

Partnering to support caregiver education and improving outcomes for children in grandparent and whānau care



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 16
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY



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For immediate release

Zonta NZ forms partnership with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Zonta International District 16 (New Zealand) is delighted to announce a two-year partnership with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Charitable Trust NZ (GRG) to support caregiver education and improve outcomes for children that would otherwise be placed in foster care. Zonta NZ Governor Desirae Kirby says “over 90% of GRG’s primary caregivers are women. GRG’s vision and mission align well with Zonta’s focus on improving social, health and educational outcomes for women and girls.”

GRG provides support services and caregiver education programmes to over 5,300 grandparent and whanau care families nationwide. This represents over 9,000 caregivers and an estimated 16,000 children in circumstances where they cannot be raised by their parents. Around a third of primary caregivers are sole parenting, struggling on an annual household income of less than \$30,000. GRG’s vision and objectives are to empower grandparent care families with the vital support, information, advice, advocacy and education they need to help them achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

Zonta will provide funding to support GRG’s *Simply Acquired & Learned Techniques™ for Grandparents (SALT)* education programme. The programme provides practical insights and understanding of the impact of past trauma on children, who may also have troubling and challenging behaviour. Caregivers are taught effective parenting strategies that promote healing and a sense of

stability and security. GRG envisions a community where grandparents raising grandchildren are empowered to provide a safe, secure and nurturing home for their grandchildren.

Zonta District 16 Governor Desirae Kirby says “Zonta Clubs throughout New Zealand are enthusiastic about supporting GRG’s SALT programme through fundraising events and supporting GRG facilitators in community based activities”. GRG Chief Executive Kate Bundle says “We are deeply grateful for Zonta’s support for our SALT programme, which we have specifically designed for grandparents and other whanau caregivers who fulfill a vitally important role, nurturing and guiding to adulthood our next generation of children and young people who can’t be raised by their parents. Zonta’s partnership with GRG will help us to further develop and expand the reach of this programme to benefit many more families throughout New Zealand”.

Zonta International is a leading global organisation of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta envisions a world in which every woman is able to achieve her full potential and no woman lives in fear of violence. For more information please visit www.zonta.org or find us on Facebook: Zonta District 16.

GRG is a registered national charitable trust providing support services to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren on a full-time basis. For more information please visit www.GRG.org.nz or Facebook: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust New Zealand.

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