

WHO supports The Women's Storybook Project of Texas

W hat a busy month the members of Women Helping Others

have had.

On March 16 a third party fundraiser and pie auction was held at Mulligan's Restaurant in Sun City for the benefit of Big, Brookwood in Georgetown. The fundraiser enabled them to purchase a much needed refrigerator for the pies that they make and sell. The pie auction raised \$750 in addition to \$3,540 in donations. Music was provided by The Twin Oaks Band and a great time was had by all.

At the monthly WHO meeting, the club received a presentation by Jill Gonzalez, executive director of The Women's Storybook Project of Texas, which is a women's prison program that connects children with their incarcerated mothers through the joy of literature. The primary goal of WSP is to reduce the rate of reincarceration among incarcerated mothers by strengthening the mother-child connection

WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

through literature. This literature project requires volunteers to travel to Texas female prisons to record incarcerated mothers as they read stories to their children. These recordings provide a chance for children to hear their mother's voice while they are away. Connecting the children and mothers helps provide a reason for the mothers to work hard not to return to prison.

Since 2009, Women's Storybook Project has recorded over 19,000 mothers reading stories for their children and mailed out over 40,000 books and recordings across Texas and the country. The direct beneficiaries per year are over 3,600 children receiving packages from their moms containing messages of love and recordings of bedtime stories.

The geographic area served is Central and East Texas and Houston. Jill Gonzalez shared with the club the most popular book that the moms read to their children "The Invisible String"

by Patrice Karst which has sold over a million copies.

Earlier this year WHO donated \$1,500 to WPS for computers and at the meeting they were presented with a check for \$500. For more information about WSP their website is www.storybookproject.org.

A spring fundraising event is the Sip & Shop, which will be held on April 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lakeside Pavilion in Marble Falls for a fun afternoon of food, drinks, a fashion show experience, a swag bag, the chance to win amazing door prizes, and much more—all while supporting Meals on Wheels of Williamson & Burnet Counties. The fashion models will be members of Women Helping Others. All are invited to participate. Visit OWBC-TX.org for tickets.

Anne Marshall is a member of Woman Helping Others, a Georgetown-based club that works to help area nonprofit organizations. Each month, the group meets to assist and spotlight the efforts of a local nonprofit.



Jill Gonzalez, executive director of The Women's Storybook Project of Texas, meets with WHO Vice President Maria Tolleson in March.