International Outreach chair. She can tally it up and make a presentation about the diversity in their club. A listing of countries for each category works fine or take it to the next level as listed below.



1. Members born in a foreign country; what country? when did they come to the U.S.?
2. Members who have lived overseas; where? why? (work, military, missionary, etc)
3. Members who have traveled overseas on vacation; what countries?

Take a world map and mark the countries to see how many are represented. (You can use a different color for each category).

Child Marriage: Child marriage is outlawed in many countries and international agreements forbid it, yet this practice still continues, fueled by gender inequality, poverty, traditions, debt payment, and insecurity. Every year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. That's 28 girls every minute... 1 every 2 seconds!



More than 700 million women alive today were married as children and more than one third of them (250 million) were married before 15. Girls who marry before 18 are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence and to die from complications in pregnancy and childbirth and their infants are more likely to be stillborn or die in the first month of life.

Video: *Too Young to Wed: The Secret World of Child Brides*

<https://youtu.be/qYleXcpbzKY>

Now we must include kidnapping by terrorist groups as another reason for child marriages. Although Boko Haram's kidnapping of 270 girls in Chibok, Nigeria brought global outrage (for a while at least), 9,000 – 13,000 other girls have been kidnapped

throughout the country with no publicity...and their fate is unknown. Those girls that managed to escape still have difficulties because others don't trust the former Boko Haram brides...as if they'd had a choice! (**"Child, Bride, Mother: Nigeria"**)
https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/27/sunday-review/29Exposures-child-bride-interactive.html?_r=0 – Even before the kidnappings, 43% of girls in Nigeria were married before 18 and in northern Nigeria it was 76%. It is a problem that is devastating the girls' lives and that of the next generation and the practice must be stopped.

Organizations helping to fight child marriage:

Girls Not Brides: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org>

CARE: <http://www.care.org/work/womens-empowerment/child-marriage>

UNICEF: <https://www.unicefusa.org/>

Girl Rising: <http://girlrising.com/>

Please email or call me if you need any help or contacts. Also, tell me about some of your projects so I can share them with everyone else!

Thank you,

Elena