

## INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/PROGRAM/EVENT:

**Category: (Please circle or highlight the category for which this program is being submitted.)**

- Women – Education – Community – International – Cultural – Diversity – Public Policy

**Title:** AAUW Advocates

Part I:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Other community groups** involved, if any (list): (5 points) the members and staff at Elinor's House, the members and staff at the Jamestown YWCA Transitional Housing Program, the AAUW members of the Jamestown Branch, the AAUW members of the Buffalo Branch.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of members involved in planning or putting on** the program (5 points) Eight members of the Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch Board were involved in the planning of this event. All 25 members in attendance, as well as those who just sent donations were involved in putting on the event. We filled and delivered 6 car trunks of books and supplies to the organizations selected.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of nonmembers** involved in the program (5 points) At least 4. The contact person at Elinor's House and the Pastor of the First United Methodist Church; the contact person and Supervisor at the YWCA in Jamestown who decided what was needed to enhance their programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of members who attended or benefited** (5 points) 25 members from the three AAUW branches – Dunkirk-Fredonia, Buffalo and Jamestown – attended the District 1 annual Conference.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of nonmembers** who attended or benefited (5 points) Family Court Judge Judith Claire who spoke about the Family Treatment Drug Court attended. Those who benefited were the current and future residents of Elinor's House and the Jamestown YWCA's Transitional Housing Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of new members** who joined (if any) (5 points) None

Part II

**Describe your project/program/event in 75-150 words.**

The District 1 Fall Conference addressed AAUW's mission of focusing on advocacy for women by assisting in providing safe housing for those in transition, providing reading materials for all ages to foster literacy /development and funding scholarships for women pursuing higher education.

**Branch goals** include: furthering the AAUW mission; advocating for safe, adequate transitional housing for women; providing needed materials to assist Elinor's House and the YWCA in meeting their goals; and assisting with the acquisition of scholarship funds for area women. Each branch chose a project to support and obtained a list of items for donation (see attached.). Donations were brought to the conference and distributed after the meeting.

Donated items assisted with the sustainability of Elinor's House and the YWCA Transitional Housing Program. Scholarships for women will enhance marketability and foster equity in the job market.

This program provided a successful/non-taxing method to use for future advocating.

### *District 1 Annual Meeting*

*When: October 10, 2009 – Registration 9:30am; Program 10:00am*

*Where: The White Inn, Main Street, Fredonia, NY*

*Speaker: Judge Judith Claire*

*Menu: Spinach, Bacon, Cheese Quiche, Small Scones, Assorted Fresh Fruit,  
Coffee and Tea*

*Cost: \$10.00– Pay at the Door – Reservations to: [pmwestman@yahoo.com](mailto:pmwestman@yahoo.com) by Oct. 5.*

### *AAUW Advocates*

*Each District branch has chosen a project that it would like to support. Those attending are asked to bring their branch's donations to this meeting for distribution.*

*Buffalo Branch – will collect used books for the Annual Book Sale. Used books (no encyclopedias, Reader's Digest Condensed Books or textbooks, please). This sale raises money for scholarship awards.*

*Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch – will collect items for Elinor's House. This residence opened in August 2009, under the auspices of the First United Methodist Church and the efforts of Pastor Amy Fitzgerald. It provides a 'home' for women who have been released from jail, been abused or have lost their jobs and have no place to stay.*

*Items requested are: a twin bed, chair, hangers, toilet paper, paper towels, air freshener, shower curtain, shower curtain liner, washable bath mats, bucket, mop, rubber cleaning gloves, DVDs, an electric can opener, a tool box, vacuum cleaner, first aid kit, 4 security lock boxes, 4 alarm clocks, cleaning supplies, laundry soap, fabric softener, dryer sheets, hand soap, and non-perishable food items.*

*Jamestown Branch – will collect items for the YWCA of Jamestown's Transitional Housing Program. Supplies that are needed include: personal care items, sanitary products such as pads and tampons (priority need), shampoo, conditioner, body soap, deodorant, High Efficiency laundry detergent, fabric softener sheets, disinfecting wipes and non-perishable food items.*

*We will 'sort' the items contributed at the end of the meeting.*

## **AAUW ADVOCATES – DISTRICT 1 CONFERENCE THEME**

Members of the Buffalo, Dunkirk-Fredonia and Jamestown branches of the American Association of University Women met at The White Inn recently. Supporting AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, each branch selected an advocacy project. The Buffalo branch chose to collect books for its annual sale. Proceeds from this sale provide college scholarships for local women. The Dunkirk-Fredonia branch collected items for Elinor's House, an outreach mission of the First United Methodist Church. The Jamestown branch collected items for the YWCA's Transitional Housing Program.

Advocating for children and their families, the Honorable Judge Judith Claire described The Family Treatment Drug Court. One of the first in New York state, this court addresses families with drug problems when parents have been charged with neglecting their children. A three-stage program, The Family Treatment Drug Court is designed to halt the cycle of addiction, giving participants hope. After a year of sobriety, clients are eligible to graduate and fulfill the program goal of reuniting families.

Some of the positive aspects of this program include a decrease in the number of those charged with child neglect, a reduction in jail and prison time, a decline in the need for services and foster care. Increased employment has also been exhibited.

Now in its sixth year, The Family Treatment Drug Court has been recognized as a model court for New York State and the nation.